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Wyoming Cross Country Teams Compete at the NCAA Mountain Regional Meet

Ft. Collins, Colo. (Nov. 13, 2004) -- The University of Wyoming men's and women's cross country teams traveled down the road on Saturday to compete at the NCAA Mountain Regional Cross Country meet.

The women had another strong showing as they finished fifth out of the 16 team field behind first place Colorado, second place BYU, along with Colorado State and Utah State, who tied for third.

Senior Jennifer Thompson was the Cowgirls top finisher placing 11th overall with a time of 21:08.3, which qualifies her for the NCAA Championships next week. She was also named to the All-Mountain Region Team. Freshmen Gladys Jerotich and Gretchen Fagley also had good showings on Saturday. Jerotich, with a time of 21:53.6, finished 26th which was just short of qualifying for the NCAA's, while Fagley placed 30th out of 112 runners with a time of 21:57.4. Other Cowgirl notables in the women's race were senior Natalie Kean (40th, 22:10.6), senior Tanice Barnett (50th, 22:28.8), junior Brooklan Grimes (54th, 22:32.5) and junior Emerald Reid (76, 23:10.6)

"Overall, I thought we ran a very steady race on the women's side and took a huge step forward in this program," said head coach Randy Cole. "Jennifer Thompson had a great race against some tough competition, and has really made strides over her four years in the program. I also felt that Gladys Jerotich and Gretchen Fagley are two freshmen with an exciting future, and senior Natalie Kean wraps up her cross country career, but ran a tough second half."

On the men's side, it was a struggle as they finished 15th out of the 15 team field. Colorado won the competition followed by BYU, Air Force, New Mexico and Colorado State.

Junior Brian Knight was the first Cowboy to cross the finish line, his time of 32:00.9 took 67th place out of 106 runners. Juniors Ragan Driver (32:37.1), Nick Cramer (32:41.1), Brian Harnish (32:45.1), Matt Hudson (33:10.1) and Jeremy Thompson (33:20.0) finished 80th, 81st, 83rd, 84th and 87th respectively. Redshirt sophomore Chris Schabron rounded out the UW runners with a time of 33:46.9 to place 95th.

Thompson will now compete next weekend at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Indiana.

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