

A LOOK BACK AT SPORTS THIS SEMESTER



ROBERT BEAVER/TM

Cross Country: Jesus Morales runs down the finishing chute during the overflow race at the Orange Coast So Cal Preview Meet in Costa Mesa on Sept. 15. Morales, a mechanical engineering major, finished the race in 23 minutes, 10 seconds. The Cerritos men finished 2nd in the team competition while the women finished 4th.

Men's and women's cross country season

ROBERT BEAVER

Staff Writer

robert.beaver@talonmarks.com

For the Cerritos College men's and women's cross country teams, the 2012 season was the time they almost won the State Championship.

Cerritos had it all; talent, training and a consistent season to back up its contention for the state title.

Munir Kahssay, and Karina Sanchez led the men's and women's teams respectively, to 12 podium finishes out of their combined 18 races throughout the season.

Kahssay, who was raised in Ethiopia, had won four races, one of which led the mens team to its first South Coast Conference Championship win.

Sanchez also won a race, which helped lead the women's team to its fourth conference title.

On top of that, the men's and women's teams were able to win meets when their best runners weren't competing.

For a moment, it looked like the Falcons were one of the teams to beat going into the State Championship in Fresno, Calif. in November.

On a wet race day, Kahssay and Brandon

Taylor led the competition while teammate DeShaunte Lewis followed behind with about one mile left to go.

The state title was in Cerritos' grasp until an American River College athlete unleashed a kick in the final half-mile that was too fast for Cerritos runners.

Taylor and Kahssay fell to 11th and 13th places respectively, while an exhausted Lewis crawled across the finish line in 102nd place.

In the women's race, Cerritos College struggled to finish within the top 30 positions. Sanchez took the team's top spot at 32nd place.

The men's and women's teams finished 6th at the state competition. American River and Orange Coast College won the men's and women's state titles respectively.

"Toward the end we had a spell of bad luck but overall it was a pretty good season," assistant coach Daniel Ozan said.

"Both teams had a good shot (at the state title) or at least the top three. It wasn't our time. It's an experience that we will learn and grow from," Ozan said.

Despite the unexpected finish at state, the cross country team made notable accomplishments during the season and are eager for what the future holds.

The men's team bested the state champs American River College at the Lou Vasquez Invitational in San Francisco earlier in the season.

Ozan added that all team members improved their personal records over the course of the season.

Kahssay became the second Cerritos College athlete to ever finish a four-mile race in under 20 minutes.

Sanchez set a personal record in cross country by finishing a 5K race in under 19 minutes.

The runners will get another shot at success in the Spring for track season.

"Everyone is motivated for track," Sanchez said. "Even though we didn't win this year, we will be a smarter team going into next season."

Men's water polo finishes successful year strong

CARLOS MARISCAL
Associate Opinion Editor
carlos.mariscal@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's water polo team had one of the most successful seasons in its history, finishing with a record of 28-11, and placing 1st in the South Coast Conference Championship, 2nd in Southern California, and 3rd in the state.

The team had to settle for third place after coming up short against Diablo Valley College in the semifinals of the state championship, losing 18-8.

It was the first time since 2005 that Cerritos College had reached the state championship.

The Falcons captured their first SCC title since 2004 when it defeated Long Beach City College on Nov. 8.

While the Falcons fell short of the state championship, head coach Joe Abing feels that the season was a successful one.

"I feel great about our season. It was one of the most successful seasons we have had in the program's history," Abing said.

He added, "This team worked very hard. They earned all of their

success with a major time commitment to getting better. I am satisfied with the outcome. I feel everyone gave their best effort."

Although Abing feels that it was a successful season, freshman and two-meter defender Kevin Cordova admits that teamwork might've been an issue early on.

"We needed to start working together against stronger opponents and after that we became better," Cordova continued.

With all the accomplishments this season, Cordova still feels they should have finished a bit stronger than expectations.

"I think we could have won state (championship) but things started to fall apart in that semifinal game, which resulted in our third place at state," he added.

Coach Abing does note that eight members of the team will be graduating, which could change things for next fall.

"Every year is different because you have new players. Once we know who our team will be, we will determine what changes we would need to make."

Mobile
News

Scan to view Cerritos
College athletics stats and
schedules



www.cerritosfalcons.com

Men's soccer team comes up just short

ABRAHAM VENEGAS

Associate online Editor

abraham.venegas@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College men's soccer team had another solid season, finishing second in the South Coast Conference with a record of 9-4-1.

