



Wetmore gets look at CU newcomers

Buff freshman Coburn 'wins' women's trial

By Michael Sandrock For the Camera
Sunday, August 31, 2008

If you told fans of the University of Colorado cross country team that a blond-haired, smooth-running CU steeplechaser won Saturday morning's season opening time trial at the Buffalo Ranch course in South Boulder, most would assume the runner was Jenny Barringer.

It was not American record holder and 2008 Olympian Barringer, however, but rather freshman Emma Coburn who "won" the time trial, a race in which CU head coach Mark Wetmore asks his lead runners to stay together once the pack has been whittled down.

Coburn and Katie Cumming, also a freshman, joined veterans Aislinn Ryan, Morgan Ekemo and Allison Sawyer up front, running together over the 5.8K course. And in a continuing Colorado tradition, the others slowed at the finish to allow the youngest runner to cross the line first.

"It was really nice," Coburn said after cooling down and watching the men run. "Everyone was running comfortably."

It turns out Coburn is 17, while Cumming is 18, and so Coburn was given the honor of crossing the line first.

"This is one time being the youngest paid off," said Coburn, who placed second in the Nike outdoor high school track national 2K steeplechase at the end of the 2008 prep track season.

"I like jumping over things," she said in explaining her natural inclination towards the steeplechase.

Wetmore will need the two freshmen to step up on the women's side, to give some support to Barringer, second in the 2007 NCAA cross country championships.

"We will have a very different (women's) team, a very young team," said assistant coach Heather Burroughs. "A lot of them have not run varsity before."

Despite the graduation of stars Stephen Pifer and Brent Vaughn, the men's team has some good depth returning. That was in evidence Saturday as Chris Pannone and Bradly Harkrader controlled the pace in the lead pack.

On the climb up Jawbone Hill the second time, on the backside of the course, Ben Zwticki of the Colorado School of Mines and Todd Tolentino of Metro State got a gap on the Colorado runners and held it to the end. The two finished together in 26:54 for the 8K, with the Buffs coming in eight seconds later.

"It felt good the whole way," said Nick Miller, the latest in a long line of walk-ons to make the Colorado varsity squad. Miller, a former soccer player from Mountain Vista High School in Highlands Ranch, and Brett Walters are runners Wetmore and Burroughs would like to see contribute this year.

“This was confidence boost,” said Miller.

It was also just the start of a long process that will continue on to the Big 12, regionals, and, the team hopes, the NCAA championships.

Said Wetmore, “The veterans were where they needed to be, and a couple of the freshmen looked good. Everyone met our aspirations. It was a perfect opener.”

Barringer’s back

Jenny Barringer did not return from China until Tuesday night, just in time for a bit of sleep before heading to campus for a 9 a.m. class.

“It is nice to be back with the team,” said Barringer, who is finishing up a post-Olympic break from training. “I have some names (of new runners) to learn, and mixed a couple of them up today. It is a transition coming back to real life.”

Barringer called her Olympic experience “100-percent positive,” mentioning that the presence of former CU teammate and fellow steeplechaser Billy Nelson as big plus. ...

Nelson was in attendance Saturday, handing out water along the course. Brent Vaughn was also cheering his ex-teammates on. ...

Beijing Olympic triathlete Matt Reed was 22nd in the time trial, clocking a 28:03.

Kickoff Classic

fund-raiser Monday

The Boulder Road Runners host their annual 5K fund-raiser for the CU track teams Monday at 8 a.m.

The race starts Balch Fieldhouse and finishes on CU’s Franklin Field.

Registration is \$25 starting at 7 a.m. Monday. There is also entry for kids’ races that follow the 5K. There is free parking on campus on Labor Day. The CU cross country team will be in attendance.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.



Buff spikers off to 3-0 start to season

Camera staff report
Sunday, August 31, 2008

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- The Colorado volleyball team is off to a much different start this year compared to last season.

The Buffs began this season on the road and on Saturday won the Mississippi State Volleyball Classic with a pair of wins.

Colorado improved to 3-0 to start the season, compared to going 0-2 to start last year.

The Buffs swept Arkansas-Pine Bluff 25-13, 25-11, 25-9 and Mississippi State 25-19, 25-21, 25-21 on Saturday. Colorado opened the tournament on Friday with a win over Troy.

"The main thing is that we have confidence (this year)," CU senior Alex Buth said. "It feels really good to come out of a tournament and win all three matches, and to sweep those matches."

Buth led the way for CU with 3.22 kills and 2.11 digs per game. She also hit .421 for the tournament.

Against Mississippi State, the Buffs had just as many kills as the Bulldogs at 39. But CU made just 11 attack errors while Mississippi State had 20.

"We kept the pressure on a really good team," CU coach Pi'i Aiu said. "They are a big team, pretty skilled, but also young. So I think the pressure we kept on (them) all match caused them to break down in the end."

The Buffs continue their season on the road, next heading to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Friday for matches against Arkansas-Little Rock, Texas Southern and the host school.



© 2006 Daily Camera and Boulder Publishing, LLC.