

Ohio Northern to defend OAC cross country titles

By **LINDSAY RICKEL-MILLER**
OAC Director of Information

The 2009 Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships will be hosted by Wilmington College at the course located on campus, just south of the Charlie Gilhart Soccer Field, on Saturday, Oct. 31. The 6K women's championship race will begin at 11a.m., while the men's 8K race will start at noon.

Ohio Northern captured both the men's and women's crowns a year ago. The ONU men placed four runners in the top ten, including returner senior Alan Bowsher, who placed fifth overall (26:25.87).

Heidelberg boasted the 2008 individual champion, as senior Devin Butcher set a course record by crossing the line in 25:57.68.

On the women's side, Ohio Northern captured their third OAC title in the last four years by having its top three runners all finish in the top ten, including returners senior Rachel Smith, with a fourth place finish (23:27.13) and sophomore Mallory Bloom, who finished ninth (23:54.97). The 2008 individual champion came from Baldwin-Wallace, as senior D'Arcy Hlavin set a course record by running a time of 23:10.18. Hlavin was named the 2008 OAC Cross Country Runner-of-the-Year.

The top-18 runners are honored with All-OAC accolades. The NCAA Division III Regional Championships will be hosted by Rose-Hulman (Terre Haute, Ind.) on Nov. 14, followed by NCAA Division III National Championships hosted by Baldwin-Wallace (Berea) on Nov. 21.

