

Cross Country earns second in districts; earns spot in state in Columbia

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Although the regular season wrapped up for all non-state runners last Wednesday at the Findley Invitational, after a strong performance at the District Meet, the varsity seven have turned their sights to the state race this coming Friday.

The freshmen started the day strong at Findley, scoring 24 points to beat out second place Kirkwood's score of 70. The effort was led by freshman Nick Ahlheim, who ran a time of 18:32 to win the race by 17 seconds over Kirkwood's two strong freshmen. Following Ahlheim were freshmen Jake Fitzpatrick (19:00 for fourth), Tristan Kujawa (19:02 for fifth), Hendrix Fyvie (19:17 for sixth), and rounding out the scoring five was Preston Eash (19:30 for eighth).

"It was nice to finish the season on such an intense course," said Kujawa. "I love competing against my teammates and in this race our pack was really able to work together to put together a winning score.

On the JV end of the race, the Jr. Bills once again showed off their depth as they perfect-scored the race on the back of a sophomore George Donahue victory at 17:16. Following Donahue was fellow sophomore Alex Bendana (17:52 for second), senior Brendan Jones (17:57 for third), senior Wyatt Seal (18:02), and junior Noah Evers (18:03), who rounded out the scoring five for the team.

"I think the team packed up really well in the beginning," said Donahue. "Around the one-mile mark I was feeling good and decided to push the pace a little more. I think that race was a great way for the whole team to end the season and capped off months of hard work."

On the varsity level at Districts, the team secured a spot at state with their second place finish behind only Jackson's 35-point victory. The team was led by seniors Tim Greiner (16:09; fifth), Nolan Meara (16:18; eighth), Carter Lowe (16:34; 15th), Anthony Zangara (16:48; 22nd), and Charlie Murray (16:50; 23rd). Greiner earned First Team All-District with his fifth place finish and Meara earned Second Team All-District with his eighth place finish.

"At districts everyone held their heads high and everyone went all out and we are proud of how we did as a team," said Lowe. "We are very excited rolling into state."