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SPORTS NEWS RELEASE

from Cedarville College Yellow Jackets

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3 September, 1986

For immediate release:

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- The Cedarville College men's cross country team will open its 1986 season Saturday morning at the Marshall University Invitational in West Virginia. The Yellow Jacket harriers are coming off of their best season in the school's history, but Coach Elvin King has a feeling his group will be hard-pressed to repeat last year's accomplishments.

"Two or three of our guys will have to consistently come through for us," said King who begins his 18th year at the helm. "Our level of competition is much tougher this season."

Cedarville won the NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association) national title last fall and placed 18th out of 39 teams at the NAIA Nationals. The Jackets were ranked as high as 16th in the NAIA Top 20 and finished 5th out of 35 schools in the All-Ohio Meet.

The top returnee is two-time NCCAA All-American Rob Moore (Hamilton, Mich./Allendale Public H.S.). He won both the Mid-Ohio Conference and Taylor Invitational individual titles last year as a junior, plus he was second at Bellarmine and Rio Grande. Moore placed fifth in the NCCAA meet.

"Rob is ready for a good year," commented King. "He geared his summer running toward the cross country season and I think it will pay off." Moore is also a two-time NAIA

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outdoor track All-American in the 1500 meters, and an All-American in the indoor mile.

John Oswald (Three Rivers, Mich. H.S.) returns for his junior year after being the only Cedarville runner to make the all-conference, all-district, and NCCAA All-America teams in '85. He was an All-American for Grand Rapids Baptist College two years ago prior to earning the same status as a Yellow Jacket last fall.

Sophomore J.P. Dawes (Indianapolis, Ind./Heritage Christian) was a Top 20 finisher in the conference, district, and NCCAA meets a year ago. Another key contributor this fall should be freshman Eric Fillinger (Rochester, NY/Irondequoit H.S.).

The Cedarville women will not open until Sept. 12 at the Wittenberg Invitational, but King already knows what to expect. "We definitely won't have the dominant number one runner," he said. "However, I believe we'll have more depth and these gals have trained hard over the summer."

Cedarville won its first-ever NCCAA women's national cross country title in '85. They were also ranked as high as 17th in the NAIA and they placed 23rd at the NAIA Nationals.

The Lady Jackets will be without two-time NCCAA champion Jane Romig Brooker who graduated in the spring. The top performer coming back is senior Deb Pate (Goleta, Cal./Dos Pueblos H.S.) who was all-district last year and placed 11th in the NCCAA.

Three other experienced runners returning to the team are Becky Averill (New Hampton, Ia. H.S.), Cathy Watson (Ravenna, Mich./Coopersville H.S.), and Beth McGillivray (Cedarville, Oh. H.S.).

Cedarville will host two meets this fall at John Bryan State Park. The NAIA District 22 meet will be held on October 25 while the NCCAA Nationals will take place on November 8. The meets will include both the men's and women's divisions.