# Arkansas Razorbacks

## Razorbacks | SEC Championships

### SEC Team Titles

**27 SEC Team Titles**

In earning the cross country team title in 2020, Arkansas broke the tie they were in with Tennessee, at 25 each, for the most SEC men's titles.

Tennessee's last SEC title occurred in 1990, the year before Arkansas started competing in the league. The Razorbacks totaled 24 SWC cross country titles and now have 51 overall with 27 SEC championships.

### SEC Individual Titles

**15 SEC Individual Titles**

Gilbert Boit won the 2018 title, becoming the 12th Razorback to claim an SEC title and it was the 15th overall title.

The past three SEC individual Razorback titles came in even number years - 2014, '16, '18.

Arkansas contenders for the 2023 individual title include Patrick Kiprop, Kirami Yego, and Ben Shearer.

## Men's National Poll

**NCAA Coaches Top 30**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Northern Arizona | 8. **Arkansas** | 16. ✓irginia | 24. Wisconsin |
| 2. Oklahoma State | 9. Colorado | 17. Iowa State | 25. Stanford |
| 3. BYU | 10. Villanova | 18. New Mexico | 26. Air Force |
| 4. Syracuse | 11. North Carolina | 19. Michigan | 27. Iona |
| 5. California Baptist | 12. Furman | 20. Wake Forest | 28. Montana State |
| 6. Texas | 13. Tennessee | 21. Eastern Kentucky | 29. Georgetown |
| 7. Harvard | 14. Notre Dame | 22. Alabama | 30. Butler |
| | 15. Princeton | 23. Boise State | |

## No. 8 Razorbacks bring fire power into SEC challenge

**COLUMBIA, SC** – Three nationally ranked teams are set to battle for the 2023 SEC Cross Country Championship team title on Friday morning with an 8,000m race at the Charwood Golf Club. No. 8 Arkansas is the top ranked squad followed by No. 13 Tennessee and No. 22 Alabama, the defending champion.

In the three previous times South Carolina has hosted the SEC Cross Country Championships – 1997, 2005, and 2010 – the result has been a team title for the Razorbacks with Alabama runner-up each time along with UA individual titles for Ryan Wilson (97) and Josphat Boit (05).

Arkansas has dominated the conference over the past three seasons, capturing nine of the past 10 SEC Championships contested. The lone hiccup in that streak was last year's SEC cross country meet.

The 2022 race for the team title had four teams separated by six points. Alabama claimed the victory with 59 points while Tennessee and Arkansas tied for second place with 64 points. Ole Miss finished fourth with 65 points.

Based on national and regional rankings, the same group of four teams should contend for the team title again on Friday.

"I consider us an underdog a little bit," noted Arkansas men's head coach Chris Bucknam. "Alabama is the defending champion from the meet last year when we had four teams separated by six points. We didn't get it done, so our kids want to get after it and see if we can grab our title back."

Arkansas, who has won a league record 27 SEC Championships in cross country, enters the meet with a trio of team wins this season from three meets. Ranked No. 21 prior to the Pre-Nationals meet in Virginia two weeks ago, a team win in addition to an individual victory from Ben Shearer vaulted the Razorbacks to a No. 8 national ranking.

Runner-up to Arkansas in the Pre-Nationals meet was Tennessee with the Razorbacks holding an advantage of 35 to 89 in team scoring.

"I told the team we're not going to see our true potential until we get into the championship season," Bucknam said. "I think when we look at what we did at Pre-Nationals that's the step I was talking about into that right direction.

"We haven't put it all together yet, but we ran really good at Pre-Nationals. I think there's so much more in the tank with this team. I'm looking to get all these different athletes on the same page to run a five-mile race. As we enter our championship season, I think we're in a good spot."

Arkansas returns six of its top seven runners from last year's SEC runner-up squad, led by cross country All-American Patrick Kiprop, who placed fifth in the race. The Razorbacks also have the addition of transfers in Kirami Yego, a cross country All-American while at South Alabama, and Lexington Hilton from Arkansas State, who was runner-up in the 2021 Sun Belt meet.

"My team of 11 athletes are made up from every distance race we have," stated Bucknam. "Some are steeplers, and a guy like Elias Schreml is a 1,500m specialist. Patrick Kiprop and Lexington Hilton are more 10k guys.

