

St. Olaf women cruise to title at MIAC Cross Country Championship

The St. Thomas men's team and St. Olaf women's team each put four runners in the top eight and cruised to the team titles at Saturday's MIAC Cross Country Championships at Como Park Golf Course.

Coach Pete Wareham's Tommie men's team, ranked No. 7 nationally, ended St. John's four-year reign as MIAC team champion. The Toms scored 29 points to 54 for the runner-up Johnnies, who are ranked No. 20 in Division III. St. Thomas won the school's men's first team championship since 1993 after it took second to St. John's each of the last three seasons.

On the women's side, Coach Chris Daymont's St. Olaf team won its third consecutive team championship. The Oles, ranked fourth nationally, scored 36 points and held off runner-up Concordia-Moorhead's total of 56.

St. John's senior Nick Thoemke won the 8,000-meter men's race in 26:18, two seconds ahead of St. Thomas junior Nick Maddox. It was the fourth time in five years the Johnnies had the men's individual champion.

In the 5,000-meter women's race, St. Thomas junior Kelly Faris won her second conference cross country championship. Her time of 18:23 beat Concordia senior Heidi Brenden by 24 seconds. Faris won the 1997 race as a freshman, sat out the 1998 season and took ninth last season. It marked the fifth time in seven seasons that St. Thomas had the MIAC individual champion.

On the men's side, St. Thomas had six All-MIAC honorees (top-15 individual finishes), and senior Ryan Kollmann joined an elite group of four-time All-MIAC finishers. After Maddox, sophomore Brian Preus was third overall in 26:22; senior Steve Henderson was fifth in 26:33; senior Dan Draine was eighth in 26:46; Kollmann was 11th in 26:50. and sophomore Levi Sveresn was 33rd in 27:29 to round out the UST lineup.

Joining Thoemke as All-MIAC recipients for the Johnnies were junior Andy Keenan, sixth in 26:36; and sophomore Tom Myers, 14th in 26:53.

Soph Eric Stafford took seventh in 26:37 to lead Hamline to third place in the team race. Teammates Tom Kreger and Eric Kaluza took 12th and 13th for the Pipers, who scored 77 team points to top fourth-place St. Olaf's 106.

For the St. Olaf women, sophomore Megan Daymont placed third in 18:59; senior Anne Sateren was sixth in 19:08; junior Brigid Franey was seventh in 19:12; senior Katie Milbrett was eighth in 19:14; freshman Marit Grorud was 12th in 19:31; senior Megan Magnall was 16th in 19:53; and junior Megan Call was 18th in 20:03.

Concordia put three runners in the top nine. After runner-up Heidi Brenden, Heather Brenden took fourth in 19:03 and soph Katie Martin was ninth in 19:20.