Begay Leads Navajo to Marathon Title

Cindy Doubek and Annmarie Tazikis swear they’re not psychic. The two members of the Navajo Community College (Des Plaines, Illinois) athletic department handled the processing of incoming registrations for the June 5 National Junior College Athletic Association Marathon Championships, which were held at Olathe for the first time. And it was Doubek and Tazikis who assigned numbers to each of the 94 entrants, including a 1 to Navajo (Tsai, Arizona) Regional Community College’s Alvin Begay.

“When their coach (Jim Trapp) came in and got the numbers, he pulled out the number and told Alvin he had No. 1 and was going to win,” Tazikis said. “We just assigned the numbers by region, so it’s pretty strange that he had No. 1 and won the race.”

Begay’s winning time of 2:26:27 was the seventh fastest winning time since the marathon championship was began in 1974. The sophomore, who finished seventh in the 1987 NJCAA cross country championship, led the entire way on the 26.2-mile, 355-yard course.

Begay’s win, coupled with teammate Andrew Estliety’s runner-up finish (2:37:57), were the major factors in Navajo spoiling Haskell Indian (Lawrence, Kansas) Junior College’s bid for a fifth consecutive team championship. Navajo’s Tony Luna finished 15th (2:51:52 overall) (12th for team results) to give the Warriors 15 points and the first-place finish.

Lansing (Michigan) Community College finished second (19 points), followed by Haskell (22), Milwaukee Area Technical College (33), Southwestern (Dawntech) Michigan College (35), Monroe (Rooster, New York) Community College (64) and Highland (Kansas) Community College (68).

Joining Begay and Estliety as All-America runners were Matt Adams (2:38:36), of Hagerstown (Maryland) Junior College; Scott Davis (2:38:52), of Haskell; David Byunse (2:40:06), of Southwestern Michigan; and Brad Town (2:41:01), of Lansing. The top six finishers earned NJCAA All-America status.

In the women’s division, Brevard (Cocoa, Florida) Community College’s Judith (Cher) Patterson overtook leader Brenda O’Connor of Olathe, at the 18-mile mark and went on to win the race in 3:14:31. Brevard, the only team with three women, also took the team trophy, as Nancy Pinholster finished fifth (3:34:32) and Laura Lagemann placed sixth (3:56:24). All three Brevard runners earned All-America status.

O’Connor held on to take the runner-up spot for the second consecutive year. The Olathe sophomore knocked 30 minutes off her time, finishing in 3:20:20, down from 3:50:11 a year ago.

Joining O’Connor and the three Brevard runners as All-Americans were Alice Gunn (3:35:14), of Southwestern Michigan and Marci Joncorf (3:33:42), of Haskell.

The 64 entrants were more than double the number from a year ago. Runners and coaches participated in a pre-race dinner and post-race awards banquet, both of which were provided by the Oklahoma Educational Foundation.

INDIVIDUAL MEN’S RESULTS
1. Alvin Begay, Navajo Community College, Tsai, AZ .... 2:26:27
2. Andrew Estliety, Navajo Community College, Tsai, AZ .... 2:27:37
3. Matt Adams, Hagerstown (Maryland) Junior College, Hagerstown .... 2:28:26
4. Scott Davis, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 2:29:33
5. David Byunse, Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac .... 2:30:35
6. Brad Town, Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI .... 2:31:01
7. Dave McAuley, Macomb Community College, Warren, MI .... 2:32:49
8. Scott Townsend, Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI .... 2:34:06
9. Jeff Allen, University of Minnesota, Waseca .... 2:44:48
10. Dave Bruce, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, WI .... 2:44:49
11. Ryan Will, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, WI .... 2:44:59
12. Marty Eagle, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 2:45:45
13. Dwayne Antonio, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 2:45:48
14. Kevin Flumage, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 2:45:55
15. Tony Luna, Navajo Community College, Tsai, AZ .... 2:46:25
16. Joe Claud, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, WI .... 2:51:30
17. Steve Mathews, Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI .... 2:53:00
18. Jon Sieckre, Michigan State College, Rochester, MI .... 2:56:24
19. Robert Perez, Olathe Community College, Des Plaines, IL .... 2:56:50

FIRST PLACE MEN’S TEAM—Navajo Community College, Tsai, Arizona

FIRST PLACE WOMEN’S TEAM—Brevard Community College, Cocoa, Florida

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MEN’S TEAM RESULTS
1. Navajo Community College, Tsai, AZ .... 3:14:15
2. Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI .... 3:14:59
3. Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 3:23:42
5. Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, MI .... 3:24:49
6. Highland Community College, Highland, KS .... 3:26:27

INDIVIDUAL WOMEN’S RESULTS
1. Judith (Cher) Patterson, Brevard Community College, Cocoa, FL .... 3:14:18
2. Brenda O’Connor, Olathe Community College, Des Plaines, IL .... 3:14:20
3. Alice Gunn, Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, MI .... 3:33:14
4. Merle Bancroft, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 3:33:42
5. Nancy Pinholster, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 3:34:22
6. Laura Lagemann, Brevard Community College, Cocoa, FL .... 3:36:24
7. Shelly Cole, Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI .... 3:40:44
8. Eunice Brown, Haskell Indian Junior College, Lawrence, KS .... 3:41:35

WOMEN’S TEAM RESULTS
1. Brevard Community College, Cocoa, FL .... 1- 2- 3- 6