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9 November, 1988

For immediate release:

CEDARVILLE -- One of the largest and most competitive fields ever will assemble for the National Christian College Athletic Association Cross Country Championships on Saturday at John Bryan State Park near Yellow Springs. Cedarville College will serve as host for the 11th straight year. The Eighth Annual women's championship will begin at 10 a.m. with the 16th Annual men's race to follow at 11 o'clock.

Twenty-three colleges from 14 states will take part in the 1988 event. The women's race will include representatives from 19 schools and the men's race will have runners from 22 institutions.

Some of the top NAIA cross country teams in the nation highlight the field and three NAIA All-Americans from 1987 are back. The women's division features three NAIA Top 20 teams led by George Fox, Ore. (11th), two-time defending NCCAA champion Malone College (14th), and host Cedarville (17th) who won the NCCAA in 1985.

The men's race also includes three NAIA Top 20 teams in two-time defending champion Malone College (4th), five-time NCCAA champion Anderson, Ind. (5th), and Taylor, Ind. (15th).

Last year's top three finishers in the NCCAA meet went on to become NAIA All-Americans and all return this fall as juniors. Cedarville's Eric Fillinger is the

defending NCCAA champion when he turned in a course-record time of 24:19 for the 8,000 meters. He later finished 8th in the NAIA Nationals.

NCCAA runner-up Eric Ashton of Malone placed 21st in the NAIA, while third-place finisher Frank Runion of Anderson was 20th in the big meet. Last year's NCCAA championships included a total of six eventual NAIA All-Americans.

"The NCCAA cross country championship includes tough competition and this year is no exception," remarked Cedarville coach and meet director Elvin King. "Some of the best NAIA runners in the country will be here and we're looking forward to a good turnout." Admission is free for all fans.

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