

Demorest, Ga – True leadership and the presence of a knowledgeable veteran are two aspects any team of people would like to have as a part of them. For the Piedmont Men’s Cross Country team, Max Miller is the guy who fills these big shoes – or racing spikes.

Max Miller is a 5th year grad student pursuing a master’s degree in health and human performance. From the beginning of his career as a Lion, Miller has been a valuable member of the cross country and track programs, helping to win 3 conference championships. The opportunity to be currently working on a 4th championship is made possible by the NCAA adjusting eligibility qualifications due to COVID-19. “I was always planning on coming to Piedmont for 5 years,” Miller explains, “the opportunity to run one more year was unexpected...I took the opportunity and ran with it, literally and figuratively.”

Miller being on board for another year is a big win for not only himself, but his teammates and coaches. Piedmont Head Cross Country & Track and Field Coach Jamie Jimison feels Max brings “lots of leadership, maturity, and levelheadedness; a lot of stuff that a lot of folks need.” Miller demonstrates this leadership in the way he runs at meets, but as well as when the work is being put in behind the scenes at practice. “I definitely feel like more of a leader this year,” says Miller. “I’ve taken some of the freshman under my wing, and I am trying to teach them what it took me 5 years to learn.”

As the Lion’s cross country season nears the final stretch of racing before the conference and regional meets, Miller’s role becomes even more important. For Coach Jimison, “[Max] has been such an important part of our team for 5 years now, and this late season push is when all of it

pays off.” Miller knows even after the next two semesters until he graduates, he will no doubt “miss the team feel, but I won’t miss everyone too bad because I know the friendships I’ve made here will last a lifetime.”