

## **Apples for Cross**

Cross season has begun!!! Traveling as a team has usually had the same emphasis on me from race to race; but this trip was different. With a carload of bikes, gear, and hungry Lindsey students around me ready to race in the elements, the tone was set to kick off the season with a bang. Our normal travel set-up of a trailer and team van was out of the equation for this weekend. It was left up to a select five to pick up what was put into action...Kelsey Markham, Chris Bogedin, Alder Martz, Mike Souers, and myself, Matt Dooley.

I thought I already knew my teammates fairly well from mountain bike season, but the first collegiate cross race of the season revealed a whole new side to them. Hungry, aggressive, and outright ready to dominate the cross scene. We all raced hard over the weekend and best of all we had fun while doing it. It's always fun to see a teammate win, and when you can be on the podium with him it's even better.

Thanks to the Purdue cycling team for putting us up in their cycling house, allowing us to get adequate sleep and demonstrating what collegiate cycling is all about. It was cool to see the comradeship amongst the Purdue cycling team and how they so graciously welcomed us into their home.



Kelsey Markham

The cross course was challenging and demanded brute strength. Saturday's race was a grueling experience made possible by three sand pits, multiple dismounts/remounts, creek crossings, hills, a killer corner with apples, and not to mention all accompanied by strong winds! Kelsey and Mike started the day off strong with a second and eighth place respectively. Chris, Alder, and I rounded off the day to sweep the podium. We were not only excited about our own individual performances on the bike, but also took pride in our teammates' performances. The five of us held a high morale after Saturday's races and were ready to carry it over to the following day, continuing with our dominant streak.



Left to right: Alder Martz, Chris Bogedin, Matt Dooley

Sunday's race was Saturday's course in reverse. It was a little faster due to lack of wind and the worn in pathways created from the previous day. Once again, our team raced strong and showed everyone why we are Lindsey Wilson cyclists. Kelsey won her race, while Mike finished second in Men's B; once again Chris and Alder finished one and two, while I finished fourth.

The best experiences of this weekend weren't made on the bike...it was the shared free time teaching Kelsey to crochet, eating at our favorite restaurant (Panera), and just getting away

from the daily grind of school. Who would have ever known that Alder was so into his Velo News magazines and his mobile source of Wikipedia? Then we have Chris, most commonly referred to as Cruise, constantly talking about food or his weight (trust us, you are not fat!). Kelsey would always ramble on about how Weston was doing in his BMX races, or the daily random questions that would pop up in her head. Mike was all about jumping in and just talking about everything that everyone else was talking about (p.s. if you ever need directions or mechanical work, he is the one to go to). With all of the little ticks and flicks the five of us had together, it was always made clear that Alder's Tri jokes were pointed directly at Kelsey. Poor Kelsey. Looks like Alder won't be getting a friendship bracelet anytime soon with Kelsey's newly acquired crochet skills.

Overall the weekend once again exceeded my expectations. It is truly an honor to race for Lindsey Wilson College. I often take it for granted here at Lindsey with everything the cycling team does and offers. Driving the car to and from the race was a good opportunity for me to reflect on what I truly get from Lindsey Wilson cycling. To all my teammates and to Coach, thank you for being all you are along with the hard work and time that you contribute to the Lindsey Wilson cycling program. Without all of the people around me, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Thank you!

Written by: Matt Dooley