"So, we have a pretty good group of guys, but they all specialize in something different on the track. To get them on the same page to run a five-mile race, and eventually a six-mile race, that takes a little time."

Schreml finished 10th a year ago and was the second finisher among the Razorbacks, followed by Myles Richter (12th), Jacob McLeod (16th), Ben Shearer (21st), and Josh Shearer (31st).

Ben Shearer, the 2022 SEC Freshman Runner of the Year, has led Arkansas twice this season. He won the Oklahoma State Cowboy Preview over a 5,000m distance in early September. Then Shearer was runner-up to teammate Yego over 8,000m at the Chile Pepper Festival.

After winning the Pre-Nationals in a best of 22:55.0, Shearer earned SEC Runner of the Week honors. In winning the race by 3.6 seconds over Tennessee's Yaseen Abdalla, Shearer covered the final 1,000m in 2:39.4 and claimed the lead over the final 400m. Abdalla was the SEC bronze medalist in last year's conference meet.

"We knew when we recruited Ben out of Texas he was a talent," Bucknam said. "It takes a while for everything to click. It's now happening. He's figured it out and doing everything right. He's doing all the little things that happen outside of practice. That's where kids at this level make a big jump and have a more professional attitude about what they're doing. They hold themselves accountable. That's going from youth to maturity.

"That's what we're seeing in front of our eyes with Ben. On top of everything else he can smell the finish line. He really competes hard. It's fun to watch that maturation happen in front of your eyes."

Yego, who won the Chile Pepper race in 23:14.1 to earn a SEC Runner of the Week accolade, finished third at the Pre-Nationals in 23:04.2. At South Alabama, Yego claimed Sun Belt individual titles in 2021 and 2022. Kiprop's lone race this cross country season had him finishing fifth at Pre-Nationals as the third Razorback.

"Kirami brings a little bit of new blood and that's one thing about the transfer portal and the transfers that I like," stated Bucknam. "You get these mature, established athletes that are like freshmen again. They're excited about where they're at, with new facilities, surroundings, and a new team.

"They just have that youthful, kind of freshman mentality that I like. Kirami's brought that to the table with him. He's always smiling and positive, while challenging everybody at practice. I love his enthusiasm and him wanting to make a mark as a Razorback."

Arkansas will have a pair of runners competing in their fourth SEC Cross Country Championship in Richter and McLeod. Richter has been the third Razorback the past two seasons, placing 10th in 2021 and 12th in 2022. In 2019, Richter was the second UA runner, placing 18th.

McLeod finished fifth in 2021 as the second Razorback. He was fourth among the Arkansas squad in 2022, placing 16th, while in 2020 he was third among the UA squad and placed seventh in the field.

Reuben Reina, who did not finish in the 2022 SEC race, placed fourth among the squad at Chile Pepper while being fifth in the race, and was the seventh UA runner at Pre-Nationals while placing 27th. Also finishing among Arkansas' top seven this season are Tommy Romanow and Jack Williams.

With a few contenders for the individual title, Arkansas could produce its first individual champion since 2018 when Gilbert Boit won with Arkansas placing second to Ole Miss, 36-44, for the team title. That marked the first time among 15 Razorback individual titles in which it was claimed without Arkansas also winning the team title.

"That's what exciting about racing on Friday," noted Bucknam. "There's a great group of guys that I have where it doesn't matter who the number one person is, we want to win the meet. We have fire power and a ton of potential. It's just a question of putting it all together."

# Arkansas Razorbacks

## Razorback SEC Champions
### 15 titles by 12 individuals
### 3 double champions

| | |
|---|---|
| 2018 | Gilbert Boit |
| 2016 | Alex George |
| 2014 | Stanley Kebenei |
| 2013 | Kemoy Campbell |
| 2011 | Eric Fernandez |
| 2005 | Josphat Boit |
| 2004 | Josphat Boit |
| 1999 | Michael Power |
| 1998 | Michael Power |
| 1997 | Ryan Wilson |
| 1996 | Godfrey Siamusiye |
| 1995 | Godfrey Siamusiye |
| 1994 | Jason Bunston |
| 1993 | Michael Morin |
| 1991 | Brian Baker |

## Hog Facts

• Over the past 32 SEC meets involving Arkansas, the Razorbacks have claimed 27 titles, a conference record, while placing runner-up three times and finishing third twice.

