FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 30, 2013

MacEwan University Griffins prepare for gold rush at four national championships

Edmonton, AB — The MacEwan University Griffins men and women’s cross country and soccer teams have advanced to represent MacEwan University and the province of Alberta at the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association’s national championships after winning four Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference championships last weekend. The national championship events will range from November 6 through 10.

The Griffins men’s cross country running team earned their second ACAC title in three years, while turning in one of the most complete team finishes. Each member finished in near pack formation, crossing the finish line in eighth, ninth, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th and 20th, a feat rare in 8km team running. The veteran squad posted the lowest total of points, which is the scoring method in cross country, and cleanly earned the championship title with 41 points, six fewer than silver-medalist SAIT of Calgary.

Vanessa Trofimenkoff traded in her silver medal from one year ago to earn the ACAC individual women’s title. The second-year student-athlete completed the Goldbar Park course in a quick 19 minute and 14 second clocking. Teammate Lesley Koopman, also a second year runner, captured the bronze medal with a 19 minute and 29 second clocking. Both Trofimenkoff and Koopman will be honoured at the CCAA national championship banquet as All-Canadians, a second for Trofimenkoff.

On the soccer pitch, the Griffins men’s team captured their first ACAC championship title since 2006 and fourth in school history. Led by championship MVP Ryan Matowe, the Griffins defeated the Lethbridge Kodiaks three-nil in their semi-final with Matowe scoring twice. The final was a 3-1 win over division rivals NAIT. Matowe once again stood out, notching two goals. Harvey Durha scored for the Griffins in what would be the game-winning goal. Along with Matowe, Tomaz Machul was also named a championship tournament all-star. The Griffins now head to the University of New Brunswick, in St. John, NB for the national championship. Matowe will be recognized as an All-Canadian; while head coach Cam Leverman has been nominated as the CCAA Coach of the Year, with results being revealed at the championship banquet. The Griffins will face Dawson College of Quebec in their first-round match-up on Wednesday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m. (EST).

The Griffins women’s soccer team captured their fourth ACAC championship title in MacEwan University history, defeating the NAIT Ooks 3-2 in wet, snowy conditions in Medicine Hat, AB. Maryse Beauregard was a dominant force for the Griffins, notching two goals in the final, including the game winner. She was named a championship tournament all-star, along with teammates Erika Vecchio and Madison Perry. Ending the Ooks two-year run as champions, the Griffins will represent Alberta as the two seed at the CCAA national championship at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, BC. Vecchio and Weber will be honoured as All-Canadians at the championship banquet. The Griffins will play their first round match versus Holland College of PEI on Wednesday, November 6 at 10:00a.m. (PST).

MacEwan University will compete in men and women’s cross country, soccer, basketball and volleyball into the Canada West Universities Athletic Association leagues, commencing in the 2014-15 season.

For additional information:
Lindsay Bax
Sports Information
c) 780-886-8288
e) BaxL@MacEwan.ca