



Wildcat Cross Country Track and Field

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1993 Chico State Wildcat X-Country at a Glance

The 1993 cross country season was one of great improvement for the men and one of rebuilding for the women. The men improved from 8th in the region (1992) to 4th in 93. Despite losing 4 of our top 5 women from 92 due to graduation the women managed to finish 4th in the conference and ended the season ranked 8th in the region.

The strength of the men's team was its depth. On average the margin of time between the first and 5th man was 30-40 seconds, with the 6th-9th men following within 10-20 seconds behind the 5th. Individuals changed each week with Senior Dan Olmstead and redshirt Junior Chris Meyers leading the Wildcat charge as they traded the top spot throughout the season. Consistently in the top 5 for the Cats were Seniors, Dan Olmstead (11th NCAC and 18th in Region), Art Martin (19th at Stanford Invite), Stephen Brusig (26th at Pomona Invit. 31st at NCAC), Juniors Gary Blanco (26th in Region), Todd Stevens (13th NCAC and 29th in Region), Chris Meyers (8th NCAC and 12th in Region), and Redshirt Freshmen Sean Gettman (9th NCAC and 32nd in Region). Other Wildcat harriers who pushed for spots in the top 7 were Freshman Noah Marcus (6th for team at Drenth and 7th for team-30th overall at NCAC) and Senior Brian Gaddy who was 8th for the team at Drenth and failed to return to form due to illness. Redshirts who trained with the team and will contribute next year are Senior, Billy Ricketts (93 Chico Invit. champ.), Juniors Kevin Selby, and Rich Lockwood and Sophomore Ray "Action" Hardy who trained consistently and hopes to help the team in coming seasons.

With only Lisa Gay and Elizabeth Snowden returning from a team that placed 5th in the region in 1992, coaches Atkins and Towne knew it would be a tough season for the women's team. Newcomers Julie Beer, Sarah Nagy, Amy Coute, and Stacey Biernacki quickly bonded with returners Gay, Snowden, Alex Gonzales and Paula Mauck (9th wildcat in 92) which created a women's team that exceeded the expectations of most of the conference and the wildcat



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coaches. Hard work and improvement exemplified this group. Lisa Gay (5th cat in 92) emerged as one of the top runners in the Conference. Running #1 woman at each meet for the Wildcats, Lisa finished the season 8th in the NCAC and 19th in the Region! The number 2 spot was shared this season by a transfer from Southern Colorado, Stacey Biernacki (26th at NCAC) and returnee Paula Mauck who ran a lifetime best for 5K (19:50) at the Aggie Invit. Other consistent scorers for the wildcats included Juniors Liz Snowden (27th at NCAC), Julie Beer (28th at NCAC), Sarah Nagy a first year cross country runner, Senior Alexandra Gonzales (33rd NCAC) and Freshman Amy Coute who improved her best times at the NCAC course as the season progressed by over a minute! Redshirt Junior transfer Kay Kudo was a pleasant surprise also as we expect great things from her next season.

Individual Honors to note were first the All-Conference Honors earned by 3 wildcat runners. Lisa Gay who has shown that she can compete with the best runners in the conference earned all Conference Honors with her 18:43 performance at Davis. Redshirt Freshman Sean Gettman opened more than a few eyes with his 9th place finish and all Conference performance on the Aggies 8k course. His time 25:30 was very competitive and ranks him as the top returning freshman in the conference. Last and definitely not least is Chris Meyers who became the first Chico State x-country runner to finish all Conference and all Region since Roger Dix in 1988! Chris finished 8th in the NCAC and 12th in the Region! His times on each course were improvements over previous races on the same courses.

With the national championships being held in Kearney Nebraska in 1994 the wildcat men who return 4 of the top 5 next season and 92 all conference runner Billy Ricketts hope a visit to the Cornhusker State is in the cards. Chico State has not sent a team to the national championships since the early eighties and missed this season by only one place. Wildcat women look forward to the upcoming year also as they should be competitive for a spot at the Regional meet in San Francisco next season. See you next season as it may be the year of the Cat.