• 25 of the 27 league victories for Arkansas occured in two sets of consecutive winning streaks. The Razorbacks produced a perfect score of 15 points in their first SEC Championship in 1991 and generated 17 consecutive titles from 1991 to 2007. Arkansas also put together eight consecutive titles from 2010 to 2017.

• The Razorback men have claimed 9 of the past 10 SEC Championships contested:
2020 SEC Indoor
2020 SEC Cross Country
2021 SEC Indoor
2021 SEC Outdoor
2021 SEC Cross Country
2022 SEC Indoor
2022 SEC Outdoor
2023 SEC Indoor
2023 SEC Outdoor

• Arkansas accomplished its 17th SEC triple crown in 2021-22.

• Arkansas last swept both men's and women's team titles in 2021. It has been accomplished 19 times since the Razorbacks competed in their first SEC meet in 1991.

### SEC Championships | Recent Top 3 Team Finish & Points

| Year | 1st | Pts | 2nd | Pts | 3rd | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | Alabama | 59 | =Tennessee | 64 | =Arkansas | 64 |
| 2021 | Arkansas | 40 | Ole Miss | 59 | Missouri | 105 |
| 2020 | Arkansas | 35 | Ole Miss | 59 | Georgia | 121 |
| 2019 | Ole Miss | 25 | Alabama | 90 | Arkansas | 121 |
| 2018 | Ole Miss | 36 | Arkansas | 44 | Kentucky | 122 |
| 2017 | Arkansas | 41 | Alabama | 81 | Ole Miss | 82 |
| 2016 | Arkansas | 25 | Ole Miss | 38 | Kentucky | 100 |
| 2015 | Arkansas | 25 | Texas A&M | 98 | Ole Miss | 122 |
| 2014 | Arkansas | 54 | Ole Miss | 60 | Auburn | 77 |
| 2013 | Arkansas | 31 | Florida | 96 | Georgia | 101 |
| 2012 | Arkansas | 35 | Georgia | 73 | Missouri, TAMU | 80 |

## Razorback Notes

**Ben Shearer**, the 2022 SEC Cross Country Freshman of the Year, has won a pair of races this season. After opening with a victory at the Cowboy Preview on a 5,000m course, Shearer finished as runner-up to teammate Kirami Yego in the Chile Pepper Festival on the Arkansas home course.

Utilizing a strong close over the final 400m of the Pre-Nationals 8k race held at Panorama Farms, Shearer claimed the individual title in 22:55.0 (2:39.4 over the final 1k) and led Arkansas to a team victory.

A year ago, Shearer was the fifth runner for the Razorbacks in the SEC Championships, finishing as the top freshman in 21st place.

**Patrick Kiprop**, an All-American in cross country, led the Razorbacks in the SEC Championships a year ago, placing fifth. In his lone race this season he shared the lead in the early stages of the Pre-Nationals 8k. Kiprop finished fifth as the third Razorback.

**Kirami Yego** is a transfer into the Razorback program, having earned a cross country All-America honor while at South Alabama. His first race in an Arkansas uniform produced an individual victory at the Chile Pepper Festival 8k. Yego's time of 23:14.1 ranks second best in Festival history and third best ever on the UA home course at Agri Park.

Third in the Pre-Nationals 8k, Yego was the second Razorback finisher in 23:04.2.

**Jacob McLeod** has raced in the SEC Championships three times with the Razorbacks. Recenlty, he placed sixth in the Pre-Nationals 8k and finished fourth among the Arkansas squad in his lone race of the season.

Previously in the SEC Championships he was 7th (2020), 5th (2021), and 16th (2022).

**Myles Richter** will be racing in his fourth SEC Championship having previously placed 18th (2019), 10th (2021), and 12th (2022). Richter was the second Razorback in 2019, and third among Arkansas runners the past two years.

This season, Richter was the fifth finisher for the Razorbacks in the Chile Pepper Festival and Pre-Nationals, placing 6th and 20th, respectively.

**Lexington Hilton**, experiencing his first cross country season with the Razorbacks, was sixth among the squat in placing 26th in the Pre-Nationals 8k.

At Arkansas State, Hilton finished as runner-up in the 2021 Sun Belt race to current teammate Yego. Hilton then placed 8th in the NCAA South Central Region and qualified for the NCAA Championships, placing 105th.

