

Mustangs run 21st at NAIA nationals

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VANCOUVER, Wash. - The Mount Mercy women's cross country team placed 21st at the NAIA national meet Friday for the best finish in school history.

The Mustangs' best previous showing was 24th, accomplished in 2001 and 2018.

Vanessa Cortes finished 72nd in the 5K race in 19 minutes, 11.1 seconds to pace Mount Mercy. Emily Erickson was 87th and Andrea Ertz was 90th for the Mustangs.

Hannah Stoffel of Huntington won the women's race in 17:18.4 out of 341 runners. Madonna won the team championship.

Jacob Blackmon of Mount Mercy finished 183rd out of 335 runners in the men's 8K race in 27:10.7. Mark Shaw of Oklahoma City won the race in 24:39.5 and led his team to the championship.

MOUNT MERCY WOMEN - 72. Vanessa Cortes 19:11.1, 87. Emily Erickson 19:21.8, 90. Andrea Ertz 19:22.6, 196. Kelsi Huhndorf 20:03.3, 241. Jessica Ertz 20:27.0, 293. Hallie Kephart 2:30.8, 296. Mady Roth 21:33.0.