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A-10 Cross Country Championship Running at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, OHIO - The Atlantic 10 (A-10) cross country championship is returning to the Elvin R. King Cross Country course at Cedarville University for the 2023 championships on Saturday, Oct. 28. The event is hosted by the University of Dayton with the men's 8K races scheduled for 10 am followed by the women's 6K race at 10:50 am.

Cedarville University, an NCAA Division II institution, is located 45 minutes east of the University of Dayton. This is the second time Cedarville's Elvin R. King course has hosted the A-10 cross country championship. The first time was in 2021.

In addition to Cedarville being the venue for the A-10 championship, the races will be live-streamed on ESPN+. Shawn Riffner, studio and technology manager in Cedarville's department of communication, is overseeing the live stream with ESPN+. Riffner handles all of the live streaming of athletic events for Cedarville Yellow Jacket athletic events.

The Course

The Elvin R. King Cross Country Course, located at the north end of the campus just east of State Route 72, was constructed on 150 acres of property and was designed and built under the direction of former athletic director Pete Reese and King. Athletes run entirely on a grass course that includes rolling hills.

This unique venue, which meets all of the NCAA requirements for a cross country course, hosted its first meet on Sept. 16, 2006 with the 16th Annual Friendship Invitational. Nearly 1,000 runners participated in eight races and both Yellow Jacket teams won the first-ever college races on the course.

Cedarville has hosted the Friendship Invitational since 1991 and served as host of the All-Ohio Intercollegiate Championships since 2010 every year but one. The National Christian College Athletic Association Championships were run at the site from 2006 through 2013 as well as the 2017 NCAA Division II Midwest Regional.

Besides the high school and junior high competitions in the Friendship, several high school conferences have staged their championship meets on the grounds. It also hosted the NCAA Division I 2015 Horizon League Championships and the 2021 Atlantic 10 Championships.

The primary cross country courses are the 5,000 meter layout (college women, high school boys and girls) and the 8,000 meter course (college men). There is also a 3,200-meter course for junior high competition as well as 6K (NCAA women) and 10K (NCAA men). Ample parking is available on site for up to 1,000 vehicles. Additional parking is available just west of State Route 72 on campus grounds.

History of Hosting

The Yellow Jackets called John Bryan State Park near Yellow Springs, Ohio their cross country home for the better part of four decades. The beautiful site served as host of the NCCAA Championships from 1978 through 1992 and again from 1995 through 2005.

John Bryan also hosted the annual Friendship Invitational, NAIA District 22 Championship, Mid-Ohio Conference Championship, American Mideast Conference Championship, and a number of high school meets.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, such as the entrepreneurship minor, high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Photo Cutlines:

1. Cedarville University's Elvin R. King Cross Country finish line.
2. An aerial view of Cedarville University's Elvin R. King Cross Country course.
3. The Elvin R. King Cross Country course.