

**Vancouver, Wash.** – 312 runners competed in the 2011 NAIA National Cross Country Finals today at the Fort Vancouver Historical Site. Among them were 2 harriers from the University of Great Falls. Seniors, Shane Donaldson from Thompson Falls, Mont. and Rigoberto Jimenez from Royal City, Wash. The two men qualified for the event by way of placing 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively, at the Frontier Conference Finals on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Today Rigo (Jimenez) did the Argo Nation proud by averaging a 5:08 mile on the course and finishing with a time of 25:29, almost a minute faster than his time last year at the nationals, good enough to place in the top 100 at 71<sup>st</sup>, 10 positions higher than in 2010. Donaldson was not that far behind. Shane ran a 5:23 mile pace and finished with a time of 26:42 which put him in the pack at 217<sup>th</sup>. “Rigo ran super tough and put himself in a position early to be in the top 30 (All American Class).” Head coach Chad Colwell said. Jimenez ran his first mile in 4:48 and was in 45 at the 4k mark. “He (Jimenez) battled for a big improvement from his race here last year.” Colwell added.

With the final meet the Argonaut Cross Country Team closes the book on the 2011 season. It was the inaugural season for head coach Chad Colwell, and a successful season it was as the Argos finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Conference behind nationally ranked Lewis-Clark State College. Asked how he’s sum up his first cross country season Colwell replied: “Great first season! The men finished second at the conference finals to the 4<sup>th</sup> place team at the nationals and ended the year ranked 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have the opportunity next year for both the men’s and women’s programs to do big things.”

The Argo Nation should be very proud of the way both Rigo and Shane ran today. They ran against the best of the best. Our two national representatives finished off their senior cross country seasons with a bang.