Oakton Community College Captures Men's Marathon Title

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
1. *Austin King, South Plains College, Levelland, TX 2:42:49
2. Joseph Kale, South Plains College, Levelland, TX 2:47:32
3. Oscar Cruz, Cibolo CC, Cibolo, KS 2:49:50
4. Mike Gamez, Colby CC, Colby, KS 2:53:09
5. Brant Roller, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM 2:58:18
7. J. Willis Sturtevant, Oakton CC, Des Moines, IA 2:59:14
8. Benjamin Mune, El Paso CC, El Paso, TX 3:01:36
9. Jason King, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM 3:03:22
10. Santiago Batallones, El Paso CC, El Paso, TX 3:08:36
11. Cedric Coolang, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM 3:13:05
12. Travis Hagstrom, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 3:22:57
13. Luis Benitez, El Paso CC, El Paso, TX 3:30:05
14. Bryan Settle, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 3:30:35

South Plains Wins Women's Marathon Crown

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
1. *Lupa Herres, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 3:18:25
2. *Karan Kamta, South Plains College, Levelland, TX 3:19:42
3. *Aishma Wambua, South Plains College, Levelland, TX 3:22:17
4. Angelica Ramirez, South Plains College, Levelland, TX 3:24:34
5. Carol Gale Reiner, El Paso CC, El Paso, TX 3:32:34
6. Laura Baczko, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 3:37:42
7. Kirsten Schmeling, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN 3:37:42

Simmons Leads Highlassies to NJCAA National Crown — By Brian Johnson

Three times in a row the bridesmaid, McLennan Community College (Texas) became the bride as the 2002 NJCAA women's national golf championship wrapped up at the Shawnee Country Club.

The Highlassies, led by Ashlie Simmon's individual title, captured the team championship by a whopping 53 strokes over second place Daytona Beach Community College (Fla.).

McLennan lost out on the team crown the past two years to Midland college (Texas) and the Shawnee Country Club. However, after last season, Midland dropped her women's golf program.

When asked what the difference was this year, McLennan coach Stan Mitchell quipped, "Aside from Midland not being here?"

"We worked hard from day one. Everything from day one was geared for the national tournament. We practiced and tried to simulate the holes that were played here." The Highlassies, like during Wednesday's play, battled strong, gusting winds to post a final round score of 320, nine shots better than Wednesday's 329.

McLennan's four-round total was 1267 while Daytona Beach finished at 1320 after posting a 336 on Thursday.

Mesa Community College was third at 1387, followed by John A. Logan (1392), Redlands (1398), host Seminole State (1399), Tyler (1411), Dodge City (1412), Pima (1435), Laredo Lake (1438), Ellsworth (1499) and Muskegon (1969).

Simmons, who finished with a four-round score of 305 (78-72-81-74), was the only player to break 80 on Thursday with a 3-over par 74. She topped Seminole State standout Miranda Ciappelli, who finished at 310 (78-74-81-83). Chappelli was a member of the McLennan team last season.

"It was a little better today. Experience comes with that and being from West Texas," said Simmons. "The (windy) conditions felt better as it went along. I thought I managed the course well, accounted for the conditions, had better club selection and went out with confidence."

The highlight of Simmon's round was a birdie on No. 16. "I made a long putt for birdie," said Simmon. "I missed some other birdie opportunities, but it was nice to do good and show better than last year."

Simmons posted a four-round score of 320 a year ago, including a 79 three times and an 83 once (in the third round).

On Thursday, Simmons bogeyed just four holes - 3, 5, 8, and 16. Chappelli birdied No. 6, but had a bogey or double-bogey on holes 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 18 in settling for the runner-up spot.

Simmons was joined by three other teammates - Heather Macleire, Laura Walker, and Stephanie Smith - in the top 10 while the Highlassies' fifth player, Kayla Duh, was 11th.

"That was really special," said Mitchell about the team effort. "We didn't start well, but I thought we played 14-18 stretch really well (all four days)."