

#8

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010

MEN'S XC AT NEW ENGLAND REGIONLS

Eastern first-year junior **Conor Hackett (Bolton)** paced the Eastern Connecticut State University men's cross country team to a 28th-place finish at the NCAA Division III New England Regional Championship Meet Saturday at Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Hackett was 129th overall in a field of 333, covering the 8,000 meter course in a time of 28:23. Following Hackett at the finish were sophomores **Nick Miller (Norwich)**, **Tim Callahan (Portland)**, **Ryan Franklin (Glastonbury)**, **Brad Beausoleil (Plainfield)** and junior **Bryan Jorge (Bristol)**. Miller was 160th overall (28:58), Callahan 203rd (29:52), Franklin 219th (30:21), Beausoleil 226th (30:29), and Jorge 248th (31:06). MIT runners commanded three of the top 12 places en route to the team title with an eight-point win over host Williams College.

WOMEN'S XC AT NEW ENGLAND REGIONLS

Eastern Connecticut State University junior **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** cracked into the Top 100 by breaking 25 minutes in leading the women's cross country team to 32nd place at the NCAA Division III New England Regional Championship Meet Saturday at Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Quinones was Eastern's first finisher for the second time in her two-year career, improving 43 spots from a year ago in claiming 97th place in a field of 336 finishers. Quinones was timed in 24:59 over the 6,000 meter course. Following Quinones at the finish were sophomore **Cora Gingras (East Hampton)**, freshman **Katie France (Portland)**, senior **Melissa Healy (Naugatuck)**, freshman **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)**, sophomore **Denica Gagnon (Colchester)** and senior **Amanda Ericson (Bolton)**. Gingras (26:34) was 188th, France (26:46) 203rd, Healy (27:41) 242nd, Palasky (28:02) 255th, Gagnon (29:22) 287th, and Ericson (30:18) 304th. The race was the final one in the fourth-year careers of Healy and Ericson. Middlebury raced to a 33-point win over runner-up Williams College in the field of 51 teams. All five of Middlebury's five scorers finished among the Top 20.

#7

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010

EASTERN CROSS COUNTRY COMPETES AT ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men are 26th in field of 44; women 29th among 39 teams at Colt State Park

BRISTOL, R.I. – Competing at the ECAC Division III Championship Meet at Colt State Park, the Eastern Connecticut State University men placed 26th in a field of 44 and the women 29th among 39 institutions Saturday.

Sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)** paced the men by placing 64th overall and scoring 62 points in a field of 300, while freshman **Katie France (Portland)** was the first women's finisher. In a field of 276, France was 94th overall and scored 92 points.

Several of Eastern's top runners – including men's top runner **Conor Hackett (Bolton)** and women's No. 1 finisher **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** did not compete in the meet, as they prepare for Saturday's NCAA New England Division III national qualifier at Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, MA.

Williams College scored 94 points to claim the men's championship while Middlebury College runners captured places 2-through-5 in breezing to the women's title by scoring just 21 points.

EASTERN'S FINISHERS

Men

64. Nick Miller (27:50); 120. Ken Landry (28:44); 140. Tim Callahan (28:58); 195. Joey Perucki (30:09); 205. Ryan Hughes (30:17).

Women

94. Katie France (25:48); 105. Cora Gingras (25:59); 196. Haley Smith (28:00); 218. Brittany Miskell (28:45); 227. Wendy Bouton (29:00).

#6

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010

MILLER LEADS EASTERN M-CROSS COUNTRY AT LEC/NEA

PAXTON, Mass. – Sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)** led Eastern Connecticut State University with a 33rd-place finish at the New England Alliance/Little East Conference Men’s Cross Country Championships Saturday at Moore State Park.

Eastern’s third finisher in the race as a freshman, Miller paced 12 Eastern runners at the tape. He was timed in 28:30 over the 5 mile layout, placing 33rd in the Alliance scoring and 22nd in the Little East Conference scoring.

The top 20 finishers in the Alliance are named All-Alliance and the top 7 in the conference are named All-Conference.

Eastern placed eighth among 13 Alliance teams and fifth among six in the conference. Keene State College won its second Alliance and conference titles in three years, besting defending champion University of Southern Maine in both.

Following Miller for Eastern was first-year junior **Conor Hackett (Bolton)** and senior **Ken Landry (East Hampton)**. Hackett was 46th overall (28:55) and Landry 58th (29:20).

