

Tiger Invitational Quotes

Indian Pines Golf Course – Auburn, Ala.

Oct. 4, 2008

Women's Blue Race winner – Whitney Bishoff, Anderson (S.C.)

"I think I ran pretty well today. I got a personal record. This race really boosted my confidence. I'm just a freshman so it's a big adjustment to go from high school to college, so it was a big boost to my confidence."

Women's Blue Race winning team head coach – J.D. Evilsizer, Columbus State

"We've been doing pretty well. We're ranked first in the Southeast Region in Division II right now. It's a good course and getting put in the Division II race allowed us to be competitive. It's the best we ever ran. We averaged 18:58 for our top five girls. We're pretty pleased with that."

"This will be the last race we run before conference. I think we can win it, but we're going up against Augusta State again. They think they can win it, too. It's just a matter of who's on that day."

Women's Orange Mel Rosen Race winner – Kendra Schaaf, Washington

"I was pleased with my run. This course was pretty flat so it was pretty easy and I was able to run a little faster than usual."

"They did really good today; it brings us one step closer to nationals."

Women's Orange Mel Rosen winning team head coach – Greg Metcalf, Washington

"It was a great trip for us to be able to go across the country and come down here to Auburn. They were all excited about running the 5K because we haven't run a 5K for awhile. We had nine winners in this race. One of our girls went down early, she is a little banged up right now. Overall they did a fantastic job."

"For having coached at Auburn it was great to come back here; we planned this a year in advance. Coach [Mel] Rosen and I are going out to celebrate later; he is one of my favorite people in the world. When I was a young coach going to my first SEC Championship, coach Rosen really helped me out. I still quote him to this day. He did a lot of great things and if I weren't for him a lot of people wouldn't be here today. Naming this event after coach Rosen is fantastic. Auburn is just a wonderful place."

Auburn head coach Peter Watson

"Those Washington women are phenomenal; their top six have all done something nationally. Holly had a fantastic race. We talked afterwards and she had to either go out with Kendra [Shaaf of Washington] or she had to stay with the pack. She learned that she was in no man's land for a long time. Her strength is that she can hang with the lead pack and as people fall off one-by-one she is still able to stay up there and won't fall off."

"Laurel, Amber and Sabrina really packed it up great for us today. They put some big numbers up."

"The women are where we thought they would be and they are coming around. Allison Smith really stepped up for us today."

Auburn top finisher, Holly Knight

"I was caught in between the pack and the leader so I had to keep working to maintain a good pace to stay ahead of the pack. We raced some really hard teams today and it's good preparation for SECs. It feels good to be back out on the course. I feel good right now. Speed isn't my strength, but I'm good at the longer, hillier courses."

Men's Orange Mel Rosen Race winner – Auburn's Elkanah Kibet

"Today was fun because we got to run at home. I'm about to do something I have never done before. Right now [as a team] we are doing well. We haven't done anything that is too challenging. I know that it is only a matter of time until I peak."

Men's Orange Mel Rosen runner-up – Auburn's Felix Kibioywo

"It's our own meet so we've got to do something. This was what we planned to do. Last year we didn't finish too well. It was good. I don't think I had a good start. Second place – it was really good to finish like we did."

Third-place finisher Auburn's Girma Mesecho

"I tried to match the times of the other teams and I tried to go as fast as I could. At end of the meet we were all able to help each other. Having our team win makes me happy. For this being our home meet our goal was to win. We had a chance today to show a home crowd what we are capable of."

Men's Orange Mel Rosen winning team head coach - Peter Watson, Auburn

"Our guys ran fantastic out there today. Elkanah is just a monster. Girma ran a lot better; he had something to prove after the Roy Griak last weekend. Felix is just Felix, that guy is awesome."

"We know where we are right now in the country and we have high goals. We currently have four guys that are in the mix. Julian Matthews ran an unbelievable race today. After struggling in his first-ever 8K last weekend in Minnesota, today he finished top 10. He was great."

"Right now we're in a good situation because we have three big hitters up front and then we have some role players that are right there in the middle of the mix. Elkanah is not going to lose to too many people this year and neither is Felix. Girma is getting stronger each week. We're really happy where we are and we're counting up the miles."

Watson's thoughts on how the Tiger Invitational went...

"If you surround yourself with great people things will run smoothly. Our graduate assistants and volunteer coaches take care of so many things. The operations and maintenance people set up a top-notch facility here. Everything has been great."

Men's Blue Race winner – Robert Gunn, Alabama State

"I think that I did okay, better than what I expected to do. I was expecting to go number one, but I was in a fast heat. When I moved ahead of the heat, I knew that I had a chance to win. I kept on pushing, even when I was burning. It's important for you to let it burn. We've got to work hard and keep on running."

Men's Blue Race winning team head coach – J.D. Evilsizer, Columbus State

"It's sweet. The feeling's good. It shows we're competing with the best of them. We've come a long way in the last five years."

"I knew he had a good race in him [David Marley]. He just had to get things right. He was focused. I could tell he was in the zone. He wasn't talking to anybody. He went out there, hung on and got the personal record. I think this is going to help our guys' confidence a lot."