Women Race like Top 10 Team
9-24-12

The Battlin' Bear women finished 5th out of 16 teams at the Erik Anderson Invitational in Spokane, WA over the weekend. The squad finished behind NAIA #4 College of Idaho, #6 Carroll College, and #9 Lewis-Clark State College and ahead of NCAA DI Gonzaga and Washington State University. The team was only eight points behind NAIA #9 rated Lewis-Clark State College, who was third in the meet. The difference between LCSC and Rocky was 3.77 seconds in total time and just .36 seconds in average team time.

Pacing the team was Rachael Hart in 12th place with a time of 18:43. Following closely were Ana Richter in 18th with a time of 18:51 and Selene Johnson in 26th with a time of 19:06. Rounding out the top six were Mackenzie O'Dore in 42nd (19:36), Megan Breeding in 45th (19:38), and Autumn Charges Strong in 46th (19:39). There were 154 women competing in the race from NAIA, NCAA DI, NCAA D II, and Community Colleges.

"I am extremely happy of our team," stated Coach King. "We only had a 56 second difference between our top six girls. Today they came together and ran like a team. We have been focusing on that the last couple of weeks and it is really starting to pay off. Any time you can come that close to upsetting a top ten team is exciting. Then when you figure in the fact that two of our top four were running ill makes it more impressive. I've been telling the team that they are a top fifteen team and they went out and proved that today."

On the men's side, Rocky finished 13th out of 16 schools. It was the first time this season that the Bears were able to put together a scoring team. First to cross the finish for the team was freshman Michael Anderson in 86th place with a time of 27:44 followed by fellow freshman Riley Ruppenthal in 89th place in 27:46. Third for the squat was another freshman, Shawn Peden. He ran ran 29:17 and finished in 127th place. Rounding out the top five were Toryn Rogers in 129th place and Albert Rodriguez in 146th place. There were 163 men in the race.

"I'm very happy with how things went today," said Coach King. "Everyone improved over last week and is really starting to get into the right frame of mind. Now we have three weeks of uninterrupted training before our next race. Hopefully we can continue to make progress and move forward as a team. The talent is there, we just have to figure out how to use it to the fullest."

The team will compete at home on October 13 at Riverfront Park at 10am.