

Lady Texan Cross Country Finishes Third, Texans Fourth at NJCAA Championships

November 16, 2009

PEORIA, Ill. – The fifth ranked Lady Texan and seventh ranked Texan cross country teams performed better than their rankings this past Saturday when the SPC women finished third and the men fourth at the NJCAA cross country championships in Peoria, Illinois.

The Lady Texans were able to leap past Region 5 rival and number two ranked El Paso Community College and fourth ranked Cowley County with a strong team showing, led by freshman Lisa Forsberg.

Forsberg completed the 5,000-meter course in 19 minutes, 13 seconds to finish in 23rd place overall. Kadian Dunkley was the next Lady Texan to cross the line, finishing 31st with a time of 19:31 and was followed closely by Paulina Wilson (34th) and Crystal Dickinson (35th). Wilson and Dickinson nearly crossed the line at the same time, completing the course in 19:35 and 19:36, respectively. Shayla Contreras was SPC's final scoring runner, crossing the line 41st and finishing with a time of 19:44.

Paulina Engfors (131st) also competed for the Lady Texans, finishing with a time of 21:28.

Tallam Kipruto led the Texans with his 8th place finish overall, completing the 8,000-meter course in 25:04. Kipruto was followed by Anthony Pequeno and Mitchell Driver who both crossed the line in the top 20 with 14th and 16th place finishes. Pequeno finished with a time of 25:34, while Driver crossed the line in 25:41.

Freshman Tomilee Lloyd (47th place) completed the course in 27:05 and Robert Castanon rounded out the team scoring by crossing the line in 51st place in a time of 27:15.

Dunkley, Wilson and Dickinson each earned All-American honors on the women's side, while Kipruto, Pequeno and Driver each earned All-American honors on the men's side. Foreign born athletes earn All-American by finishing in the top 15 overall, while U.S. born citizens must be one of the top 15 American finishers to earn the award.

The Texans and Lady Texans will complete their fall schedule next weekend when they travel to Overland Park, Kansas to compete in the NJCAA half marathon championships on Saturday, November 21st. The Texans are the defending champions in the event.