Eastern competes in the ECAC Division III Championships Saturday at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI.

**New England Alliance
Cross Country Championships**

at Moore State Park, Paxton, MA

**Men’s Results
Run over 5.0 miles**

**Team Results
New England Alliance**

1. Keene State College 36; 2. U. of Southern Maine 65; 3. Westfield State U. 117; 4. Massachusetts Dartmouth 123; 5. Bridgewater State U. 141; 6. Fitchburg Staet U. 149; 7. Rhode Island College 201; **8. EASTERN CONN. 218**; 9. Massachusetts Maritime Academy 243; 10. Salem State U. 254; 11. Worccster State U. 306; 12. Mass College of Liberal Arts 374; 13. Massachusetts Boston 395.

Little East Conference

1. Keene State College 25; 2. U. of Southern Maine 45; 3. Massachusetts Dartmouth 73; 4. Rhode Island College 116; **5. EASTERN CONN. 124**; 6. Massachuset Boston 190.

416

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010

QUINONE REPEATS HONORS AT LEC/NEA W-XC MEET
Junior earns All-Alliance recognition for second time in as many attempts

PAXTON, Mass. — Eastern Connecticut State University junior **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** repeated All-New England Alliance honors Saturday, running to a 12th-place finish at the New England Alliance/Little East Conference Women’s Cross Country Championships at Moore State Park.

Quinones, a second-year transfer, improved five spots from a year ago, when she was 17th overall. Saturday, Quinones was timed in 20:17 over the 5,000 meter layout to lead ten Eastern runners.

As a team, Eastern was seventh among 13 teams in the Alliance and fourth among five in the Little East Conference tabulations. Keene State College won its 11th straight Alliance and conference titles in easy fashion by taking the top three spots and four of the last first five.

The top 20 finishers are accorded Alliance honors and top seven are named all-conference. Quinones was tenth among conference finishers.

Behind Quinones, three Eastern runners finished within less than a minute of each other: freshman **Katie France (Portland)**, sophomore **Cora Gingras (East Hampton)**, and freshman **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)**.

Eastern competes in the ECAC Division III Championships Saturday at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI.

**Run over 5,000 meters
Team Results
New England Alliance**

1. Keene State College 19; 2. U. of Southern Maine 82; 3. Bridgewater State U. 111; 3. Westfield State U. 111; 5. Massachusetts Dartmouth 122; 6. Worcester State U. 158; 7. **EASTERN CONN. 176**; 8. Rhode Island College 178; 9. Salem State U. 261; 10. Framingham State U. 315; 11. Fitchburg State U. 323; 12. Mass College of Liberal Arts 329; 13. Massachusetts Maritime Academy 378.

Little East Conference

1. Keene State College 18; 2. U. of Southern Maine 64; 3. Massachusetts Dartmouth 80; 4. **EASTERN CONN. 106**; 5. Rhode Island College 107.

115

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S XC CAN'T OVERCOME RHODE ISLAND'S TOP 2 FINISH
For second straight season, Anchormen edge Warriors by 25-30 at Mansfield Hollow

MANSFIELD, Conn. – The Eastern Connecticut State University men's cross country team placed its fifth scoring runner ahead of Rhode Island College's fifth, but the Warriors couldn't overcome the fact that Anchorman runners finished 1-2 Saturday afternoon at Mansfield Hollow State Park.

In the only home meet of the season, Eastern was edged by Rhode Island by a 25-30 score for the second straight season. Last year, Eastern All-New England Alliance senior Dave Hunt stood between the RIC duo of Mike Macedo and Conor McCloskey. Without Hunt in their way, Macedo, a senior, won this year's individual title in a time of 22:16 and McCloskey followed 14 seconds later to give the Anchormen a 1-2 finish that ultimately, cost Eastern the race.

Led by sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)** and first-year junior **Conor Hackett (Bolton)**, Eastern runners took four of the next six places, but couldn't overcome RIC's early advantage. Miller led the Warriors for the first time since the season-opener in a time of 22:57, with Hackett following 15 seconds later. Freshman **Brody Score (South Windsor)** was sixth overall (23:24) and senior **Ken Landry (East Hampton)** eighth (23:45), with sophomore **Tim Callahan (Portland)** rounding Eastern's five scorers with an overall ninth-place finish (24:18).

