

Running for William & Mary, junior Ariel Burbey paces herself for the rest of the six kilometer Colonial Inter-Regional Challenge. While Burbey finished 33rd, three of her teammates finished in the top ten.

In the Colonial Inter-Regional Challenge, sophomore Meredith Tighe dashes past her opponents. The Tribe finished in second place, 23 points behind eighth-ranked Michigan State.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

Overtaking Michigan State, senior Emily Arena leads her Spartan competitors. Arena finished 14th overall, with a time of 22:30.1. Arena won the first award of her career this season when the league announced her as the CAA Runner of the Week in September.



At the Colonial Inter-Regional Challenge, the women's team dug in for a good start. The Tribe women were unable to overcome Michigan State, but settled for second place. Junior Emily Anderson garnered the best ranking for the Tribe with a fourth place finish.

With sixth-straight win of CAA race, women claim title of

# CHAMPS once again

The women's cross country team started off the season with high goals, one of which was to achieve a win at Nationals. And despite the low level of experience on the team, with only one of the athletes having raced at Regionals before, the team was still able to succeed. The team's high number of victories both individually and for the team as a whole, showed the team's winning mentality and goal-oriented way of thinking.

Although they fell short of their National hopes, their over-all season was still marked with improvement and victories. "We placed and performed better at each of our key races than we did last year," first time All-Region runner Meghan Burns said. "This season we placed 16th instead of 24th at the Pre-National meet. We won Conferences again, but by a much wider margin this year, and we placed fifth instead of tenth at NCAA Regionals," Burns said.

Team camaraderie also characterized the Tribe women. Coming together on common goals, such as making the NCAA Nationals, made the women work hard for each other and support the team as a whole. "We push each other every day on runs and workouts, but still keep a fun balance. We do such things as pasta parties and other team stuff to keep close during the year," junior Emily Anderson said. They even threw a team Thanksgiving dinner to further team bonding.

The team's biggest win of the season came in November at the CAA Championships. The women took first place for the sixth year in a row. Anderson finished first, followed by teammates Meghan Burns in third place, and Betsy Graney in sixth place. The team finished the six kilometer run with a total 27 points, 44 points less than second place James Madison University.

"It is very exciting to take home the title for the sixth time," Anderson said. "I feel like it's easy to go in every year feeling the pressure not to lose the streak. But we keep it in perspective that we want to go out and have the best team race we can." Anderson was also named CAA Women's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Other victories were achieved at the Southeast Region Championships where the Tribe women took fifth place out of the 33 teams present. Another top-five finish was achieved in the Southeast Regional Championship's six kilometer race. The team finished off their season at the ECAC Championships, marking the departure of seniors Emily Arena and Emily Schroeder, forcing the already youthful team to work harder still.

Despite falling short of the Nationals, the women's mutual support and aspirations helped them to accomplish major meet success.

> Rachel Jablonski

## <SCOREBOARD>

W&M 2ND OF 9 > COLONIAL INTER-REGIONAL CHALLENGE  
W&M 5TH OF 33 > SOUTHEAST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS

W&M 16TH OF 39 > PRE-NATIONAL INVITATIONAL  
W&M 3RD OF 11 > ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

W&M 1ST OF 10 > 25TH ANNUAL CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS