



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

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Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY

Cross Country 9-28-23

Border Battle Results

Collins hosted the Border Battle on Sept. 22nd which featured the sixth inter-school district competition in Kentucky state history. The Shelby County School District's Team Shelby (Collins and Shelby County) battled the Oldham County School District's Team Oldham (North Oldham and South Oldham). The meet was held at Collins Head Coach George Sanderlin's Blue Meadow Farms' Cross-Country Complex (Joyes Station Rd. and US 60) in Shelbyville.

The girls' race pitted two of the top juniors in the state (juniors Abigail Crask of South Oldham and Emma Kendall of Collins) against each other. Kendall and Crask were knotted at the mile mark going through in six flat. With about a kilometer to go, Kendall widened her lead. Kendall took the win in 19:56 which tied her course best. Crask finished almost 30 seconds back in 20:24 for second. Collins placed four more girls in the top 10 to score a low 27 points for the team win over South Oldham (42 points) and Shelby County (62 points). The girls race was scored as a triangular meet since the North Oldham girls did not attend.



(photo: L. Treece)

Juniors Abigail Crask of South Oldham (L) and Collins' Emma Kendall (312) were running together 1200 meters into the Border Battle.



(photo: L. Treece)

However, Kendall was all alone at the finish of the Border Battle 5K race.

The next girls to score for Collins were sophomore Sophie Bolin (3rd), junior Grace Nelson (5th), eighth grader Margo Treece (8th), and senior Grace White (10th).



(photo: L. Treece)

Grace Nelson nears the Border Battle finish line as her mother, Kelli (L) looks on.

Elena Nethery was Shelby County's top finisher in fourth with a time of 22:52. Emalene Hurt (7th) also finished in the top 10 for Shelby County.



Collins got double winners as junior Nathan Janes led from start to finish to win the boys race and got a course best time in 17:06. The Titan boys also got the team win as Collins put all five scorers in the top eight to finish with a low score of 20 points. Following Janes across the finish line were the Delaney brothers. Junior Chase finished second in a course best 17:25 while his freshman brother Reece got a PR to finish third in 17:36. Seniors Melbyn Velasquez (6th) and Jack Fuhrmann (8th) rounded out Collins' scoring.



(Photo: L. Treece)

The Titan boys got off to a fast start at the Border Battle as Nathan Janes (301), Chase Delaney (302), and Reece Delaney (304), finished first, second, and third respectively. Melbyn Velasquez (303) finished 6th.

Donnie Wright was the first finisher for Shelby County (7th) and Lucas Courtney was tenth. They contributed to the Team Shelby scoring as Collins and Shelby County had a combined 37 points for the win over Team Oldham (70 points).



(Photo: L. Treece)

Jack Fuhrmann got a PR on the J.R. and Sarah Sanderlin 5K Course at the Border Battle.



Emma Kendall and Nathan Janes got the traditional Border Battle pumpkins for winning their respective races.



Collins Head Coach, Meet Director, and manager of the Bullskin Athletic Complex where the meet was held said, "The course was in great shape today as evidenced by the fast times. There were many course bests, PRs, and season bests. Both Collins' girls' and boys' teams won and Collins also had both the individual girls' and boys' champions. We made history today because Collins has never won both races and had both individual champions. This positions us well for the regional meet."



The Blue Meadow Farms – Bullskin Athletic Complex was the site of the Border Battle. It is a picturesque and rolling course nestled in the heart of Shelby County. It featured some fast times on the J.R. and Sarah Sanderlin 5K Course.

The Running Titans travel to Terre Haute, IN on Sept. 30th to compete "under the lights" in the Nike XC Town Twilight Meet at the Lavern Gibson Championship Course. The first race is at 6:30 PM.

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