**Reuben Reina** did not finish in the 2022 SEC meet. This season he was second for Arkansas as runner-up to Ben Shearer in the Cowboy Preview 5k, then was fourth among the Razorbacks in placing fifth at the Chile Pepper Festival 8k.

At Pre-Nationals, Reina placed 27th over the 8k course as the seventh UA runner.

**Josh Shearer** and **Jack Williams** both raced in the conference meet in 2022. Shearer was seventh among the UA crew, placing 31st in the field. Williams placed 44th. **Tommy Romanow** finished seventh among the Razorbacks in the Chile Pepper Festival, placing 10th overall.

## Arkansas Top 7 Finishers | Recent SEC Championships
### Athletes in bold are on the Razorback 2023 roster

| Year | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 5) **Patrick Kiprop** | 10) **Elias Schreml** | 12) **Myles Richter** | 16) **Jacob McLeod** | 21) **Ben Shearer** | 27) Ryan Murphy | 31) **Josh Shearer** |
| 2021 | 2) Amon Kemboi | 5) **Jacob McLeod** | 10) **Myles Richter** | 11) Andrew Kibet | 12) E. Cheboson | 17) Gilbert Boit | 18) Ryan Murphy |
| 2020 | 5) Amon Kemboi | 6) Luke Meade | 7) **Jacob McLeod** | 8) E. Cheboson | 9) Matt Young | 14) Andrew Kibet | 16) Gilbert Boit |
| 2019 | 7) Matt Young | 18) **Myles Richter** | 27) Ryan Murphy | 38) Preston Cates | 42) Carter Persyn | 43) Jayce Turner | 56) Graham Brown |
| 2018 | 1) Gilbert Boit | 3) Cameron Griffith | 9) Ryan Murphy | 14) Ethan Moehn | 17) Graham Brown | 25) Colin O'Mara | 26) Preston Cates |

## Razorback Top 7 Finishers in 2023 Season

| Meet | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 1\|5k | 1) Ben Shearer | 2) Reuben Reina | 5) Myles Richter | 8) Elias Schreml | 11) Tom Romanow | 18) Josh Shearer | 25) Jack Williams |
| Sept. 29\|8k | 1) Kirami Yego | 2) Ben Shearer | 4) Elias Schreml | 5) Reuben Reina | 6) Myles Richter | 10) Tom Romanow | 30) Josh Shearer |
| Oct. 14\|8k | 1) Ben Shearer | 3) Kirami Yego | 5) Patrick Kiprop | 6) Jacob McLeod | 20) Myles Richter | 26) Lexington Hilton | 27) Reuben Reina |

**CROSS COUNTRY | Top 10 Team Finish at SEC Championships since 2012**

| Year | Site | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Fifth | Sixth | Seventh | Eighth | Ninth | Tenth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | Oxford | Alabama | =Tennessee | =Arkansas | Ole Miss | TAMU | Kentucky | Auburn | Missouri | Georgia | Florida |
| 2021 | Columbia, Mo. | Arkansas | Ole Miss | Missouri | Alabama | Tennessee | Kentucky | Florida | Georgia | TAMU | Auburn |
| 2020 | Baton Rouge | Arkansas | Ole Miss | Georgia | Tenn | Kentucky | Missouri | Florida | LSU | TAMU | Alabama |
| 2019 | Lexington | Ole Miss | Alabama | Arkansas | Kentucky | TAMU | Florida | Missouri | LSU | Tenn | Vandy |
| 2018 | Auburn | Ole Miss | Arkansas | Kentucky | Tenn | Missouri | Alabama | TAMU | Florida | Georgia | Auburn |
| 2017 | Athens | Arkansas | Alabama | Ole Miss | Kentucky | Tenn | Georgia | Missouri | TAMU | Auburn | Floridad |
| 2016 | Fayetteville | Arkansas | Ole Miss | Kentucky | Georgia | Alabama | Missouri | TAMU | Florida | Tenn | Auburn |
| 2015 | College Station | Arkansas | TAMU | Ole Miss | Kentucky | Georgia | Missouri | Florida | Auburn | Alabama | Miss St |
| 2014 | Tuscaloosa | Arkansas | Ole Miss | Auburn | Missouri | Kentucky | Alabama | Tenn | TAMU | Miss St | Florida |
| 2013 | Gainesville | Arkansas | Florida | Georgia | Missouri | Kentucky | Auburn | Tenn | TAMU | Miss St | Ole Miss |
| 2012 | Nashville | Arkansas | Georgia | =Missouri | =TAMU | Florida | Kentucky | Tenn | =Miss St | =Auburn | Ole Miss |

