



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY

Cross Country 10-3-23

Nike XC Town Twilight Inv. – Boys Break School Team Time Record

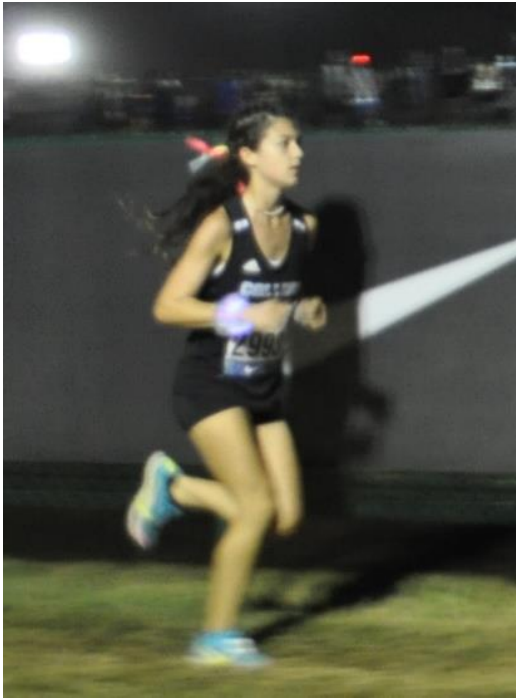
The Running Titans traveled to Terre Haute, IN on Sept. 30th to compete in the Nike XC Town Twilight Invitational. The cross-country meet was held “under the lights” on the Lavern Gibson Championship Course which is the site of the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships.

The girls made it into the prestigious Race of Champions (ROC) and were pitted against some of the best teams in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Several teams in the race had top 25 US rankings. The Titans got out slower than last year (6:31 vs. 6:16) on the fast Lavern Gibson course, since one of their top five was out with an injury. Junior Emma Kendall led the way for the Titans as she finished in 76th in 19:19. Her time was the second fastest of her career and made the US Silver Standard (19:45).



Emma Kendall hit the US Silver Standard at the Nike Twilight meet going 19:19 on the LaVern Gibson Course.

Sophomore Sophie Bolin ran a strong race and beat her personal record (PR) by 24 seconds to finish in 20:42. The next Titans to score were juniors Grace Nelson (season best of 21:00) and Luci Renda who got both a season and course best time of 22:31. Senior Laura Vidourek (SB 23:15) rounded out the Titan scoring. The Titans ended up with 978 points to finish 38th out of 44 teams.



Sophie Bolin chopped a big 24 seconds off her previous PR at the Nike Twilight Meet.



Collins girls before they "tow the line" in the Girls Race of Champions at Nike Twilight.



Then it was the boys' turn. The Titan boys competed in the open race against 87 other teams. They got out fast, averaging 5:17 for the first mile versus 5:35 last year. They kept up the heat, with the top five averaging a swift 10:51 for two miles. This was much faster than their 11:30 average at the two mile mark last year.

Junior Nathan Janes was again the first Titan to cross the finish line as he clocked a 16:47 for 45th place. This was a personal record (PR) for Janes by thirteen seconds. The Delaney brothers who have run strongly all season, did not disappoint. Junior Chase was right behind Janes in 54th place with a 30 second PR (16:52). Freshman Reece Delaney was the next Titan to finish in a 36 second PR (17:00). Seniors Melbyn Velasquez (17:17) and Jack Fuhrmann (17:37) rounded out the scoring and got PRs.



Collins' Chase Delaney (3683) battles with Ben Davis (Indianapolis) senior Fanuel Tikabo (125) and North (Columbus, IN) senior Franke Polyak near the finish.



Collins' Reece Delaney nears the finish line at Nike Twilight

Collins' two "pushers" (the sixth and seventh runners on a team who don't score but can displace scorers from other teams), sophomore George Diakhate (18:19) and freshman Ethan Kuzman (18:40) also got big PRs.

Of the nine boys that raced for Collins in the varsity open race, eight got PRs. This enabled the Titans to claim a top-10 finish, as they finished 10th out of 88 of some of the best teams in the region. However, the icing on the cake was that their team time (total of the times of the five scorers) was a fast 1:25:33 (17:07 per scorer). This smashed the previous school record of 1:27:40 (17:32 per scorer) set in Collins' inception year at the regional meet in 2011.



Collins' school record setting boys' team (L to R): Head Coach George Sanderlin, Nathan Janes, Melbyn Velasquez, Eli Moreno, Chase Delaney, Reece Delaney, Jack Fuhrmann, Ethan Kuzman, and Vance Boyd (missing: George Diakhate).

Head Coach George Sanderlin said, "It doesn't get any better than this when almost 90% of our boys got PRs and almost 80% of our girls either got a PR, course, or season best. The athletes like LaVern Gibison and the unique atmosphere. Quite honestly, I knew the boys could take down the school record. We talked about it before the race. However, they stunned the entire Running Titan Nation by chopping a huge 2:07 off the previous school record. That is 25 seconds per runner. I've coached for 15 years and this is the fastest boys' team that I have coached. I thought they would march into history, but they charged in! This showing tonight positions us well for the regional meet."

The Running Titans travel to Oldham County on Oct. 7th to compete in the Haunted Woods Run. The first race is at 8:00 AM.

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