The Falcons received a first round bye because of their conference standing, and proceeded to defeat Santa Ana College, 4-0 in the second round.

In the third round, Cerritos College lost to rivals, Mount San Antonio College in overtime 2-0, ending its hopes of once again being state champs.

Midfielder Daniel Garcia said, "Mt. SAC was going to come out to defend their title so it was a fifty-fifty chance to either advance or stay into the third round."

The Falcons started the season by collecting four wins in their first five games in the conference, starting off strong.

After that, came a four-game winless streak, with the team suffering three defeats in the row.

The Falcons did finish the season strong though, winning its last five games in the conference, scoring 16 goals and conceding just two goals.

Garcia continued, "We picked ourselves up and came together as a team and built a stronger relationship with each other."

Looking forward to next season, midfielder Oscar Enriquez said about a goal for next season,

"The freshman, now sophomores (will look) to take leadership from the first game and keep the freshmen in their right (state of) mentality."

Wrestling adversity

LAUREN GANDARA

News Editor

news@talonmarks.com

As the season comes to end, with only the State Championships remaining, the Cerritos College wrestling team's record since competing at the East Los Angeles Quad on Nov. 17 is 230-240.

At the start of the season, the team won 3-1 at the Mt. San Antonio Duals on Sept. 22. Cerritos College started the Duals with a loss against Bakersfield College, 22-14.

However, the Falcons came back to win three consecutive matches against Mount San Antonio College, 21-14, West Hills College, 30-12, and Rio Hondo College, 35-3.

When competing in the next tournament, Cerritos College placed 2nd with 126 total team points at the West Hills Tournament on Sept. 29.

In the next two tournaments, the Falcons didn't place as high, taking 6th and 7th place respectively.

The team took sixth with 58.5 team points at the Santa Ana Tournament on Oct. 6 and then took seventh with 58.5 points at the Modesto Tournament on Oct. 13.

In the Southern Regional Team

Duals at Palomar College on Oct. 20, Cerritos College won its first match against Cuesta College 27-6, followed by two losses against Palomar 21-7, and Santa Ana College 31-22.

Competing in two individual duals away, the Cerritos College team lost against Palomar College, 26-16 on Oct. 24, and Santa Ana College, 23-8 on Nov. 1.

Next was a trip to Reno where the Falcons finished in 4th place at the Lassen Tournament in Reno, Nev. on Nov. 3.

After traveling to Nevada, Cerritos had its first home meet.

In back-to-back home meets, the Falcons went 1-1. Against Rio Hondo College on Nov. 8, Cerritos College was victorious, 32-10.

After the win against Rio Hondo College, Cerritos College came out fighting against Mt. SAC on Nov. 15, but was defeated by the Mounties, 25-12.

Finishing its dual meets for the season, Cerritos College competed in the East Los Angeles Quad, taking 2nd at East Los Angeles College on Nov. 17.



JONATHAN GARZA/TM

Fans begin filling the bleachers just before Cerritos College's homecoming game against Allan Hancock College on Oct. 13. The Falcons defeated the Bulldogs in a dominating fashion 55-25.

A season of streaks for football team

MARTIN CALDERON

Staff Writer

martin.calderon@talonmarks.com

Head coach Frank Mazzotta led the Cerritos College football team through the 2012 season to a .500 record of 5-5 (3-3 in conference play).

Although Cerritos College lost their season opener to Los Angeles Harbor College 35-20, they were quick to get back on track with a 46-30 win against Fullerton College the following week.

This was a re-occurring theme for the Falcons who went on to win just as many games as they lost.

Sophomore quarterback Morgan Fennell threw for 1,786 yards this season, completing 58.5 percent of his passes.

At the receiving end of 35 of those passes was wide receiver Robert Abeyta, who led the team in receiving yardage with 679 yards.

On Sept. 29, the Cerritos College football team won its first conference game (2nd overall) against Pasadena

City College in dominating fashion by a score of 65-14.

The Cerritos College football team managed to gain 522 yards against Pasadena City College.

This was the beginning of a three-game winning streak, which was followed by a 35-20 win against Palomar College, and then a 55-25 win of the homecoming game against Allan Hancock College.

The season was eventually balanced out with a three-game losing streak immediately following the trifecta of wins.

Each of the last three losses of the season were within the conference and decided by one touchdown or less.

The Cerritos College football team managed to cap the season off with a 42-20 conference win against Moorpark College in the beginning of November.

For a complete list of player and game stats, visit www.cerritosfalcons.com.