**ARKANSAS | Team finish at SEC Championships**

| Year | Place | Score | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 | | | 2015 | 1st | 25 | 2006 | 1st | 21 | 1997 | 1st | 19 |
| 2022 | =2nd | 64 | 2014 | 1st | 54 | 2005 | 1st | 23 | 1996 | **1st** | **15** |
| 2021 | 1st | 40 | 2013 | 1st | 31 | 2004 | 1st | 23 | 1995 | 1st | 32 |
| 2020 | 1st | 35 | 2012 | 1st | 35 | 2003 | 1st | 33 | 1994 | 1st | 38 |
| 2019 | 3rd | 121 | 2011 | 1st | 33 | 2002 | 1st | 31 | 1993 | 1st | 18 |
| 2018 | 2nd | 44 | 2010 | 1st | 34 | 2001 | 1st | 24 | 1992 | 1st | 23 |
| 2017 | 1st | 41 | 2009 | 2nd | 61 | 2000 | 1st | 27 | 1991 | **1st** | **15** |
| 2016 | 1st | 25 | 2008 | 3rd | 75 | 1999 | 1st | 17 | | | |
| | | | 2007 | 1st | 36 | 1998 | 1st | 19 | | | |

# Arkansas Men | 2023 Season Recap

### Cowboy Preview | Greiner Course
### 5,000m | Friday, Sept. 1
**Teams (4 schools)**

1. **Arkansas** — 26
2. Tulsa — 34
3. Oklahoma State — 72
4. Oklahoma — 105

**Individuals | Arkansas top 5 spread 30.2s**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ben Shearer | 14:55.3 |
| 2. | Reuben Reina | 15:03.1 |
| 5. | Myles Richter | 15:14.3 |
| 8. | Elias Schreml | 15:18.9 |
| 11. | Tommy Romanow | 15:25.5 |
| 18. | Josh Shearer | 15:46.0 |
| 25. | Jack Williams | 16:00.2 |

### Chile Pepper Festival | Agri Park
### 8,000m | Friday, Sept. 29
**Teams (30 schools)**

1. **Arkansas** — 18
2. Western Colorado — 93
3. Incarnate Word — 137
4. Arkansas State — 158
5. Oklahoma — 235
6. Rice — 277

**Individuals | Arkansas top 5 spread 77.9s**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kirami Yego | 23:14.1 |
| 2. | Ben Shearer | 23:36.6 |
| 4. | Elias Schreml | 24:04.4 |
| 5. | Reuben Reina | 24:06.0 |
| 10. | Tommy Romanow | 24:32.0 |
| 30. | Josh Shearer | 25:01.0 |
| 33. | Jack Williams | 25:06.1 |

### Virginia Pre-National
### Panorama Farms
### 8,000m | Saturday, Oct. 14
**Teams (23 schools)**

1. **Arkansas** — 35
2. Tennessee — 89
3. Virginia — 112
4. Montana State — 137
5. Purdue — 215
6. Wyoming — 220
7. Santa Clara — 283
8. Miami (Oh) — 323
9. Virginia Tech — 324
10. Yale — 338

**Individuals | Arkansas top 5 spread 45.0s**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ben Shearer | 22:55.0 |
| 3. | Kirami Yego | 23:04.2 |
| 5. | Patrick Kiprop | 23:11.5 |
| 6. | Jacob McLeod | 23:17.1 |
| 20. | Myles Richter | 23:40.0 |
| 26. | Lexington Hilton | 23:45.7 |
| 27. | Reuben Reina | 23:48.5 |
| 33. | Elias Schreml | 23:54.5 |
| 35. | Tommy Romanow | 23:55.3 |

**B Race**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8. | Josh Shearer | 24:34.4 |
| 51. | Jack Williams | 25:22.0 |

*National Rankings*
8. **Arkansas**
13. Tennessee
22. Alabama

*Regional Rankings*
**South Central** | 2. **Arkansas**, 5. Texas A&M
**South** | 1. Tennessee, 2. Alabama, 4. Mississippi, 9. Georgia, 12. Auburn, 13. Florida, 14. Vanderbilt
**Southeast** | 12. Kentucky
**Midwest** | 12. Missouri