

OSU COWBOY JAMBOREE

Sat., Oct. 3, 2009

Known as “the oldest consecutive cross country meet in the United States”, the 73rd annual Oklahoma State Cowboy Jamboree was held last Saturday, Oct. 3, in Stillwater. The Jamboree has been one of the biggest and best mid season meets in this part of the country for years, and this year there were 30 teams in the College/Juco Division, 239 finishers in the men’s race, and 199 in the women’s race.

Our women finished right in the middle of the team standings in this quality field of NAIA, NCAA II and III, and Juco teams. Amy Pierson led our team again with another great race, finishing 2nd in the field of 199 runners in 18:36, the fastest time on that course by a member of our team in our program’s history and a whopping 3:12 faster than last year. Amy finished 16 seconds ahead of 3rd place, and she has become a national class cross country runner this season. Freshman Sydnee Nelson (20:28/52nd) ran very well again and has been our #2 runner in each of our 4 meets. Jennifer Hendrixson and Erica Dunigan had their best races of the season to finish 65th and 86th in 20:48 and 21:17. Arely Smith, Mychala Money, and Larrissa Vasquez race well and finished close together in 94th, 95th, and 96th, and it was good to have Alyssa Carter back for the first time this season. She was in our top 4 in every race last year, and did not run in our first 3 meets due to an injury.

Our men finished 9th out of 28 scoring teams – good in some respects and not what we hoped for in others. We ran our fastest team time in this meet in the last 7 years and had some outstanding performances, but some average races by some and big gaps between our runners resulted in a lower team finish than we were ready for. Andrew Topham ran an outstanding race, finishing 5th out of 239 runners with a very good 25:41, the 3rd fastest on the Jamboree course in our program’s history, on the hilly challenging course. Andrew ran 54 seconds faster than last year in this meet. Freshman Frank Adelman (26:32/27th) ran yet another excellent race, and has been our #2 runner in each of our 4 meets. Senior Zack Conroy had one of the best performances of his career to place 38th in 26:54, a 1:00 improvement over last year in this meet. Carrington Crum (27:27/76th) had a 1:40 improvement over last year, and Clint Kessler was solid again for a freshman with his 27:40 in 85th. Jimmy Bryant (27:44/88th) lost a shoe and some time, but was still able to run 1:29 faster than last year, and Conner Drendel competed well after missing our last meet with an injury. Tanner McNinch is making good progress after a series of injuries, and he rounded out our team with a 31:50 in 200th place.