

# Milligan cross country team unveils challenging schedule

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Milligan's cross country team revealed a taxing schedule for the 2011 season on Monday as it attempts to continue the program's storied history.

The Buffaloes open the season against a tough NCAA Division II field on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Lenior-Rhyne Invitational at Southside Park in Newtown, N.C.

The Lenior-Rhyne women have captured the past two of the three South Atlantic Conference (SAC) titles, while their male counterparts finished second last season.

The following weekend, Milligan, in conjunction with Science Hill High School, will host the inaugural Bluegrass Cross Country Festival at Sycamore Shoals State Park. The event will feature the area's top collegiate

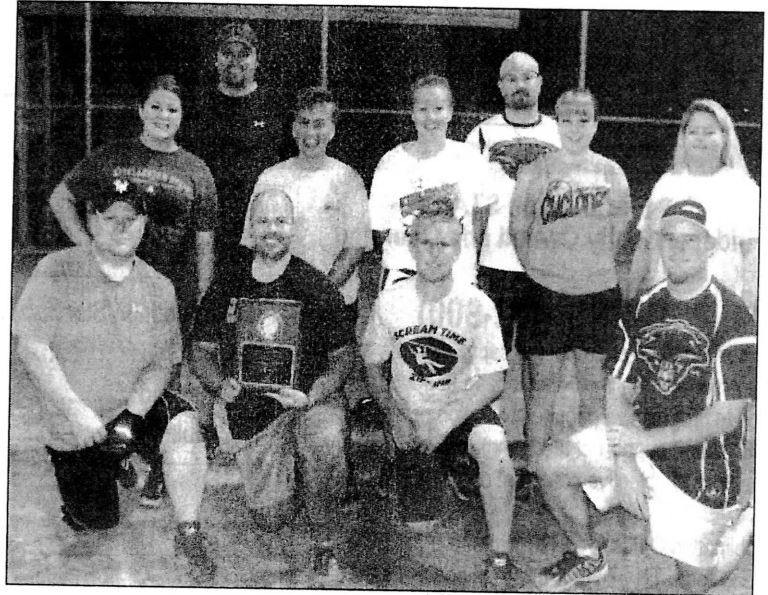
and high school athletes.

The Buffaloes will open the month of October at the Greater Louisville Classic on Saturday, Oct. 1. The event, which is in its ninth year, is hosted by the NCAA D-I and Big East powerhouse University of Louisville, and will feature over 100 of the nation's top teams. The event will be held at E.P. 'Tom' Sawyer State Park. The challenging course was the site of the 2010 NCAA Division I Southeast Regional Championship and host of this year's NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Championships and the NCAA Division II National Championships.

Milligan returns to Sycamore Shoals State Park for a rare Thursday evening meet on Oct. 13, as the Buffaloes will host their

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## FAST OUT OF THE GATES



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Scream Time Zip Lines recently claimed the title of preseason tournament champion in the Elizabethton Parks & Recreation fall co-ed softball league. From left, (front) David Bowers, Trampas Bowers, Chad Lewis, Chris Click, (middle) Megan Bowers, Ronda McKinney, Leanne Click, Brittany Eggers, Bonnie Peters, Bradley Guffey and Aaron Carr. Not pictured: Missy Richardson.

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annual Stampede at the Shoals. The meet, which is a month later than last season, saw Milligan sweep both the men and women's portions last season. The field will once again feature many of the area's top colleges.

The Buffaloes will travel to Dayton, Tenn., on Saturday, Nov. 5, for the 2011 Appalachian Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships. The Milligan women are looking for their ninth consecutive AAC title, while the men look to break a string of back-

to-back second place finishes.

The qualifying members of the Milligan squad will advance to the 2011 NAIA Cross Country National Championships in Vancouver, Wash., which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19.

The Buffaloes return a pair of three-time AAC Runner of the years in Gillian Giffen and Austin Ellis. In addition, Milligan returns a solid group of athletes from last season's successful squad, including Catie McMahon, Lauren Hubbard, Matt Murphy and Justin Little.

In the second game, the Cyclones rebounded with a similar start, building an 18-6 edge over Crockett before forcing a tiebreaker.

Crockett used two three-point runs to head a six-point edge over the visitors and outlasted a late Elizabethton charge at the end.

Elizabethton's freshman squad opened the night with a 2-1 win over Crockett. Crockett took the first game 25-19, but Elizabethton battled back with a 25-18 decision of its own with a 16-14 decision in the tiebreaker.

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