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# Kenyan connection



**JONAH KIPTARUS**, left, and Cleophas Boor have finished 1-2 in every race they've entered this fall. MATT MILLER/DN

## Boor, Kiptarus lead pack

By **GREGG MADSEN**  
 Staff Reporter

Jonah Kiptarus and Cleophas Boor just can't see enough of each other.

The two Nebraska cross country runners live together, train together and, so far this season, they finish races together.

Natives of Kapsabet, Kenya, Kiptarus and Boor have stormed onto the scene this season, finishing 1-2 in every race they have entered.

Kiptarus won two of those races, and Boor was first two weeks ago at the Pre-NCAA Meet in Tucson, Ariz. But the two friends agree that it does not matter who crosses the finish line first, as long as it is one of them.

"I'm happy for that," Kiptarus said, "because it proves if you have a partner you can train with that you can both still do very good."

Kiptarus and Boor, both juniors, have been running all their lives. They currently log about 85 miles per week, and Nebraska Coach Jay Dirksen said their potential is limitless.

"From all the other results I've seen," Dirksen said, "I figure those two are among the top four or five in the country."

Dirksen said Boor and Kiptarus have run against some of the top competition in the nation this season.

After standout careers at different high schools in Kapsabet,

"From all the other results I've seen, I figure those two are among the top four or five in the country."

**JAY DIRKSEN**  
 NU cross country coach

Kiptarus and Boor signed with Barton County (Kan.) Community College.

Boor was third at the National Junior College Cross Country Championships in 1994 and second in 1995. In the outdoor track season, he was the national champion in the 5,000 meters in 1995.

Kiptarus was the NJCAA national champion cross country runner up in 1994, and he was the 1995 national champion indoors in the 1,000 meters and the mile. He also struck gold outdoors at Barton, winning the 1,500 in 1995.

"Everybody in the country was after them," Dirksen said. "And I never really did have a great feeling that they would be here."

After one visit, Kiptarus decided he would come to Nebraska. Kiptarus' choice turned out to be all the coaxing that Boor needed.

"Lincoln was one of my first choices," Boor said. "Seeing as we were friends and we've been together for a long time, that made it easier for me to come here."

Kiptarus came to Nebraska at

the start of the 1996 outdoor season. He ran the 1,200-meter leg of the Huskers' distance-medley relay, which placed first at the NCAA Indoor Championships and was the third-fastest time in collegiate history.

He was also the national runner-up in the NCAA indoor mile run and the outdoor 1,500.

Kiptarus and Boor, both agriculture majors, said they planned to return to Kapsabet after graduating to help their families on the farm.

But neither would mind a small detour first.

"After I graduate," Boor said, "I hope to train and run pro maybe, I guess I'll just have to see."

But before their pro debuts, Kiptarus and Boor will compete in the NCAA Championships, Nov. 25 in Tucson, where they know a 1-2 finish won't be easy to accomplish.

"With the Pre-NCAA Meet, we realized how the course will be with all the rolling hills, so that will help," Boor said. "We are going to try and aim to be in the top five."


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 On this day students, faculty, and staff volunteers will work together on campus wide service projects. United, we can make our campus community a better place!  
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