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(Neb.)-CSC Cross Country Team Ran Well At Chili Pepper Festival



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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – Members of Chadron State's cross-country team had a special experience Saturday, when they joined hundreds of other runners in the prestigious Chile Pepper Festival at Fayetteville, Ark.

All 15 of the Chadron State entries were running the longest races of their careers, and, as expected, the competition was exceptional. There were more than 330 entries in both the men's and the women's races and a majority of them were from Division I teams.

"We did well when you consider this was the first time our men have ever run 10 kilometers and the women have ever run 6 kilometers," said CSC coach [Ryan Baily](#). "The competition was awesome and so was the environment. It was a great way for our young team to break into the big time."

The CSC women finished 36th among the 43 teams. [Ashley Riesen](#), the only upperclassmen on the women's team, led the Eagles by placing 135th. Her time was 23 minutes, 58.6 seconds.

[Jayme Nunes](#) was 170th in 24:31.6, following Rebecca Volf, 234th in 25:50.9, and [Miranda Karn](#), 236th in 25:58.4

The CSC men were 33rd among the 34 teams. [Alex Johnson](#) set the pace by placing 167th in 34:35.1, followed by [Domingo Torres](#), 182nd in 35:00.5; [Evans Koech](#), 190th in 35:32.1; and Nathan Falkner, 196th in 36:01.4

Baily said the entire CSC men's team averaged less than six minutes a mile over the 6.2 mile course.

"That was solid," he added.

The men's race was won by Kennedy Kithuka of Texas Tech in 28:53.0. He was followed by Girma Mechoso of Oklahoma State, which easily won the team title with just 20 points. Cowboys also grabbed the next five places. Each of them finished within 12 seconds of Mechoso.

Arkansas won the women's team title with 58 points, but the individual winner was Monika Juodeskaite of Oklahoma State in 20:54.3. Jillian Prentice of Richmond was second in 20:58.6.

Besides the college division, the festival also included high school and open divisions. More than 4,000 spectators watched the competition.