

## NCAA Div II West Region Cross Country Newsletter #5

Well, well, well, they don't call it the Wild West for no reason! The men's meet was the tightest ever not to mention the most exciting! The women's race had some surprises and was the toughest in a long time to qualify for Nationals as an individual.

**The story:** It's amazing how one guy having an off day can really throw a wrench into the thing... Cal Poly SLO came into the meet as the favorite having the #1 National ranking and fresh off a CCAA victory with frontrunner Jim Sorenson as one of the favorites (having won on this course in a kick over Pfeifer and having won the CCAA in a kick over Gutierrez), well maybe he was a tad tired (maybe mentally drained!) and was not a factor, finishing 15th. This was significant for the simple reason that it enabled this to be one heckuva meet! Parrot from SLO tried to take up the slack and run with the front group when Castro from CSN took it out in the first mile, but couldn't hang after halfway and the lead group was reduced to Winkleman (UCR), Gutierrez (CSLA), Castro, Pfeifer (Hum) and Franke (Pom)... SLO ended up with a big pack (14, 15, 16, 17, 23), but some interesting things were happening up front... Vujic from CSN was moving up into the top five and Franke, Gutierrez and Pfeifer were putting a gap on Winkleman in the hills... Meanwhile, two of the Davis boys (Cummings and Goralka) were moving up slowly but surely into the top ten and Mullane (Hum) was making a bid for the top five as well... But the story of the day appeared to be the #3 runners for CSN (Gilkey) and Humboldt (Rouse) as they moved up into the top 15... There were many CLOSE finishes at the wire which needed to be reviewed on the tape (some of which affected the outcome of the meet)... Rouse and Seravia (UCR) were deadlocked for 11th with the nod going to Seravia, one place ahead of Gilkey. Back at 29th place, the #4 runners for Humboldt (Pesch) and CSN (Vett) and Larabee from Chico were deadlocked coming into the shoot and it took many replays of the tape to determine that 29th went to Vett and 30th to Larabee... If either of those close ones went the other way, we could have had a 3 way tie for 1st!! And that's with CSLA 1 (one) point back! They were also involved in a close call at 22nd with Grant (Seattle Pac) and Perez (CSLA) both getting the same time and Grant getting the decision, if that one goes the other way, we have a 4 way tie!! Riverside gets a solid 5th only 12 points back and UC Davis takes 6th another 17 points back. RESULTS: CSN 84... SLO 85... HUMBOLDT and CSLA 86... UCR 98... UC DAVIS 115... POMONA 138... (can you believe 7th place at 138 points!?)... Bakersfield 209... SAC St 243.

INDIVIDUALS qualifying for Nationals are: Franke CPP; Cummings UCD and Ortega CPP (who nipped Goralka UCD at the wire!). Team story later...

The **WOMEN'S MEET** went as expected with SLO dominating (5 gals in top 8!) to win going away with 20 points...Darcy Arreola (CSN) had a fine dual going with the gutsy frosh Park (SLO) until the last 150 meters when she shifted into hyperspace and that was that...Bente Moe ran a smart race, moving up in the hills and coming in a strong third to secure her spot in the National meet...The rest of the berths for NCAA's were not so easy however. The battle for second in the team race was tight with CSN and CSLA running different types of races but ending up with about the same result; CSLA 85...CSN 88. UC Davis was not having their best day (except for Pam Bragg, who was 9th) and showed the effects of racing at Crystal Springs the week before and barely held off San Francisco St for 4th 118 to 126 !! Lots of close battles all over the place ...INDIVIDUALLY, this was the tightest race possible for the at-large spots. Moe took one of them in 3rd and the remaining two spots were being fought for by 5 other gals in the top 15. As expected, it came down to Smathers (SPU), Battles (CSB), Petershagen (SAC St), Carey (Stanislaus) and Kritchko (PSU). Smathers ran a smart race and moved up in the last mile and passed many runners on her way to 6th place to lock up another spot...The last spot came down to a 10-11-12 finish with Petershagen-Carey-Kritchko. Battles also ran well, finishing 15th! Davis received an at-large team berth on the strength of their season-long stay in the top 5, or Bragg would have been the last at-large individual.

#### **RESULTS FROM OTHER REGIONS: Women**

**South;** Angelo St ran away with it with 19 points...

**East;** Navy 39...Edinboro 57...Millersville 73...Springfield 110...IUP 133

**Central;** AirForce 27...SD St 49...Augustana 64...ND St 120

**Great Lakes;** Ashland 67...Grand Valley 87...SEMO 102...UW Milw 116

The other at-large berth went to Millersville...

#### **MEN'S RESULTS**

**South;** Abeline Christian and Central St tied with 42...ACU wins on time

**East;** Edinboro 41...Shipsbrg 80...E. Strdsburg 93...Ind Pa 112...Lowell 120

**Central;** SD St 32...Augustana 81...ND St 86...U of S. Dakota 87...Mnkato 123

**Great Lakes;** NEMO 76...SEMO 87...Saginaw Valley 138

The 4 at-large berths were awarded as follows; (after a 5 hour conference phone call!) Humboldt St, UC Riverside, Lowell and U of S Dakota...I understand it was generally agreed that UC Davis was a better team than Lowell (higher national ranking, better front and split on same type of course) but that it would be difficult to take 6 teams from one region...Personally, I feel that the geography of National meet representation is taken care of by the guaranteed slots in each region and that the at-large berths should go to the next best 4 teams that don't get in on the automatics, regardless of region or expected finish at the national meet...