

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Scott Ohlson will have a grand finale to his college cross country career next weekend.

The Doane senior will be at the national NAIA meet Nov. 21 in Vancouver, Wash., as part of the Tiger men's team. Doane made the cut last Saturday at the GPAC conference meet in Fremont.

Doane finished in third place among the 12 schools at the conference meet that included about 120 runners.

The top two conference finishers automatically qualify for nationals. Doane finished behind team champion Concordia and second place Wesleyan.

However, since Wesleyan is a Division III school, they were taken out of the team placings, moving Doane to second.

Ohlson, a 2006 graduate of Chase County Schools and four-time state cross country qualifier, has been consistently running No. 4 on the Doane team this season, and did so again Saturday. He finished 27th overall with a time of 26:36.69 on the 8K course (about five miles). That was a personal best for Ohlson and marked his third PB in a row.

College cross country scores five runners out of seven for the team total. Other scorers on the Doane team were Edwin Ronoh 3rd, Sufian Kimo 4th, Paul Garcia 9th and Jordan Pieper 37th.

Seven members of the team and one alternate will travel to Vancouver next week, Ohlson said.

It's his second trip to nationals, after Doane qualified last year, too, traveling to Wisconsin where they finished 25th. The team's top four runners all returned this season.

As a Longhorn cross country runner, Ohlson went to state all four years in Class C. As a freshman, he finished 31st, sophomore year he was 10th, his junior year he came in third and was state champion as a senior.

He will graduate next May with a BA degree in fitness management. He's the son of Doug Ohlson of McCook and Marge Shafer of Otis, Colo.