

AKRON, Ohio - The Bluffton University women's cross country team made history at Silver Metro State Park as they garnered their best All-Ohio Championships finish in school history with a 10th place showing on Saturday Sept. 29!

Bluffton placed 22nd out of 38 teams competing across all divisions on Saturday, knocking off several Div. II foes, including Ashland University, the University of Findlay and Tiffin University.

The Beavers were led by junior [Alexis Cash](#) (Gaines, Michl./Lake Fenton), who also made Bluffton history as the top individual finisher in school history, crossing the line 20th in Division III with a time of 23:37.6. The time is also the 8th-fastest mark in school history and her best time of 2018. Cash was followed closely by senior [Jennie Matteson](#)(Guysville/Alexander) who placed 39th with a time of 24:00.1.

The key to Bluffton's team success came with the back half of the team, as runners three, four, and five all placed within 11 spots of each other in the front half of the pack. Sophomore [Kimberly Hetrick](#) (Fremont/Ross) took 60th with a time of 24:38.2, while sophomore [Bailie Barrington](#) (Waynesfield/Waynesfield-Goshen) and junior [Arie Cox](#) (Ontario) came away with lifetime six-kilometer personal-best times of 24:41.0 and 24:54.9 to round out the scoring five for the Beavers.

The men's team came across with their best performance of the season on Saturday as well, with multiple personal bests coming from their eight-kilometer race. Senior Jonah Eckert (Terre Haute, Ind./West Vigo) led the charge with a lifetime personal-best of 26:26.6, finishing 44th out of Division III competitors. Juniors Dakota Frost (Hicksville) and Connor Gulick (St. Louisville/Utica) followed Eckert through the line with top 70 finishes and times of 27:11.1 and 27:20.4, respectively, Gulick's mark being a personal best.

The Beavers hit another two weeks of tough training before returning to action at the Oberlin College Inter-Regional Rumble on Saturday, Oct. 13, with their final tune-up before the HCAC Championship meet. The women will run at 10:30 a.m. with the men to follow at 11:15 a.m.

LIBERTY, Ind. - The Bluffton University women's golf team shot a 447 during day one of the HCAC Preview at Liberty, Ind., on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018.

[Abby Bullion](#) (Bellevue, Ohio) led the way with an even 100, while [Keely Briggs](#) (Franklin, Ohio) was just five strokes back at 105. [Brylee Oberdorf](#) (Green Springs, Ohio) and [Kourtney Kretschmar](#) (Greenville, Ohio) rounded out the Bluffton scoring with 119 and 123, respectively.

Bluffton will wrap up its weekend preview on Sunday, Sept. 30, before returning to Liberty, Ind. in two weeks for the HCAC Championships on October 13-14.

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio - The Bluffton University men's golf team opened play at the Harrier Fall Classic with a 358 on Saturday, Sept. 29.

[Michael Fimiani](#) (Willoughby, Ohio) led a tightly-packed Bluffton squad with an 86 on Saturday. Freshman [Nick Offenburger](#) (Lexington, Ohio) was just two strokes back at 88, while sophomore [Takoda Pratt](#) (Shelby, Ohio) checked in with a 90. Freshman [Carter Mumbower](#)(Newport, MI/Airport) rounded out the scoring four with a 94. [Julian LaVallee](#) (Jefferson, Ohio) carded a 99 and [Anthony Mungia](#) (North Baltimore, Ohio) finished day one with a 102.

Bluffton will be back on the links at 11 a.m. Sunday when the Beavers wrap up their weekend at the Harrier Fall Classic.

BLUFFTON, Ohio - The Bluffton University football team welcomed the Mount St. Joseph Lions for an HCAC battle on Saturday, Sept. 29. Fumbles and interceptions were the difference as Bluffton struggled to get the ball in the end zone in a 21-7 setback. The defeat dropped the Beavers to 1-4 overall and 1-2 in the HCAC, while Mount St. Joseph improved to 4-1 on the season with a spotless 3-0 mark in conference play at 3-0.

The offenses were quiet in the first quarter with neither team being able to put points up on the scoreboard until the 14:03 mark in the second when Chaiten Tomlin found Nick Murphy from seven yards out to put the Lions up 7-0. Mount St. Joseph would strike again with 2:00 remaining in the half after a 6-yard touchdown pass extended the lead to 14-0. The Beavers cruised down the field and answered with a 2-yard touchdown scamper by [Drake Campbell](#) (Trenton/Edgewood) that made it 14-7 at half after three rushes by defensive end [Isaac Zickafoose](#) (Middlebury, Ind./Northridge) went for 18 yards and a first down.

The Lions would score on their second possession of the second half when Tomlin connected with Chase Pankey from five yards out to put Mount St. Joseph up 21-7. Turnovers would haunt Bluffton as back-to-back fumbles stalled red-zone drives for the Beavers. The Lions continued their roar on defense, holding the home team scoreless in the second half as Bluffton would take the 21-7 defeat.

[Plummie Gardner](#) (Lima/Perry) connected on 12-of-28 passes for 165 yards with two picks. Leading Bluffton on the ground was [Drake Campbell](#) who piled up 90 yards on 18 attempts with the Beavers' lone score in the game. [Keyon Camden](#) (Wayne/Elmwood) hauled in two catches for 59 yards while [Lucas Espitia](#) (Lincoln Park, Mich./Lincoln Park) snagged three balls for 40 yards.

