CU men 2nd at Big 12 meet

Women struggle to fifth-place finish

Camera staff report
Sunday, November 2, 2008

AMES, Iowa -- For the first time in the history of the Big 12, the Colorado men did not win the conference cross country championship.

The Buffs came in second Saturday to Oklahoma State, which compiled 26 points to the Buffs' 66. CU had four runners in the top 15, but the Cowboys had four in the top five, including winner German Fernandez. The freshman won the 8K race in 23 minutes, 47.4 seconds.

The Buffs' top male runner was junior Jordan Kyle, who was eighth in 24:28.2. Fellow junior Chirs Pannone was one place behind in 24:35.5.

"We knew going into this weekend that there was a lot on the line," Pannone said. "We've walked away with the championship the last 12 years, so that was disappointing not to be able to repeat."

Kyle, who started out the first 5k in the top four, finished the 8k race in 24:28.2 to earn his first All-Big 12 honor with his eighth-place finish.

"I ran an okay race," Kyle said. "I didn't fall back too much in terms of people passing me but I think had a run where the OSU pack ran, I would have probably been in position to be higher up and finish the last 2K faster."

Pannone finished right behind Kyle as he got out in the lead pack as well. Pannone recorded a ninth-place finish for his first all-conference honor in 24:35.5.

The CU women finished in fifth in race won by Texas Tech. The Red Raiders were led by Sally Kipyego, who won her third straight individual conference title. Kipyego won the 6K race in 19:45.0.

This was the first time since 1993 that the CU squads have not come away from the championship with at least one title, individual or team.

No CU runner finished in the top 15. Olympian Jenny Barringer has sat out this season for the Buffs after competing in Beijing in August.

Colorado's top finisher Saturday was junior Emily Hanenburg, who was 22nd. She finished in 21:56.10, while sophomore teammate Laura Thweaatt was 26th in 22:02.45.

"Of course we wanted to do well and have a spot on the podium, but this was a positive step for us," Hanenburg said. "We have some things to work out in the next couple of weeks before regionals, but if we can take a step in a couple of weeks like we did today, that would be really positive."

Former Monarch High star Kelly Waters was fifth overall for Oklahoma. The sophomore finished in 21:15.0 as the Sooners' top runner.

The Buffs will be back in action on Nov. 15 for the NCAA regionals in Fort Collins. Spots in the NCAA championships will be on the line.

"I think the women were definitely a better team today than they were two weeks ago," Wetmore said. "We are making progress and if they take another step as a team between now and regionals, I think they may have a chance to advance to the national championship."

Big 12 Championships

MEN

TEAM SCORES -- 1. Oklahoma State 26; 2. Colorado 66; 3. Iowa State 67; 4. Texas A&M 95; 5. Missouri 155; 6. Texas 179; 7. Nebraska 200; 8. Kansas 208; 9. Texas Tech 255; 10. Baylor 297; 11. Kansas State 355; 12. Oklahoma 365.

TOP INDIVIDUALS -- 1. German Fernandez, Oklahoma State, 23:47.4; 2. Shadrack Songok, Texas A&M, 23:53.1; 3. John Kosgei, Oklahoma State, 24:01.0; 4. Ryan Vail, Oklahoma State, 24:01.6; 5. Colby Lowe, Oklahoma State, 24:05.9; 6. Guor Marial, Iowa State, 24:15.4; 7. Kiel Uhl, Iowa State, 24:20.8; 8. Jordan Kyle, Colorado, 24:28.2; 9. Chris Pannone, Colorado, 24:35.5; 10. Kevin McNab, Texas A&M, 24:37.0;

11. Hillary Bor, Iowa State, 24:39.8; 12. Gilbert Limo, Texas Tech, 24:40.0; 13. David Chirchir, Oklahoma State, 24:43.8; 14. Kenyon Neuman, Colorado, 24:50.0; 15. Richard Medina, Colorado, 24:51.3; 16. Garett Jeffries, Missouri, 24:55.7; 17. Matt Barnes-Smith, Oklahoma State, 25:02.3; 18. Daniel Watts, Oklahoma State, 25:02.6; 19. Mitch Bible, Texas A&M, 25:02.9; 20. Seth Demoor, Colorado, 25:05.0. **Other Colorado individuals --** 23. Matthew Tebo, 25:08.28; 25. Nick Miller, 25:13.38.

WOMEN

Team scores -- 1. Texas Tech 44; 2. Baylor 71; 3. Nebraska 102; 4. Texas 117; 5. Colorado 145; 6. Kansas State 158; 7. Oklahoma State 168; 8. Kansas 203; 9. Iowa State 225; 10. Oklahoma 229; 11. Texas A&M 242; 12. Missouri 284.

TOP INDIVIDUALS

1. Sally Kipyego, Texas Tech, 19:45.0; 2. Lillian Badaru, Texas Tech, 20:36.8; 3. Erin Bedell, Baylor, 20:45.4; 4. Beverly Ramos, Kansas State, 20:46.8; 5. Kelly Waters, Oklahoma, 21:15.0; 6. Lara Crofford, Nebraska, 21:18.9; 7. Christina Munoz, Texas A&M, 21:22.4; 8. Asia Diaz, Texas Tech, 21:25.0; 9. Rachel Carrizales, Nebraska, 21:25.2;

10. Betzy Jimenez, Texas, 21:27.1; 11. Nichole Jones, Baylor, 21:30.0; 12. Lauren Bonds, Kansas, 21:31.0; 13. Mihaela Susa, Oklahoma State, 21:33.8; 14. Michelle Guzman, Texas Tech, 21:38.1; 15. Liliani Mendez, Kansas State, 21:40.3; 16. Danielle Bradley, Baylor, 21:42.9; 17. Larkin Geyer, Texas, 21:48.6; 18. Jessica Engel, Oklahoma, 21:49.7; 19. Gladys Kipsang, Texas Tech, 21:50.3; 20. Katie Shaw, Baylor, 21:53.9. **Colorado inviduals --** 1. Emily Hanenburg, 21:56.10; 26. Laura Thweatt, 22:02.45; 27. Emma Coburn, 22:03.20; 31. Morgan Ekemo, 22:11.60; 39. Allison Sawyer, 22:18.25; 44. Kaylen Slack, 22:26.85; 49. Katie Cumming, 22:42.90.