



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

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Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY

Cross Country 9-16-25

Border Battle

Collins hosted the Border Battle on Sept. 12th which featured the eighth inter-school district cross country competition in Kentucky. The Shelby County School District's Team Shelby (Collins and Shelby County) battled the Oldham County School District's Team Oldham (Oldham County and South Oldham). The meet was held at Collins Director of track and cross country George Sanderlin's Blue Meadow Farms' Bullskin Athletic Complex off Joyes Station Rd. in Shelbyville.

Collins senior Sophie Bolin won the girls' race in 20:44 for the first cross country meet win of her career. She held off Oldham County junior Diana Nava by increasing her lead over the last 400 meters. Even though Nava out-leaned Bolin at the Rumble in the Jungle Invitational last weekend, Bolin turned the tide here. She beat Nava by eight seconds. Shelby County sophomore Amelia Montgomery placed 10th for Team Shelby with a time of 24:02. The second Titan across the line for the girls was sophomore Margo Treece in 13th place (25:01).



(photo: S. Delaney)

Collins' Sophie Bolin got out fast and never looked back winning the Border Battle on the J.R. and Sarah Sanderlin Course at Blue Meadow Farms.

Team Oldham won the girls race 35 to 80 by claiming places two through eight. Jaya Johnson (22nd) and Gretchen Gayle (23rd) of Shelby County, as well as Lisa Smith (24th) and Josie Renda (27th) of Collins, rounded out the scoring for Team Shelby.



(photo: L. Bolin)

Collins' Margo Treece was the second athlete from Team Shelby to cross the finish line at the Border Battle. Collins traditionally wears their "throw back" singlets for this meet.

In the boys' race, South Oldham senior Rick Mshindi battled with Collins junior Reece Delaney through two miles. Mshindi had beaten Delaney the previous weekend at Rumble by almost five seconds. However, Delaney got the better of Mshindi at the Border Battle as he poured it on with 600 meters to go. Delaney's time of 16:55 was the second fastest boys time for the course, only behind the 16:42 that A. J. Kern of South Oldham put down in 2022.



(photo: L. Bolin)

Start of the boys' race at the Border Battle: (137 - R. Mshindi, S. Oldham; 32 - L. Courtney, Shelby Co.; 138- Henry Koller, S. Oldham; 111 - Asa Hawkins, Oldham Co.; and 7 - R. Delaney, Collins)



(photo: S. Delaney)

Collins' Reece Delaney won the Border Battle in the second fastest time in meet history.

Lucas Courtney of Shelby County was the next finisher for Team Shelby finishing eighth in 18:46. Behind Courtney was Collins senior George Diakhate who placed 11th (19:00) in his first race of the season after being injured. Collins junior Ethan Kuzman was the next scorer for Team Shelby in 19th. He was followed by Isaac Trzcinski, Mason Way, and Eli Misner of Shelby County who rounded out the scoring. Again, as in the girls' race, Team Oldham came away with the win, 36 to 78, by capturing places two through seven.



(photo: L. Bolin)

Collins' George Diakhate finishes strong at the Border Battle.



(photo: S. Delaney)

Reece Delaney and Sophie Bolin display the traditional pumpkin winner trophies for winning the Border Battle on Sept. 12th. This was only the second time that Collins' athletes have won both the boys' and girls' races at the Border Battle. The other time was in 2023 when Emma Kendall and Nathan Janes won.



The Blue Meadow Farms – Bullskin Athletic Complex was the site of the Border Battle. It is a picturesque rolling course nestled in the heart of Shelby County.

Shelby County head cross country coach Les Harris said, "The Border Battle is a great meet to be part of. Teaming up with Collins and seeing the athletes working together, cheering for each other is good for our sport. This also gives every coach involved a chance to evaluate young runners who normally don't get the Varsity experience. Cross Country has not always garnered much attention, but Friday evening we highlighted our talent.

The Running Titans travel to Tom Sawyer Park on Sept. 20th to compete in the Trinity Valkyrie Inv.

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