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SPORTS

Runner on track at big U.S. college

As one of the best cross-country runners at the University of Tulsa, Breanna Chipney is used to logging plenty of miles on her shoes.

Over the next few weeks, she'll be logging plenty of frequent flier miles too.

After earning all-conference honours at the USA Conference Championships in Florida - finishing 11th overall in the five-kilometre event with a personal best time of 17 minutes and 57 seconds, the 19-year-old member of Golden Ears Athletics is headed to the NCAA Mid-West Regional Championships in Iowa this weekend where she'll be looking to qualify for NCAA national championships.

Following that, Chipney (pictured) is headed back to Maple Ridge for the American Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 25, then she flies to Tulsa for school and training before turning around and coming back to the Lower Mainland to compete at the National Junior Cross Country Championships at Jericho Beach on Dec. 3.

There she'll be looking for a spot at the World Championships. Factor in the fact she flies back to Tulsa after the Jericho race for a week to finish the semester studying elementary education with a minor in coaching, then flies back to Maple Ridge for Christmas break, and her travel schedule is pretty much full up.

"I'm actually really looking forward to it," she said about the numerous return trips home. "It will be nice just to be on home turf again. Jericho is close enough that all my family and friends can come watch. Of course I miss everyone there so it will be nice to be home."

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