

sports

AU cross country looking to build on 2019-2020 season

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REPORTER

The Ashland University men's and women's cross country teams kicked off their 2019-2020 two

six in a 6K field, while the women finished third out of five teams. This year's teams see three seniors on the roster for the men and two for the women's.

The hard work begins in the sum-

Stefanek in 11th with a time of 19:21.8.

Moser's personal best time of 19:17 beat her old high school record for a 5K time by 10 seconds. The native of Whitehouse, Ohio

competed at the Michigan Spartan Invitational on Sept. 13.

Featured in the MSU Invite were GLIAC foes Ferris State, Grand Valley State, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan, Northwood, Purdue Northwest, Saginaw Valley State and Wisconsin at Parkside.

In the men's 8K race, Ashland finished 11th overall or 23 team, but fifth among Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams. The women's 6K race saw Ashland place 19th overall, and eighth among GLIAC sides.

Looking ahead, the Eagles have two more events between now and the GLIAC championships, which will take place this year at Purdue Northwest University in Hammond, Ind. on Oct. 26.

For their upcoming competition, AU will be back on the road for the All-Ohio Championships in Cedarville, Ohio on Sept. 28.

This year features five graduating seniors, and high expectations are placed on the team to improve.

"We were intending on becoming a top-ten team with freshmen and a transfer student to go along with our seniors," sophomore Matt Long said.

One of the seniors, Haylee Zigan, who is a transfer from Bluffton University, broke her previous 6K record of 24: 37 at the Northwood Invite with a time of 20:21.3.

Another senior member is in his second stint here at AU. Steven Kapes first came to AU after graduating from Solon high school and earned a GLIAC All-Academic Excellence Team award in 2016 as a freshman.

Kapes spent the last two seasons running for Walsh University before transferring back to AU for his senior year.

Along with personal goals, team ideals center around the AU cross country squad dynamic.

"Cross country is heavily involved in team sport. It's fun to have your friends push you towards personal and team goals," Long said.



AU ATHLETICS

Sophomore Abby Moser running at the Northwood Invite.

weeks ago at the Northwood Invite in Michigan.

The men finished 19th out of 32 teams in last year's midwest regional at Hillsdale College, while the women placed 20th in a 29-team field. In the GLIAC, the men finished in sixth place while the women managed to come out in the eighth position.

When looking back, AU is reflecting on what they did best and adding to it.

"As a team, we always look back at what we did in seasons past and look at what we can do to improve," junior runner Tracy Morgan said. "We always strive to get better and stronger as a team."

The 2019 season began with the men taking the second spot out of

mer for both squads.

"We built a nice base for ourselves after training hard this summer and we are continuing to build on it," Morgan said.

Leading the way for the men was senior Steve Kapes with a finishing time of 19:04.4, followed up by senior Kyle Shively with a time of 19:15.6.

The Eagles also received top-20 finishes from juniors Nick Reimund and Ian Johnson, as well as sophomore Jake Hall and junior Connor Ingram.

Looking on the women's side of the 5K race, sophomore Abby Moser paced the way for the Eagles with a tenth-place finish and a personal best race time of 19:17. Right behind her was senior Johannah

is looking to add another trophy to her case this year after obtaining an academic award from the US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association last season.

Other top finishers include senior Haylee Zigan with a 25th place finish in 20:21.3, and freshman Emma Hinkle placed 26th in her debut race with a time of 20:23.6.

In terms of points on the leaderboard, the men had 53, while the women finished with 82.

Most recently, the Eagle men's and women's cross country teams



New shelters to memorialize the late Danny Krispinsky

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REPORTER

While the 2019 campaign is underway for both the Ashland University men's and women's soccer teams, AU is looking towards the future with the announcement of the Danny Krispinsky Memorial Shelters.

The shelters were named to memorialize AU's former head women's soccer coach Danny Krispinsky, who passed away following a battle with cancer in early January of 2019.

The Danny Krispinsky Memorial Shelters include three shelters located at Ferguson Field, with two shelters to be in place for the bench of each team, and a third between the two for the officials.

"The best explanation I have for them is that they are dugouts and are hard plastic," said Associate Director of Athletic Development Kyle Vaughn. "When it's raining, when it's windy, the student athletes can sit underneath it and it

Taylor Clarke said. "It's a way that we can make the field feel more professional and give off an atmosphere of playing at the top level, and in a top level environment."

While the Athletic Department at Ashland University worked alongside the Krispinsky family to create an endowed scholarship for the late Krispinsky, the family stated interest in having a tangible memorial for him.

In doing so, the Athletic Department partnered with the Krispinsky family again to create a donation web page powered by the website GiveCampus.com. The goal was to raise \$40,000 in funds by the Aug. 31 deadline to order the shelters in memory of Krispinsky. According to Vaughn, the shelters were something Krispinsky always wanted to add to the field while at AU.

The web page was able to accumulate the amount of funds necessary to order the shelters from an outside distributor. There were a total of 231 donors that donated.

thing substantial to see and it helps you to feel it on a deeper level."

Danny Krispinsky was a 2006

their late coach.

"It was definitely a proud feeling for the players more than anything,

be put in their proper location, but did say that the shelters will not be installed in the 2019 season.



ZACH READ

Danny Krispinsky coaching during the 2017 women's soccer season.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KYLE VAUGHN

Danny Krispinsky memorial shelter.

keeps them out of the elements."

According to Vaughn, AU is "the only school in the GLIAC that does not currently have (shelters)."

"It's super exciting for us," current women's soccer head coach

"It was a very humbling moment. You are able to step back and really think about what he's done for this program, for this university and for this community," Clarke said. "It's important to be able to have some-

Ashland University alumni prior to being named the head coach of the Ashland women's soccer team in 2013. The seven years before Krispinsky was named head coach, the Eagles had only one winning season.

With Krispinsky at the helm for five seasons, the Eagles won at least 10 games in each season, as well as a GLIAC Tournament berth each season. In total, Krispinsky amounted 58 total victories, the third best winning percentage for a head coach and helped in coaching 18 All-GLIAC selections in his time at AU.

Some of the current players on the Ashland women's soccer team were on teams that Krispinsky coached. Following the announcement of the memorial shelters, Clarke said some players felt a great pride for

to be here while there is something being placed on the field for him," Clarke said. "It is something they can use as a reminder to fight for him everytime we are out on Ferguson Field."

Kyle Vaughn, a former teammate of Krispinsky at Ashland, reflected on moments in the past with Krispinsky.

"I remember walking into my first practice thinking, 'What am I doing?' It was a pretty intimidating situation for me at first," Vaughn said. "I'll never forget Danny being so welcoming. He just made you feel comfortable and that is how he always was. He had this unbelievable ability to make you feel like you're the most important person at that moment."

Vaughn explained that there is no exact date to when the shelters will

"I do not think it will be this season, just because the company said 8-10 weeks. That timeframe will put us past this season," Vaughn said.

The shelters added to Ferguson field will be the second major improvement to the AU athletics facilities this year. Back in July, a new layer of astroturf and fresh paint were added to the Fred Martinelli football field.

"We feel like it's a great place to play and a great environment for the fans, the players and everyone else that is able to host games up there," Clarke said. "Not only that, it's a great place to train. It's one of the best facilities in the conference, so we are lucky to call it home."