



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY**

**Cross Country 10-6-19**

### **Border Battle Preview**

Collins High School is hosting the Border Battle on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> which will feature the third inter-school district competition in Kentucky state history. The Shelby County School District's Team Shelby (Collins and Shelby County) will battle the Oldham County School District's Team Franklin (North Oldham and South Oldham). The meet will be held on the Bullskin Course at Blue Meadow Farms (Joyes Station Rd. and US 60) in Shelbyville.

Collins Director of Cross Country and Track George Sanderlin developed the Bullskin Course over two years ago. He said, "One of our objectives at Collins is to put the 'Oomph' back into cross country and track. I put together a Border Battle in track in Georgia with the Atlanta Public School district battling the DeKalb County school district. It was a big hit. However, in cross country, this is new to Kentucky but really catching on. Our Bullskin Course has been sought out by collegiate teams. The meet should be extremely competitive as the teams have already faced each other in several meets like the Louisville Classic, Rumble Through the Jungle, and the Trinity / Valkyrie meet. We are adjusting this year's meet down to a 3K to accommodate the needs of the teams, some of which are racing again in a few days. So, we mapped out a new 3K course which should be fast, since it has a lot of flat and downhill."

The girls' race should be a doozie with eight girls capable of going under 13 minutes for the 3K. The top pick is last year's Border Battle champion, junior Kelsey King from South Oldham. Her season best 5K of 19:49 earned her a top 10 (6<sup>th</sup>) finish at Greater Louisville. She was 9<sup>th</sup> at State last year after winning her region in a fast 19:12. She will be chased by North Oldham junior Katie Giles who got her season best 5K with a 20:23 (15<sup>th</sup>) at the Louisville Classic. North Senior Asia Franzel has run a 12:09 3K, but that was way back in 2015. South Oldham junior Abigail Buchannan has gone under 12:30 (3K) but that was in 2016. It will be interesting to watch eighth graders Emma Kendall (12:37) of Collins and Abigail Crask (12:32) of South duke it out.

Senior Theo Bachman of South will be back to defend his title from last year. He put down a 9:49 3K at Rumble and could go sub-10 on Thursday. He comes off a fourth-place finish at the Louisville Classic (16:02). Junior Gabe Vergara of Collins has clocked a 10:31 and is fresh off a PR at the Louisville Classic. South Oldham has four other runners who could challenge – sophomore Nick Hyde (10:32), senior Ennis Ryan (10:40), and junior Ben Crask (10:55).

The girls' race starts at 5:30 PM with the boys going at 6:30.



*Collins junior Gabe Vergara could challenge for the boys' Border Battle title.*



(Photo: Coach S.)

*The Blue Meadow Farms – Bullskin Course is a picturesque and rolling course nestled in the heart of Shelby County.*

For more information, go to the Milesplit meet web page:

[https://ky.milesplit.com/meets/393104-border-battle/info#.X3yYjR1\\_NPY](https://ky.milesplit.com/meets/393104-border-battle/info#.X3yYjR1_NPY)

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