



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY**

**Cross Country 9-22-22**

### **Border Battle Preview**

Collins High School is hosting the Border Battle on Sept. 23rd which will feature the fifth inter-school district competition in Kentucky state history. The Shelby County School District's Team Shelby (Collins and Shelby County) will battle the Oldham County School District's Team Oldham (North Oldham and South Oldham). The meet will be held on the Blue Meadow Farms Cross Country Complex (99 Joyes Station Rd. and US 60) in Shelbyville.

The meet should be extremely competitive as the teams have already faced each other in several meets like Rumble Through the Jungle, and the Trinity / Valkyrie meet. Collins Director of Cross Country and Track George Sanderlin, who manages the Bullskin Cross Country Complex, said, "Our 5K course is the best it has ever looked. It includes a downhill start and a finish which is flat, coming off a big downhill."

The girls' race should be a doozie with last year's Border Battle champion, sophomore Emma Kendall of Collins, duking it out with South Oldham sophomore Abigail Crask. Crask recently beat Kendall by winning the Trinity Valkyrie Inv. varsity race in 19:30 to Kendall's 19:40 third place finish. However, last year at the Border Battle Kendall out leaned Crask at the finish to win by .15 in one of the most exciting dual, tri, or quad meet cross country finishes in Kentucky last year. Kendall is coming in off a track season that saw her win the AAA 800 State Meet, as well as the Adidas Outdoor Nationals Freshman 800 race.



*Two of the top sophomores in the state, South Oldham's Abigail Crask (L) and Collins' Emma Kendall, will go at it on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Border. Here they are at Tom Sawyer Park at the halfway mark of the Trinity Valkyrie Inv. on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.*



*Last year Crask (L) and Kendall had the most exciting run in and finish of any dual, tri, or quad meet in the state.*



The South Oldham girls beat Collins by 18 points at Trinity Valkyrie. So, the team battle should be exciting. Behind Crask and Kendall, look for North Oldham junior Janie Boyd who is fresh off a 20:58 at the Tiger Run. Her teammate, sophomore Riley Auton, who finished 20<sup>th</sup> at Rumble with a 21:01, should also be close to the front. Do not count out South junior Emily Jones who ran close to her PR at Trinity Valkyrie to finish 19<sup>th</sup> in 21:22. Twelve girls in the field have gone under 22 minutes in their career, making this potentially one of the fastest and deepest Border Battle girls' races in years.

On the boys' side, South Oldham which is currently ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the state, has five runners under 18 minutes and their next two are only six seconds back. South is led by senior Aj Kern who finished fourth at Trinity Valkyrie in 16:39. Also look for South's freshman Rick Mshindi (17:25) and senior Jacob McBride (17:52 season best), as well as North Oldham sophomore Charlie Townsend (17:35) to challenge.



*South Oldham junior Jacob McBride finished fourth at last year's Border Battle and sixth in 2020.*

The girls' race starts at 5:45 PM with the boys going at 6:30.



*The Blue Meadow Farms – Bullskin Cross Country Complex is a picturesque and rolling course nestled in the heart of Shelby County. It will feature the J.R. and Sarah Sanderlin 5K Course.*

For more information, go to the Milesplit meet web page:

<https://ky.milesplit.com/meets/494785-border-battle-2022/info#.YyxvUh7MK3A>

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