

From the Desk of the Chancellor

Cross country champions

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by Charles R. Bantz

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them ... a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have last-minute stamina, they have to be a little faster. They have to have the skill and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill." -- Muhammad Ali.

In an era of opinion, there is something wonderfully definitive and sweetly irrefutable in the word "champion."

On behalf of the IUPUI family, I proudly congratulate the Jaguars' cross country team for capturing their first Summit League championship -- led by First Team All-Summit League runners Tom Ohlman (first), Miguel Lozano (third) and Peyton Reed (seventh).

Equally impressive, congratulations to the Jags for dominating league honors following the race. Ohlman was the first IUPUI cross country runner to be named Summit League MVP, Head Coach Chuck Koeppen was the first selected as Coach of the Year, and freshman Isaiah White was only the second IUPUI Newcomer of the Champions recipient.

What a great way to start out the week on campus. A championship is the ultimate payoff for tireless preparation, commitment and determination.

Victories like this offer the ultimate sense of achievement, with impact that stretches well beyond the student athletes. The Jags' historic triumph last weekend in Fargo, N.D., brings honor and pride to the entire IUPUI campus and offers inspiration to many. I wish them all the best as they move on to the Great Lakes Regional Meet on Friday, Nov. 14, in Madison, Wis. Go Jags!

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