

Ben Shearer Earned A Benchmark Win At Desert Twilight



Desert Twilight XC Festival

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Ben Shearer just stayed the course.

By mile two on Friday night, it was just him and [Judson Greer](#), two Texans battling it out on a new course at The Links at Queen Creek in the final race at the Desert Twilight Invitational.

At that point, a pivotal intersection of a critical race -- the kind of moment where a big move could turn the tides entirely -- Shearer decided it was his time.

The Woodlands Christian (TX) senior blitzed Greer over the final mile to secure the bag and claim a benchmark win over the defending UIL Class 4A champion, winning in a US No. 3 time of 14:39.6.

Greer would follow in second in a US No. 5 effort of 14:45.9. His performance would ultimately be the second-fastest of the night overall.

The win for Shearer, a TAPPS state champion a year ago, marked his second straight in as many weeks. He had come off a victory at the McNeil Invitational on Sept. 26. And yet, in some ways no one could have expected this out of him, either.

His previous best was 15:03.00 from a fast Denton Guyer course in 2019.

In the team race, El Paso Eastwood capped off an impressive performance, winning the overall team title with 53 points.

Beyond those two, the course played fast and fair for Arizona runners. Five runners inside the top 10 were all from Arizona, with Deer Valley's Randy Espinoza leading the way in third-place overall in 15:09.8.

Fellow Texan Sergio Leon Cuartas, of El Paso Eastwood, was fifth in 15:15.6.

Top 10 Results:

1. [Ben Shearer](#), The Woodlands Christian (TX), 14:39.6; 2. [Judson Greer](#), Melissa (TX), 14:45.9; 3. [Randy Espinoza](#), Deer Valley (AZ), 15:09.8; 4. [Xander Black](#), Brophy College

Prep (AZ), 15:12.7; 5. [Sergio Leon Cuartas](#), El Paso Eastwood (TX), 15:15.6; 6. [Dayton Carlson](#), Casteel (AZ), 15:22.2; 7. [Roshan Tinoco-Miranda](#), Rio Rico (AZ), 15:23.2; 8. [Luke Lambert](#), Wylie (TX), 15:25.3; 9. [Kidus Begashaw](#), Lotus (CO), 15:28.6; [Gilbert Olivas](#), Glendale Cactus (AZ), 15:33.6.