

Bailey Drewes, Saint Benedict

Bemidji, Minn. / Bemidji

Week of: 2011-10-17



The Saint Benedict women's cross country team had a dominant showing Saturday at the Crown Invitational, placing six runners in the individual Top 10 and winning the team title. Leading the way to victory was freshman standout **Bailey Drewes** (Bemidji, Minn.), who finished second overall in the race, and put her name in the Blazers' record book in the process. For her outstanding performance, Drewes has been named the MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week.

Drewes finished at the runner-up in St. Bonifacius Saturday by completing the hilly 6K course in just 22:35. Her time wasn't just the second-fastest at the meet, but it also earned Drewes a spot in Saint Benedict history, as it is the second-fastest 6K time ever by a Blazer runner. The only runner to finish faster was UM-Morris junior Linda Keller (21:17.70). In addition to Drewes in second, CSB runners finished 4th-7th and ninth to rack up a team score of 24, which beat second-place St. Scholastica by 55 points.

Saint Benedict hopes its dominant performance and its standout freshman both carry momentum over to its next race, which will be the 2011 MIAC Women's Cross Country Championship, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul. The women will run at 2:15 p.m., with the men to follow at 3:15 p.m. Last year, the Blazers finished sixth and enter this year's meet hoping their talented additions can boost them into the top five.

Sophie Pietrick, St. Olaf

Minnetonka, Minn. / Minnetonka

Week of: 2011-10-10



The St. Olaf women's cross country team will attempt to defend its MIAC Championship later this month, and the Oles looked like a championship-caliber team again over the weekend with a stellar performance at the Pine Hill Cross Country Invitational hosted by the University of Minnesota-Duluth. This time, it was junior **Sophie Pietrick** (Minnetonka, Minn.) leading the way as her second-place individual finish helped St. Olaf capture the team title against a number of talented Division II and III teams. For her performance, Pietrick has been named the MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week.

Pietrick was at her all-time best in Duluth. She finished the 6K course in 22:35, which is a new personal best for her and the seventh-best 6K time in St. Olaf history. She finished second overall, just 13 seconds behind the winner - Division II All-American Morgan Place from the host school, UMD. Pietrick led a group of five Oles in the Top 10, and nine in the Top 20. As a team, St. Olaf finished with 27 points and cruised to the first-place finish, beating runner-up Winona State by 29 points and third-place UMD by 45 points. It was St. Olaf's third first-place finish of the season.

This weekend, the Oles will send runners to both the Tori Neubauer Invitational in La Crosse, Wis., and the UW-Oshkosh Brooks Invite on Saturday, as their final tune-ups before the 2011 MIAC Cross Country Championships. The conference meet will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul.

Simone Childs-Walker, Carleton

Seattle, Wash. / Lakeview
Week of: 2011-10-03



The MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week is getting closer and closer to simply becoming the **Simone Childs-Walker** (Seattle, Wash./Lakeside) weekly honor after the Carleton star turned in another spectacular performance this week. Childs-Walker ran to a second-place finish Friday at the UW-Eau Claire Blugold Invitational to lead the Knights to a first-place finish as a team. As a result, Childs-Walker has been named the MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week for the third-straight week and the sixth time in her career.

Childs-Walker's second-place finish was out of 341 individual runners. She finished the 6K race with a time of 22:10.1, just three-tenths of a second behind the winner, who was racing unattached from Division I Minnesota. Childs-Walker was the top Division III finisher and led the way as Carleton placed five runners in the Top 20 to beat out a University of Minnesota squad for first place.

The Knights and their star will look to continue their current run of success this weekend when they travel to St. Paul to compete in the St. Kate's Invitational on Saturday. Carleton will send runners to both the UW-La Crosse Tori Neubauer Invitational and the UW-Oshkosh Brooks Invitational on Oct. 15, which will be their final tune-up before the 2011 MIAC Cross Country Championships, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 29 at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul.

