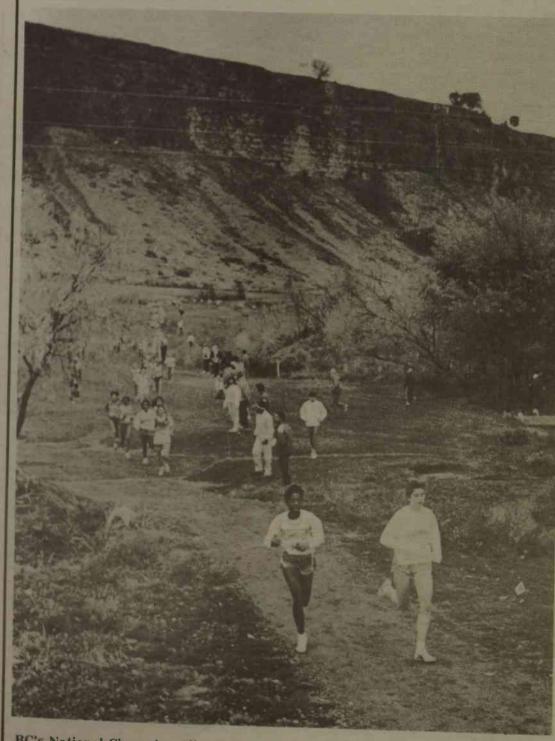


At the start of the men's five mile national cross country championships, 205 of the country's best junior college runners take off across the

fairway. Brevard's runners can be seen directly under the bridge

Gaines wins national XC crown; BC teams place 4th



BC's National Champion Alice Gaines on the way to her 5k win, paces herself through the first couple miles before making her move.

Alice Gaines' first place finish in the national cross country finals makes her the first Brevard College woman to earn the title of individual national champion.

Running with her teammates on Nov. 12 over the 5k course in the Snake River Canyon near Twin Falls, Idaho, Gaines beat 149 other competitors with her 18:34 time — six seconds in front of the runner-up.

"I knew she had a shot at it," said Coach Dave Rinker, "it couldn't happen to a nicer person."

But the Blacksburg, Va., sophomore's winning run at the National Junior College Athletic Association cross country championship meet came as a bittersweric tory for Brevard College.

While her teammates — both works and men's teams-scored respected fourth place finishes in the national BC couldn't match the team triumphs tast year when the men won the champitup and the women earned a strong sect.

"We just didn't get the team efficience needed," Rinker said matter-of-fact To have won, the BC men would have med five men to place in the top 25, accord to Rinker. BC finished 6th, 18th, 22mill and 35th.

Rinker said, "We had the worstps



At the race's end, a triumphant Alice Gaines is overcome by enion she is congratulated by Saul Laird, left, and Scott Dvorak, r^{it}. can't believe it. I just can't believe it " she cried.