Eastern competes in the Little East Conference/New England Alliance Championship Oct. 30 at Moore State Park in Paxton, MA.

**Cross Country
at Mansfield Hollow State Park
Mansfield, Conn.**

Men's Results

Rhode Island College 25, Eastern Conn. 30

1. Mike Macedo ® 22:16; 2. Conor McCloskey ® 22:30; 3. Nick Miller (E) 22:57; 4. Conor Hackett (E) 23:12; 5. Shawn Stadnick ® 23:21; 6. Brody Score (E) 23:24; 7. Cameron Richer ® 23:39; 8. Ken Landry (E) 23:45; 9. Tim Callahan (E) 24:18; 10. Austin Pena ® 24:33; 11. Conor Breagy ® 24:37; 12. Bryan Jorge (E) 24:41; 13. Ryan Franklin (E) 24:46; 14. Colin Whiston (E) 24:47; 15. Ryan Hughes (E) 24:48; 16. Brad Beausoleil (E) 25:00; 17. Joey Perucki (E) 25:06; 18. Kevin Carey ® 25:21; 19. Tom DeCristofaro ® 25:27; 20. Stephen White (E) 25:54; 21. Casey McGarvey (E) 25:55; 22. Alejandro Hernandez (E) 26:04.

4/5

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010

RHODE ISLAND TRIMS EASTERN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY BY POINT
Freshmen help Warriors close gap from a year ago but Anchorwomen hang on for win

MANSFIELD, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University women's cross country freshmen **Katie France (Portland)** and **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)** helped the Warriors close the scoring gap from last year's ten-point loss to Rhode Island College, but the Anchorwomen still had enough to trim the Warriors by a single point, 27-28, Saturday afternoon at Mansfield Hollow State Park.

Last year, Rhode Island captured four of the top six place in a ten-point victory over the Warriors. This time, junior **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** repeated her second-place finish from a year ago, and France filled in in third place and Palasky sixth, but the race was decided when RIC senior Kaitlin Geagan bested Eastern senior **Chelsie Lawson (Sandwich, MA)** by 11 seconds for to earn the decisive ninth-place finish.

Quinones (20:46) followed RIC senior Katie Desrosiers at the finish by 19 seconds, with France coming in at 21:13 and Palasky at 21:54. Sophomore **Cora Gingras (East Hampton)** followed Palasky in seventh place in a time of 22:06, and Lawson was timed in 23:05.

Last year, Quinones was second in the race to RIC's Brittany Richer, who fell to fifth place this season.

Eastern competes in the Little East Conference/New England Alliance Championship Oct. 30 at Moore State Park in Paxton, MA.

Rhode Island College 27, Eastern Conn. 28

1. Katie Desrosiers @ 20:27; 2. Amanda Quinones (E) 20:46; 3. Katie France (E) 21:13; 4. Chelsea Marshall @ 21:24; 5. Brittany Richer @ 21:37; 6. Alexa Palasky (E) 21:54; 7. Cora Gingras (E) 22:06; 8. Brooke Iby @ 22:45; 9. Kaitlin Geagan @ 22:54; 10. Chelsie Lawson (E) 23:05; 11. Jamie Nunes @ 23:09; 12. Nicole Poirier @ 23:33; 13. Haley Smith (E) 23:39; 14. Denica Gagnon (E) 23:47; 15. Amanda Ericson (E) 23:50; 16. Melissa Healy (E) 23:55; 17. Justyna Barlow @ 24:24; 18. Kayleigh Smith @ 24:28; 19. Wendy Bouton (E) 24:29; 20. Brittany Miskell (E) 25:33; 21. Meghan McMullen @ 25:48.

84
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

EASTERN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY 12TH AT EARLEY INVITE
Hackett-Miller-Secore run 1-2-3 again in pacing Warriors at Stanley Park course

WESTFIELD, Mass. – First-year junior **Connor Hackett (Bolton)** paced the Eastern Connecticut State University men's cross country team at the finish for the third straight race and was followed again by sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)** and freshman **Brody Secore (South Windsor)** during a 12th-place finish at the 14th Annual James Earley Invitational Saturday, hosted by Westfield State University at Stanley Park.

Hackett, a two-time Little East Conference Rookie-of-the-Week, placed 31st overall in a field of 288 finishers (top 11 percent), scoring 29 points overall. For the third straight race, he was followed by Miller (81st overall/70 points) and Secore (100th/82).

