Cortes races to title at Fighting Bee invite

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BETTENDORF - Mount Mercy senior Vanessa Cortes claimed top honors at the Fighting Bee Invitational cross country race Saturday in Bettendorf.

Cortes covered the 5,000 meter layout in 19 minutes, 5 seconds for a 19.5-second victory in a field of 84 contestants.

The Mount Mercy women's cross country team finished second out of eight teams. Emily Erickson placed sixth in 20:03.5.

Jacob Blackmon of Mount Mercy placed third in the men's race in 26 minutes, 42.2 seconds for 8,000 meters out of 73 runners. Cameron Steffens of Mount Mercy finished fifth and Aaron Golding was ninth to help the Mustangs place second out of six teams in a tight race, finishing just two points behind Trinity Christian.

WOMEN'S RESULTS Team Standings

- 1. St. Ambrose 44, 2. Mount Mercy 51, 3. Trinity Christian 64, 4. Judson 72, 5. Roosevelt 151,
- 6. Carl Sandburg 163, 7. Waubonsee 187, 8. Governors State 229.

Mount Mercy - 1. Vanessa Cortes 19:05.0, 6. Emily Erickson 20:03.5, 12. Andrea Ertz 20:22.8, 13. Kelsi Huhndorf 20:25.8, 19. McKenna Johnson 21:09.4.

MEN'S RESULTS Team Standings

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1. Trinity Christian 43, 2. Mount Mercy 45, 3. St. Ambrose 56, 4. Waubonsee 102, 5. Carl Sandburg 121, 6. Governors State 171.

Mount Mercy - 3. Jacob Blackmon 26:42.2, 5. Cameron Steffens 26:54.3, 9. Aaron Golding 27:27.0, 12. Oscar Lopez 28:29.8, 16. Chase Kress 29:00.2.