

## **Orange Coast College women regain cross country state supremacy; San Bernardino Valley College men get three-peat!**

(FRESNO) It was the second closest team finish in the 32-year history of the California Community College Women's Cross Country Championships.

The Pirates of Orange Coast College won the 2008 title 84-86 over defending champion Glendale College on a cool Nov. 22 day with light fog at Fresno's Woodward Park. Thirty years ago, Yuba nudged Citrus 68-69 for the 1978 small schools title.

Led by Crystal Reed, only the third two-time individual winner in the history of women's competition, OCC won for the tenth time in the past 12 seasons. Previous to 2007, the Pirates won six consecutive state championships.

Reed timed 17:36 over the 3.1 miles, which is 30 seconds off the course record set by a diminutive and determined Sylvia Mosqueda of East Los Angeles in 1985. Reed was followed by Christine Cortez of Mt. San Antonio at 18:07. Taking third place at 18:09 was OCC's Cassie Mitchell. Rounding out the Pirates' scoring was: Kimone Hewitt, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 19:03, Andrea Guerra 28<sup>th</sup> at 19:12 and Janina Emery, 30<sup>th</sup> at 19:16.

Reed joins Ruth Caldwell of Citrus who won back-to-back titles in the small schools division in 1977-78. Renee Wykoff, of College of the Sequoias, won twice in 1979 and 1981 in the large schools division. The format went to one division in 1984.

After the women's race, San Bernardino Valley College scored 50 points to San Diego Mesa's 77 and claimed rights to a mini-dynasty by winning for the third consecutive year in the 45<sup>th</sup> California Community College Men's Cross Country Championships.

Carlos Perez (third in 2007) and Matthew Sartori led the Wolverines by finishing third and fourth at 20:20 and 20:24. Jared Bain was ninth at 20:37. Art Parra was the 16<sup>th</sup> finisher at 20:57 and Manuel Bueno made everything muy buenos for his SBVC teammates by wrapping up the title closing in 18<sup>th</sup> place at 21:00.

SD Mesa's Muluken Beressa won the individual title and missed by one second of tying the course record of 19:56, set by Oscar Ogwaro of East LA in 2006. Beressa's 19:57 beat Hartnell's Daniel Tapia by 19 seconds.

Beressa's teammate Marcos Corona was sixth at 20:30 and Barrett Tilley was twelfth at 20:42. Mike Denman was 26<sup>th</sup> and Bernardo Bahena finished 32<sup>nd</sup> to secure runner-up honors for the Olympians.

There were 191 competitors in the women's race and 199 in the men's race. Fresno's picturesque Woodward Park will be the site of the CCC Cross Country Championships through 2011.

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