

Auburn Invitational Quotes

Junior Diane Nukuri, Iowa (Women's Individual Champion)

On the race...

"It feels great. The weather was good, the course was fast and I enjoyed it. I really wanted to finish under 16:30, but time doesn't really matter in cross country. I wanted to run fast. I haven't raced in about three weeks, so I was hungry to race."

On the competition...

"It was good that I had my teammates with me. We pushed each other through the whole race and everybody did a great job."

On the conditions...

"It was a little hot, but it was great. There was no wind or anything. It was perfect weather for a 5K."

Freshman Miriam Arusei, Auburn

On the race...

"It was hot. I had never run a collegiate cross country race before, so this was my first race. I didn't perform as well as I had expected because I wanted to win. Next time, I'll try to do better."

Freshman Barnabus Kirui, Ole Miss (Men's Individual Champion)

On the race...

"It was a tough one. I like how flat the course was. The loops were tough and I really had to slow down around the corners. I wanted to finish a little below 23:30, and I finished somewhere close to that."

On the competition...

"The competition was there. If I win, I try to win by a big margin. My weakness has always been in the last minute, so I was trying to open up a lead just a little bit."

Sophomore Chase Oliver, Auburn

On the race...

"It was hot. We went out easy together and picked off people throughout the race. I don't think anyone passed us, so it was a good race."

On being the top Auburn finisher...

"It feels kind of nice, but you want to be proud of the other guys. You can't just think about yourself all the time. We had some other guys that did really well. I wish we could have run a little bit faster, but I think we ran really well."

On the conditions...

"The conditions were perfect. The past two years it has been real rainy and mushy. It was a nice, firm ground. It felt great."

Auburn Head Coach Pete Watson

On the races...

"We are very happy with how everything went today, especially with the women. The men and women are both very young, inexperienced teams with a lot to learn. The women's finished second today and last year we were 14th or 15th, so it was a huge turnaround. Sabrina and Miriam ran fantastic, but Laurel Pritchard was a little off. We expect her to be up there with Miriam and Sabrina. Megan Karl ran well too, and everyone else played a good role. We are happy with everything today."

On hosting the Auburn Invitational...

"It's pretty neat. We get to run in front of our fans, our family and friends. When we come home, we want to represent Auburn University very well, so it's a big meet for us."

On the rest of the season...

"In two weeks, the girls will go to NCAA Pre-Nationals up in Terre Haute, Ind. It's a very good, young, soon to be a national-level team and we want to get some experience as soon as possible. The guys are going to take a couple of weeks to start training and get ready for SEC Championships on October 28th. We are looking forward to lining up and seeing how we do against the rest of the conference."