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Voronko and McDermitt Deliver 1-2 Punch in Season Opener

OREGON, Ohio (EMUeagles.com)—Eastern Michigan University’s women’s cross country team secured second place in the debut meet of the season, scoring 46 points against two Mid-American Conference opponents in the Toledo Home Opener, Aug. 29. The University of Toledo was able to defend its home territory by winning with 29 points, while Bowling Green State University took third with 61 points.

The Green and White had a stellar effort by the senior-freshman combo of Victoria Voronko (Stavropol, Russia-School #42) and Jordann McDermitt (Davison, Mich.-Davison), as the two took first and second overall. Voronko and Davison were in the front of the pack throughout the entire race, defining their positions as the front runners during the third kilometer of the 5000m course. Voronko clocked in comfortably ahead of the field, notching a time of 17:33.80, while McDermitt ran crossed the line in 17:45.90 in her collegiate debut as an Eagle. Head Coach Sue Parks spoke fondly of the freshman, remarking, "I know how she's been training this summer, and I figured she would be up there with the frontrunners. It was good to see her with Victoria, and hopefully we can keep that going because when you have a good 1-2 punch it really helps the score."

EMU’s third scoring harrier was transfer Sofie Gallein (Gits, Belgium-University of Leuven), who just missed out on the top-10 after a slew of Toledo runners nabbed six of the coveted positions. Gallein took 13th in 18:16.80.

The final two to score for the Green and White were Taylor Knoll (Warren, Mich.-Mott (Lansing CC)) and Danielle Bentzley (Livonia, Mich.-Seaholm), taking 23rd in 18:58.60 and 26th in 19:08.20, respectively.

"Toledo had their best squad out there today, so we knew it was going to be tough," commented Parks on the winning team. "We still have a lot of things to work on. Our first three did well and after that we faltered a bit, but I think there is a lot of potential on this team. We've only been together since Sunday and the other teams started much earlier. We just have to keep improving each week, and next week is when we really
start training as a group."

The Eagles hit the road again in two weeks, but will remain in-state to take on the George Dales Invitational Friday, Sept. 12, hosted by MAC foe Western Michigan University. The Eagles won last year’s matchup handily by a 24-point margin, but Coach Parks is not one to take her upcoming competition lightly, explaining, "I would expect that we have a good chance at winning, but you never know what you're going to get from another team. Right now we have to focus on what we're doing and improve our own performances. A race is a race, so we're going to go in and try to do well and hopefully progress from where we are from today."

EMU Individual Results

1. Voronko, Victoria 17:33.80
2. McDermitt, Jordann 17:45.90
13. Gallein, Sofie 18:16.80
23. Knoll, Taylor 18:58.60
26. Bentzley, Danielle 19:08.20
29. Frauhammer, Amy 19:28.70
30. Quaintance, Rebecca 19:30.90
38. Aldrich, Anna 20:12.10
39. Mesa, Claire 20:23.60
40. Pottschmidt, Lauren 20:48.20
42. Manjon-Rivadulla, Marina 21:20.90