Southern Arkansas Competes in GSC Championship

Huntsville, Ala. - Harding University won the Gulf South Conference men’s cross country championship here Saturday for the fifth consecutive year, each year the Bisons have been a member of the conference. It was only the second time in GSC history for a team to win five titles in a row. In a breeze, the Bisons were a runaway first with 18, the University of West Florida a distant second with 71, the University of West Georgia third with 78, host University of Alabama-Huntsville fourth with 108, Southern Arkansas University fifth with 146, the University of North Alabama sixth with 171, Valdosta State University seventh with 180, Lincoln Memorial University eighth with 187, the University of Central Arkansas ninth with 212, Christian Brothers University 10th with 255, and the University of West Alabama 11th with 284.

Harding placed one through four with Peter Kosgei first, Maciek Miereczko second, Reed Fisher third, and Artur Kern fourth. Kosgei covered the 8K race in 24:28. Southern Arkansas’ Adrian Romanos led the Muleriders with a sixth-place finish in 25:44.4 to repeat First Team All-GSC honors. Others from SAU were Elliot Isom 24th, Steve Hooper 30th, Alexander Stewart 42nd, and Nick Vinson 44th.

In the women’s 5K race, it came down to Alabama-Huntsville and Harding. In the closest finish in GSC history, the hometown favored UAH team nipped the Lady Bisons 36-37 for the championship.

Central Arkansas was a distant third with 135, Ouachita Baptist University was fourth with 138, Delta State University fifth with 152, North Alabama sixth with 156, Valdosta State seventh with 179, West Florida eighth with 192, West Georgia ninth with 220, Arkansas Tech 10th with 235, Southern Arkansas 11th with 258, Henderson State 12th with 318, the University of Montevallo 13th with 366, Lincoln Memorial 14th with 386, West Alabama 15th with 473, and the University of Arkansas-Monticello 16th with 501.

Harding’s Kalina Szteyn was the individual winner with a first-place time of 17:50.9. The Lady Muleriders were without 2003 First Team All-GSC selection Gaby Mendoza, who has not competed all season with a knee injury. The top finisher for SAU was Lindsay Musielak in 22nd place with a time of 20:27.5. Bridget Garza was next at 28th, Elvia Villa was 57th, Crystal Clifford 73rd, and Madlyn Soto 78th.