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Local graduates take running shoes to college cross country teams

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FREMONT -- This story is the first installment in a series of reports on former Ottawa and Sandusky County high school athletes who have gone on to participate in sports at the college level.

The athletes featured in this story are cross country runners from the 2009 season.

WOMEN

- **Aimee Baehrens, Oak Harbor, Ohio Northern University** -- Baehrens was 98th in 27:17 at the Ohio Athletic Conference Championships on Oct. 31 at Wilmington College.
- **Libby Engeman, SJCC, Heidelberg University** -- Engeman finished 222th in 31:11 at the Division III regional championships on Nov. 14 at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana.
- **Ashley Fischer, Fremont Ross, Bowling Green State University** -- Fischer 149th in 23:56 at the D-I regional championships on Nov. 14 at Indiana University in Bloomington. She was 69th in 24:46 at the Mid-American Conference Championships on Oct. 31 at Ohio University in Athens.
- **Kelly Gephart, Oak Harbor, Kent State University**-- Gephart ran 52nd in 22:20 at the D-I Regional Championships on Nov. 14 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. She was 40th in 24:03 at the MAC Championships.
- **Stephanie Hiser, Gibsonburg, Ohio Northern University** -- Hiser was 46th in 24:32 over at the OAC Championships on Oct. 31 at Wilmington College.
- **Alex Lizarribar, Clyde, Kent State University** -- Lizarribar is the third Kent State women's runner to qualify for the D-I National Championships today in Indiana. She advanced after finishing ninth in 21:13 at the regional championships. Lizarribar was the runner-up in 22:30 at the MAC Championships.
- **Ashley Madison, Oak Harbor, Tiffin University** -- Madison came in 124th in 27:44 at the D-II regional championships on Nov. 7 at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.
- **Carly Reese, Lakota, Tiffin University** -- Reese finished 34th in 23:48 at the D-II regional championships. She was 30th in 23:35 at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships on Oct. 24 at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan.
- **Rachel Smith, Bellevue, Ohio Northern University** -- Smith came in 94th in 24:53 at the NCAA D-III regional championships. She was 16th in 23:29 at the OAC Championships.
- **Jessica Soule, Fremont Ross, Grace College** -- She finished 74th in 23:01 at Mid-Central College Conference Championships on Nov. 7 at the University of St. Francis in Indiana.

- **Lucy Stults, Old Fort, Wilmington College** -- Stults was 87th in 27:48 at the OAC Championships.

- **MariJean Wegert, Woodmore, Grace College** -- She finished 12th in 20:05 at MCC Championships.

Also running

- **Ashley Alejandro, Clyde, Cleveland State University.**

- **Donike Burkett, Gibsonburg, Tiffin University.**

- **Lisa Carter, Fremont Ross, Tiffin University.**

- **Ashley Fisher, Gibsonburg, Ohio State University.**

- **Erica Lipstraw, Oak Harbor, University of Toledo.**

MEN

- **Scott Ackerman, Bellevue, Ashland University** -- Ackerman ended up 104th in 37:06 at the D-II regional championships. He finished 111th in 28:05 over 8,000 meters at the GLIAC Championships.

- **Craig Gerber, Clyde, Lake Erie College** -- Gerber was 120th in 39:02 at the D-II regional championships.

- **Brent Hiser, Gibsonburg, Ohio Northern University** -- Hiser came in 129th in 28:14 at the D-III regional championships. He came in eighth in 25:49 at the OAC Championships.

- **Jordan Kirwen, Gibsonburg, University of Findlay** -- Kirwen ended up 36th in 34:33 at the D-II regional championships. He finished 48th in 26:29 at the GLIAC Championships.

- **Jake Lemon, Oak Harbor, Heidelberg University** -- Lemon placed 111th in 26:48 at the D-III national championships on Saturday at Baldwin-Wallace College. He finished 25th in 26:39 at the D-III regional championships. Lemon was 13th in 26:05 at the OAC Championships.

Also running

- **Erik Birkholz, Clyde, University of Findlay.**

- **Michael Grunden, Margaretta, Tiffin University.**

- **Michael Rodriguez, Old Fort, Notre Dame College.**