Simone Childs-Walker, Carleton

Seattle, Wash. / Lakeside
Week of: 2011-09-26



While her entire Carleton running career has been outstanding, it's clear that Knights' star **Simone Childs-Walker** (Seattle, Wash./Lakeside) is setting up for something truly special during her senior season. A week after earning her first victory of 2011, Childs-Walker turned in another spectacular performance Saturday at the 2011 Roy Griak Invitational - one of the premier events in the Midwest hosted by the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minn. Childs-Walker ran to a top-three finish in the 385-person field while leading Carleton to a fourth-place finish out of 32 teams. As a result, the Knights' star has been named the MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week for the second-straight week, and the fifth time in her career.

Childs-Walker ran to a third-place finish Saturday at the Griak, finishing the 6K course in 22:36.8, ahead of 382 of the 385 runners. Only UW-Oshkosh's Christy Cazzola and Linda Keller finished ahead of Childs-Walker, who started slow and was in 34th place after 1K, but she turned it on and had moved up to fifth by the 3K mark and third by the finish line. She was the top finisher from the MIAC and the Central Region, and the Knights' fourth-place finish was also the best among conference and region teams. A year ago, Childs-Walker also earned the MIAC's weekly honor following her second-place performance at the Griak.

The Knights and Childs-Walker will be back in action Friday with a trip across the border into Wisconsin. Carleton will compete at the UW-Eau Claire Blugold Open, which will be held at Whitetail Golf Course in Colfax, Wis. Childs-Walker and the Knights will run in three more events between now and the 2011 MIAC Cross Country Championships, which will be held Oct. 29 at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul.

Simone Childs-Walker, Carleton

Seattle, Wash. / Lakeside
Week of: 2011-09-19



During her first three seasons at Carleton, senior **Simone Childs-Walker** (Seattle, Wash./Lakeside) has been in the upper echelon of MIAC women's cross country runners, and it appears her senior season will be no different. The standout distance runner led the Knights to a second-place finish Saturday at the St. Olaf Invite in Northfield, Minn., while finishing second overall in a talented field and first among MIAC and Division III runners. For her performance, Childs-Walker has been named the MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week for the first time in 2011 and the fourth time in her career.

In her first 6K race of the season, Childs-Walker flashed mid-season form, finishing the course in 22:18, and finishing ahead of each of the 325 runners in the race save for Minnesota-Duluth's Morgan Place, a Division II athlete who won by just seven seconds. Childs-Walker's second-place finish helped Carleton finish with a team total of 70 points, second only to host school St. Olaf (46 points), and ahead of the other 14 teams, including several MIAC and Division II and III schools.

The Knights and their star senior will face more outstanding competition this weekend when they run at the Roy Griak Invitational, hosted by the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minn., at the Les Bolstad Golf Course. Carleton will be busy throughout September and October, with five races on the schedule between now and the 2011 MIAC Championships, which will be held Oct. 29 at Como Park Golf Course in St. Paul.

Emma Lee, St. Olaf

St. Paul, Minn. / Como Park

Week of: 2011-09-12



Emma Lee (St. Paul, Minn./Como Park) and her St. Olaf women's cross country teammates didn't waste much time picking up where they left off, as both Lee and her squad won titles Saturday at the Les Duke Invitational, hosted by Grinnell, at Oakland Acres Golf Course in Oakland Acres, Iowa. Lee won her individual title by six seconds and the Oles, paced by Lee, placed four in the Top 10 to take the team title. For her performance, Lee has been named the inaugural MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week for the 2011 season.

Lee recorded her first individual win of the 2011 season by completing the 6K course in 22:28. She trailed North Iowa Community College's Anna Bueneke, but made a strong move in the final 1,000 meters to pull ahead and win by six seconds. It was Lee's second taste of victory in the young 2011 season, as she also crossed the finish line first on Sept. 1 at the Ole Mac 4K Time Trial race with a time of 14:43. Lee was an All-MIAC performer after finishing as the runner-up at the 2010 MIAC Women's Cross Country Championship, just a single second behind teammate Maren Westby.

Saturday, Lee and the Oles will get a chance to run at home as her team hosts the St. Olaf Invitational, one of many tune-ups scheduled before they attempt to defend their conference title. St. Olaf will try to capture another MIAC Championship Oct. 29 at the 2011 MIAC Cross Country Championships, held at Como Park Golf Course in Lee's hometown of St. Paul.