



Wildcat Cross Country

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1987 WILDCAT CROSS COUNTRY REVIEW

The 1987 cross country season was filled with a series of uphill and downhill experiences for the Wildcat runners!

Chico State finished with one of its best records in the history of the school sending eight people to represent the team in regional competition at Seattle, Washington. While there, the runners placed extremely well but missed qualifying for nationals by only a few points. Stacy Van Horn and Dominique Westlake received All-Regional honors for their efforts, placing 14th and 15th respectively in the men's race. Sue Hansen also received All-Regional honors for her 15th place finish in the women's race!

Though the Wildcat runners came on strong at the end of the season, head coach Kirk Freitas felt the team did not receive all of the recognition it deserved since it missed winning a few key invitationals due to illness and injury.

At the beginning of the season, the future looked bright for the young team as they placed well at the Hornet Invitational. The men placed Roger Dix and Westlake in the top 10 while the women placed Hansen and Stacie Barker in the top 20. Dix and Westlake ran 25:27 and 25:43 over the five mile course with Tom Davies following at 26:28 along with Stacy Van Horn (26:33), Kevin Barry (27:18) and Chris Markey (27:48) making up the first team. Along with Hansen (17:56) and Barker (18:52), the women were led by Sylvia Aguirre (19:41), Julie Stai (19:52), Monica Jump (20:29), Chris Ferguson (21:01) and Alicia Telles (21:26) over the 5,000 meter course.

Dix and Hansen continued to finish in the number one spot for the Wildcats throughout most of the season. The next week at Sonoma, the men ran away with the invitational finishing first by fourteen points over the University of Portland. Roger Dix led the way again for the men finishing 2nd in 25:14. Right behind was Westlake (25:26), Davies (25:55), Van Horn (26:13), Jose Rodriquez (26:55), and Kevin Barry (27:04) rounding out the top seven. The women also ran well with Hansen leading the way in 17:32 for 5,000 meters. Julie Stai finished next for the Wildcats (19:00), Sylvia Aguirre (19:16), Monica Jump (19:38), Chris Ferguson (20:02), Alicia Telles (20:12) and Sarah Meek (20:27) completing the top seven.

After dominating the competition at the Sonoma Invitational, the Stanford Invitational was the next on the Wildcat's schedule. Looking at the results from past meets, Freitas and assistant Chris Hood felt a good finish was in the cards until disaster struck! The men's team lost Dix and Van Horn to illness and injury, and members of the women's team got sick as well, thus dimming Chico's hopes of doing well.

Even though the men were feeling far from their best, they still surprisingly ran well placing second out of sixteen teams from all over California while the women, who were also down made a great effort but fell short placing ninth out of 11 teams. The men's team consisted of Davies (32:59), Westlake (33:01), Dix (33:11), McCutcheon (33:25), Van Horn (33:40), Barry (34:16) and Chris Markey (35:06) running well over the hilly 10,000 meter course. The women's team was made up of Hansen (18:24), Barker (20:25), Stai (20:37), Aguirre (20:42), Jump (20:48), Ferguson (21:01) and Telles (21:06).

After the Stanford Invitational, the NCAA ranking came out placing the men fourth in the region! The next big meet was the conference championships where once again both the men's and women's teams finished well!

The men finished in second place despite an ailing Tom Davies, with Dix, Van Horn and Westlake receiving All-Conference honors for their efforts. Dix, Van Horn and Westlake finished eighth, ninth, and tenth respectively with McCutcheon close behind in sixteenth and Davies in the twenty-third spot. Freshman Jose Rodriquez and Kevin Barry rounded out the first team. The women's team placed third and sent Sue Hansen to regional competition. Hansen placed fourth at the conference meet and received All-Conference honors. Julie Stai followed Hansen finishing second for the Wildcats. Sylvia Aguirre, Stacie Barker, Chris Ferguson, Monica Jump and Alicia Telles rounded out the women's team for 1987.

Both teams are very young with the women having all but one eligible to return next season, and the men having six of the top ten return! We are looking for 1988 to be the year of the WILDCAT!