After taking eighth place as a team a year ago – due in large part to Dave Hunt's second-place finish, the Warriors again placed in the upper half of the 26-team field, checking in at 12th place. Hackett was only about a minute off Hunt's time of a year ago, logging a mark of 27:31. Miller was timed in 28:48 and Secore 29:06 over 8,000 meters.

Secore was the team's No. 5 runner in his collegiate debut a month ago at Fitchburg State but has moved up to No. 3 in each of the last three races. Miller led all Eastern finishers in the season-opener, Hackett taking the top spot Saturday for the third straight race.

All 13 runners on the roster competed for Eastern. Senior **Ken Landry (East Hampton)** was fourth and sophomore **Brad Beausoleil (Plainfield)** rounded out the team's scoring. Landry was 102nd overall (84 points) in a time of 29:11 and Beausoleil 104th (86) in a time of 29:13. Completing the top seven runners were junior **Bryan Jorge (Bristol)** and junior **Ryan Hughes (Cheshire)**. Jorge was 113 overall in a time of 29:22 and Hughes 142nd at 30:02.

Beausoleil chopped 54 seconds off his time of a year ago at this race as the club's seventh runner across the line, Jorge knocked off 57 seconds as last year's No. 9 runner and Hughes a whopping 1:43 as last year's No. 9 man.

Eastern was competing for the first time since participating in the Codfish Bowl two weekends ago.

Vassar College outran 25 opposing teams to capture the team title, putting its first four runners among the Top 20 and its five scoring runners among the Top 25.

Eastern hosts Rhode Island College Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Mansfield Hollow State Park in its only home meet of the year.

(more)

Team Results

(26 teams)

Top 10

1. Vassar College 75; 2. Westfield State U. 122; 3. Trinity College 126; 4. Bridgewater State U. 129; 5. SUNY Delhi 211; 6. Rhode Island College 258; 7. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 243; 8. Union College 269; 9. U. of New England 317; 10. Gordon College 321.

12. EASTERN CONN. 351

Individual Results

(288 finishers)

Eastern's Finishers

31. Conor Hackett 27:31; 81. Nick Miller 28:48; 100. Brody Secore 29:06; 102. Ken Landry 29:11; 104. Brad Beausoleil 29:13; 113. Bryan Jorge 29:22; 142. Ryan Hughes 30:02; 146. Ryan Franklin 30:06; 155. Colin Whiston 30:19. 170. Alejandro Hernandez 30:37; 177. Joey Perucki 30:48; 223. Tim Callahan 32:30; 225. Stephen White 32:50.

84
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

EASTERN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY 13TH AT EARLEY
Sixty-seven seconds faster than last year, Quinones finishes among Top 20

WESTFIELD, Mass. — Improvement was the order of the day when the Eastern Connecticut State University women's cross country team ran to a 13th-place finish in a field of 31 teams Saturday at the 14th Annual James Earley Invitational Saturday, hosted by Westfield State University at Stanley Park.

Running under ideal conditions over 5,000 meters following a two-week layoff, all six runners who ran the course last year made significant improvements. Senior **Melissa Healy (Naugatuck)** and sophomore **Brittany Miskell (Woodstock)** submitted the most significant improvements, bettering their times from a year ago by 2:54 and 2:27, respectively. Sophomore **Cora Gingras (East Hampton)** ran 1:26 faster and sophomore **Denica Gagnon (Colchester)** chopped 70 seconds off her time at this race from a year ago while junior **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** improved her time from last year by 67 as the team's top finisher. Senior **Amanda Ericson (Bolton)** took 31 seconds off her time last year.

Quinones finished among the top six percent of runners in the race, racing to 20th place in a time of 19:41. Freshmen followed Quinones at the tape for the Warriors, **Katie France (Portland)** placing 53rd overall and **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)** claiming 95th. France totaled 45 points in a time of 20:34 and Palasky 82 at 21:23. Gingras and Gagnon were the team's fourth and fifth-place scorers. Gingras scored 95 points (112th overall) in a time of 21:47, Gagnon scoring 115 points (192nd overall) in a time of 22:41. Healy (156th overall) and senior **Chelsie Lawson (Sandwich, MA)** rounded out the top seven. Healy was timed in 22:47, Lawson (157th) was clocked in 22:48.

Vassar won the team title, running away with the team title with 28 points over runner-up Trinity College (63). The Brewers placed all five of their scorers among the top 12.

