



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 cham-

pionship meet came as a bittersweet victory for Brevard College.

While her teammates — both women's and men's teams — scored respectable fourth place finishes in the national BC couldn't match the team triumphs last year when the men won the championship and the women earned a strong second.

"We just didn't get the team effort we needed," Rinker said matter-of-factly. To have won, the BC men would have needed five men to place in the top 25, according to Rinker. BC finished 6th, 18th, 22nd, 24th and 35th.

Rinker said, "We had the worst



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