[Austin Hall](#) (Piqua) tallied six tackles and an interception, while [Dylan Shaffer](#) (Shelby) added six tackles in the contest. [John Boyd III](#) (Muncie, Ind./Muncie Central) finished with five stops and a pair of sacks and Zickafoose added a sack of his own.

MSJ finished with a 10-minute edge in time of possession thanks to five Bluffton turnovers. The Lions were flagged for 14 penalties that added up to 132 yards and six first downs for the home team. Bluffton went for 321 yards of total offense, compared to 383 for the visitors.

The Beavers will look to put this game behind them as they prepare for a trip to Rose-Hulman next Saturday, Oct. 6, with kickoff set for 2 p.m.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. - The Bluffton University men's soccer team headed to Terre Haute, Ind., to challenge the Rose-Hulman Fighting Engineers in their first Heartland Conference matchup of the year on a beautiful Saturday, Sept. 29. The Beavers struggled to stop the Fighting Engineers early on as they fell behind and couldn't fight their way back, taking a 6-1 loss at Rose. The defeat drops Bluffton to a record of 1-9 overall and 0-1 in HCAC play, while Rose-Hulman improved to 4-4-1 and 1-0 in conference play.

It wouldn't be long before the home team struck first after PJ Renz scored for the Engineers just 4:36 into the contest. Two more goals by Rose-Hulman at 10:59 and 17:53 stretched the lead to 3-0 entering halftime.

Bluffton struggled to stop the Fightin' Engineers as they allowed another score to start the second half to trail 4-0. Another goal by the home team made the score 5-0. Rose-Hulman would strike again in the 80th minute for a 6-0 spread.

Bluffton was able to get a shot on goal by sophomore [Christian Zapata](#) (Livonia, Mich./Adlai E. Stevenson) but quick reflexes by the Fighting Engineers goalie saved the attempt. The Beavers would finally strike paydirt after [Alex Foster](#) (Howard/Mount Vernon) recorded his first goal of the 2018 season at the 88:36 mark of the contest. The deficit was too much for Bluffton as they took a 6-1 loss but avoided the shutout.

[Alex Foster](#) would lead the Beavers on the offensive side of the ball with a team-high two shots on goal and the lone score of the game for Bluffton. Also picking up a shot on the day were [Jacob Kiger](#) (Groveport/St. Charles Prep) and [Patrick Spillman](#) (Anderson, Ind./Frankton). [Hunter Fleck](#) (North Baltimore/Van Buren) snagged seven saves for Bluffton

The Beavers will hit the road again and head north where they will face off against rival Defiance College on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 3:30.

-BEAVERS-

By: Colton Steiner, sports information assistant

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. - The Bluffton University women's soccer squad hit to the road for a matchup with the Rose-Hulman Fightin' Engineers in their first HCAC contest of the season. The home team was too much to handle as Bluffton was shut down in the 4-0 defeat. The loss dropped the Beavers to 1-7-1 overall and 0-1 in the Heartland Conference while Rose-Hulman improved to 6-4 and 1-0 in conference play.

The Engineers struck first after Maddy Twetten snuck a shot past [Jules Frazier](#) (Nova/Mapleton) to go up 1-0 just seven minutes in. Two more goals by Jessica Wells and Christina Rogers would put Rose-Hulman up 3-0 at the break.

The home team was able to add one more goal when Maggie Sheerin found the back of the net with 16 minutes to play as Bluffton dropped the 4-0 decision.

The Beavers struggled to get any momentum as the Fighting Engineers would have the advantage on total shots, 19-2. Despite Rose-Hulman scoring four goals, [Jules Frazier](#) snatched nine saves in the outing for Bluffton. [Lauryn Foster-Wheeler](#) (Sidney) and [Hannah Wagner](#) (Cincinnati/Mother of Mercy) would connect on the only two shots for the Beavers on the day.

Bluffton will look to avenge the loss when they face off against the other purple school, Defiance College, at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Sears Complex. Come out and support your Beavers

BLUFFTON, Ohio - The Bluffton University volleyball team dominated defending Heartland Conference champion Hanover College in three quick sets on Saturday, Sept. 29. It marked the end of Hanover's 27-match regular season Heartland Conference winning streak and it also marked the first regular season win over the Panthers for Bluffton since 2010. The Beavers evened up their record at 9-9 (1-0 HCAC), while Hanover slipped to 7-8 and 0-1 in the conference.

A 14-6 start in set one and a 19-5 spurt to end set two had the Beavers in command on Saturday afternoon. The home team led by as many as eight in the clincher and held on for the 25-21 victory and sweep of the pre-season favorite Panthers!

Seniors Bethany Martini (Pickerington/North) and Erin Weisgarber (Bolivar/Tuscarawas Valley) led the way for the Beavers with 13 and 11 kills, respectively. Weisgarber hit .381 to go along with her 23 assists. Freshman Maddie White (Ashland) hit .357 with six kills against just one error.

Freshman libero Brooke Kleman (Ottawa/Ottawa-Glandorf) was all over the court with a match-high 21 pickups. Casey Clark (Lima/Central Catholic) and Abby Rohrbach (New Knoxville) both picked up 11 digs for the victors. Sophomore Sarah Heydinger (Tiro/Buckeye Central) was in on four blocks, including three of the solo variety. Kleman and Rohrbach both rifled three aces at the Panthers.

Bluffton returns to action on Wednesday, Oct. 3, when the Beavers welcome Mount St. Joseph to the Sommer Center. The first serve is slated for 7 p.m. Come out and support your Beavers!