Eastern hosts Rhode Island College Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Mansfield Hollow State Park in its only home meet of the year.

(more)

Team Results

(31 teams)

Top 10

1. Vassar College 28; 2. Trinity College 63; 3. Westfield State U. 135; 4. Salve Regina U. 140; 5. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 153; 6. U. of New England 177; 7. Bridgewater State U. 213; 8. Rhode Island College 262; 9. SUNY Delhi 285; 10. Babson College 297.
- 13. EASTERN CONN. 357.**

Individual Results

(311 finishers)

Eastern's Finishers

20. Amanda Quinones 19:41; 53. Katie France 20:34; 95. Alexa Palasky 21:23; 112. Cora Gingras 21:47; 152. Denica Gagnon 22:41; 156. Melissa Healy 22:47; 157. Chelsie Lawson 22:48; 172. Amanda Ericson 23:05; 182. Brittany Miskell 23:20; 192. Haley Smith 23:27; 202. Ashlee James 23:48; 214. Wendy Bouton 24:13.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

EASTERN M-CROSS COUNTRY 20TH AT UMASS DARTMOUTH INVITE
Newcomer Conor Hackett leads the way by placing 73rd overall among 272 competitors

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – First-year junior **Conor Hackett (Bolton)** ran to an overall finish of 73rd to pace the Eastern Connecticut State University men’s cross country team equaled its best finish (20th) in the last seven years at the 38th Annual University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Shriners’ Invitational over 8,000 meters on the UMass Dartmouth campus Saturday.

Last week’s Little East Conference Rookie-of-the-Week, Hackett scored 67 points – placing among the top 27 percent in the field -- and was followed by sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)**, freshman **Brody Secore (South Windsor)**, sophomore **Tim Callahan (Portland)** and junior **Alejandro Hernandez (Branford)**. Hackett was timed in 26:28, Miller (101 points) at 27:19, Secord (138) 28:25, Callahan (148) 28:46, and Hernandez (158) 29:00. Junior **Bryan Jorge (Bristol)** rounded out Eastern’s performers in the varsity race, placing 168th overall in a time of 29:26.

Jorge knocked 27 seconds off his time of a year ago, while Miller matched exactly his mark from 2009.

Keene State College out of the Little East Conference won the team title, winning a three-team race for the title. The Owls scored 73 points, MIT 76 and Brandeis University 79. A total of 36 teams and competed, with 272 runners completing the course.

For the first time in 33 years, Eastern competes in the Codfish Bowl Saturday at Franklin Park in Boston at 11 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

EASTERN W-CROSS COUNTRY 26TH AT UMASS DARTMOUTH INVITE
Amanda Quinones improves 37 places and 32 seconds from a year ago at this meet

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. – Junior **Amanda Quinones (Trumbull)** improved her lot 37 places with a 32-second improvement from a year ago in leading the Eastern Connecticut State University women's cross country team to a 26th-place finish at the 38th Annual University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Shriners' Invitational over 5,000 meters on the UMass Dartmouth campus Saturday.

In leading the Warriors at the tape for the sixth straight race in which she has competed, Quinones scored 84 points with a 90th overall finish in a time of 20:15, an improvement of 37 places and 32 seconds from a year ago, when she finished 127th overall and scored 125 points in a time of 20:47. Quinones was last week's Little East Conference Runner-of-the-Week.

For the second straight race this year, freshmen **Katie France (Portland)** and **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)** followed Quinones for the Warriors. France scored 114 points with an overall finish of 122nd and time of 20:43, and Palasky totaled 171 points with an overall finish of 188 in a time of 21:40.

Completing Eastern's scorers were seniors **Amanda Ericson (Bolton)** and **Melissa Healy (Naugatuck)**. Ericson (22:15) scored 185 points with an overall finish of 204 and Healy (23:09) had 208 points. Sophomore **Denica Gagnon (Colchester)** was Eastern's sixth varsity race runner. Gagnon (23:21) was 232nd overall.

Ericson was competing in the UMass Invitational for the fourth time, having improved her time each year. This year's time was four minutes better her first try in 2007, 1:44 faster than her sophomore season and a 44 second improvement from a year ago. Healy did not compete in the race last year but ran 50 seconds faster than in 2008 and 82 seconds faster than her freshman season in 2007.

