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## COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

# Milligan shines at L-R

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

NEWTON, N.C. — Milligan had an impressive season opener as the women captured the win and the men finished second against a stout NCAA D-II field in the Lenoir-Rhyne Invitational on Saturday morning.

The Lady Buffs prevailed in dominant style as they captured three of the top-five positions, and had the entire squad finished inside the top-20. Gillian Giffen led Milligan with a second-place finish with a time of 19:16. Catie McMahon came in fourth with a time of 19:53, while former Lauren Hubbard rounded out the top-five with a time of 19:59.

Christine McMahon grabbed an eighth-place finish in her Milligan debut with a time of 20:15, and fellow freshman Mackenzie Patton finished 14th with a time of 20:39. Natalia Rivas and Cassie St. John finished 18th and 19th, respectively.

As a team, the Lady Buffs recorded 33 points while second-

place Lenoir-Rhyne totaled 64.

On the men's side, Milligan's Austin Ellis crossed the line in second place (26:38) and Nathan Meeuwenberg third (26:42). Ellis dominated the early going, but was forced to rebound from 30th place after taking a wrong turn on the course.

Matt Murphy placed seventh (27:03), Brendan Hawkins 16th (27:50) and Dwayne Jordan 26th (28:27). Ethan Johnson and Seth Grindstaff rounded out the Milligan runners.

As a team, the Buffaloes fell eight points shy of NCAA Division II Mars Hill with a total of 50 points.

"While the course was flat, the multiple tight turns and thick wet grass really slowed everyone down today," Head Coach Chris Layne said. "Looking beyond these conditions, I'm extremely pleased with the effort I saw on both sides. The potential is there to have two very good cross country teams, but there is still a ton of work to do."

Barry Wilner • AP

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