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Machooka Leads Red Squad to 1961 Heptagonal Crown [ARTICLE]

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Machooka Leads Red Squad To 1961 Heptagonal Crown

Cornell's varsity cross country team, sparked by the running of first place finisher Steve Machooka, won the 1961 Heptagonal Championship in New York City Friday. Machooka, unbeaten in seven starts this year, had little difficulty in taking the five mile race.

The Big Red finished first, fifth, sixth, 18th and 22nd, for the best five man total of the afternoon, 52 points. Army, Heptagonal champion for the past three years, finished second with a total of 58 points. Princeton was a distant third with 95 points.

Machooka took the lead at the outset of the race, and was never seriously challenged. The lad from Kenya covered the five mile Van Cortlandt Park course in 25 minutes, 38 seconds, 20 second faster than Yale's Bobby Mack.

Machooka opened up a 20 yard lead after one quarter of a mile, and lengthened it throughout the race. At the three mile post, he was 60 yards out in front, and by the finish, he had pulled 175 yards ahead of his nearest competitor.

Team Victory

But Cornell's victory was by no means due only to Machooka's outstanding performance. Statistics clearly show that it



STEVE MACHOOKA
Cross Country Champ

he had ever covered the distance. Munday, who was out of action last week with a leg injury, came back with only one week of practice to finish 22nd

Statistics clearly show that it was a team victory in all respects. Cornell had five men in before any other squad had its five in. It had seven men in before any other squad had seven men in. In fact, it had seven men in before two teams had two men in.

The Cornell finishers in the first ten, beside Machooka, were captain Ray Westendorp, who finished fifth in 26:30, and sophomore Jim Byard, the sixth place finisher in 26:31. Byard, not an exceptional runner in his high school days, has been constantly improving, and is first beginning to reach his peak. His sixth place effort was undoubtedly the finest race he has run thus far at Cornell.

Rounding out the scoring for the Red harriers were Bill Arnst and John Hunday. Arnst finished 18th in 27:21, which one minute, 22 seconds faster than

in 27:25.

Despite Injuries

For a team that has been as hampered with injuries as the Big Red have, it has done extremely well. In dual meets earlier this year, the squad defeated Yale, Syracuse and Army. Coach Lou Montgomery attributes much of the team's success in the Heptagonals to this tough competition it has faced earlier in the year. "The boys were forced to push themselves," he explained, and this certainly was of help in the Heptagonals.

Coach Montgomery, known for his excellent predicting ability, came very close to the correct Cornell order of finish. Montgomery picked the Big Red to finish first, fifth, seventh, 18th and 27th, while they in fact finished first, fifth, sixth, 18th and 22nd.

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