Wellesley College and MIT waged a two-team battle for the team title, with Wellesley edging the Engineers, 41-45. Wellesley placed all five of its scoring runners among the top 12 and ahead of MIT's No. 4 runner.

Eastern competes in the Codfish Bowl Saturday at Franklin Park in Boston at 11 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2010


EASTERN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY A STRONG SECOND AT SHEEHAN
In season-opener, Warriors place all five scoring runners among top 11 finishers

FITCHBURG, Mass. – Eastern Connecticut State University's five scoring men's cross runners finished among the top 11 as the Warriors placed a solid second in a field of four teams in the 2010 season-opener Friday at the Jim Sheehan Memorial at Coggs Hall Park.

Eastern and host Fitchburg State University have now traded six-point invitational wins the past two years. Last year, the Warriors edged the Falcons, 31-37 when they captured two of the top three individual spots. Friday, Fitchburg returned the favor, recording a 30-36 triumph in this two-team race over 4.75 miles. Worcester State University was a distant third (63 points) and Anna Maria College fourth with 105 points.

Eastern sophomore **Nick Miller (Norwich)** repeated his third-place individual finish from a year ago in a time of 25:37 (27 seconds faster than last year) as the Warriors No. 1 runner, with first-year junior **Conor Hackett (Bolton)** fourth overall (26:24) in his first race. However, two Fitchburg runners preceded and followed the Warriors' duo. Those impressive performances from its top four runners was enough for Fitchburg to neutralize an 18th place finish (16 scoring points) from its No. 5 runner, who totaled more points than the combined total of the team's top four.

Also commanding top ten finishes for Eastern were junior **Bryan Jorge (Bristol)** and sophomore **Brad Beausoleil (Plainfield)**, while freshman **Brody Secore (South Windsor)** served as the team's fifth scorer. Jorge, the team's sixth runner in this race last fall, was eighth overall (26:53), Beausoleil tenth (27:13) and Secore 11th (27:16).

Fitchburg junior Kris Kibler, coming off a fourth-place finish at the Keene State College Invitational last Saturday, raced to the individual title in a time of 23:53, 72 seconds ahead of teammate Matt Spano.

Eastern competes at the Massachusetts Dartmouth Invitational Saturday at 11:15 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2010

#1

EASTERN'S QUINONES EASES TO JIM SHEEHAN W-CROSS COUNTRY TITLE
In first collegiate race, freshman Katie France finishes eighth in field of 41

FITCHBURG, Mass. – Eastern Connecticut State University junior Amanda Quinones (Trumbull) outran a field of 41 runners to post a 37-second victory and pace the women's cross country team to a second-place finish at the season-opening Jim Sheehan Memorial, hosted by Fitchburg State University Friday at Coggshall Park.

Last spring's Little East Conference 10,000 meter champion, Quinones led ten Eastern runners at the finish line, clocking a time of 21:18 over the 3.1 mile layout. In her Eastern debut last year after transferring from Division I Rider University, Quinones was third overall in a time of 22:31 to help the Warriors to the team title.

Eastern totaled 53 points and was second in a field of five. Three Worcester State University runners filled in behind Quinones and all five of its scoring runners were among the top seven as the Lancers amassed a comfortable 31-point cushion over Eastern to win the team title.

Eastern runners have now won the individual title in each of the last three years in which the Warriors have competed in the race.

In her first collegiate race, freshman **Katie France (Portland)** ran second for Eastern. France was eighth overall in a time of 22:31, just 11 seconds behind the fifth-place runner. She was followed by classmate **Alexa Palasky (Griswold)**, who took 16th place overall (scoring 13 points) in a time of 23:30. Seniors **Melissa Healy (Naugatuck)** and **Amanda Ericson (Bolton)** rounded out Eastern scorers. Healy scored 14 points with an overall 17th-place finish in a time of 23:43 and Ericson scored 17 points with an overall finish of 20th in a time of 24:10. Healy was timed in 26:31 a year ago as Eastern's No. 9 runner across the line.

In addition to France and Palasky, freshman **Wendy Bouton (Stratford)** completed her first collegiate race. Bouton was 31st overall in a time of 26:39.

Quinones took over as Eastern's No. 1 runner in early October, earning All-New England Alliance honors with a 17th-place finish at the conference championship meet.

Eastern competes at the Massachusetts Dartmouth Invitational Saturday at 11:15 a.m.