

# COLIN MURRAY PLACED 5TH IN THE ELITE – MSU SPARTAN INVITATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

80 Degrees

The very young Divine Child boys team entered the MSU Spartan Elite race to let senior Colin Murray run against the very best in Michigan and Ohio, including senior T.J. Hansen of Freeland. Hansen took full control of the race early as he led at the one mile (4:46) and had a commanding lead at the two-mile (9:41). Hansen apparently became ill and held on to win with a time of 15 minutes 24.60 seconds, barely beating Marshall's senior Jack Bidwell who did his best to walk Hansen down but came up 20 meters short. Bidwell finished with a time of 15:28.40. The temperature was 80 degrees and sunny. It felt hotter than 80 as the ground of the golf course made the temperature feel like it was over 90 degrees. Nearly every runner had problems in today's race because of the weather conditions.



Colin Murray finishing 5<sup>th</sup> with a 15:46.60

This was a great race with the top 10 runners, all of whom are all seniors. Outside of Hansen, the rest of the top runners stayed tight for nearly the entire race. Rounding out the top seven were: Jenison's Seth Conner (3<sup>rd</sup>) – 15:38.20; Dublin Jerone (OH) Charles Guerrera (4<sup>th</sup>) – 15:41.10; **Murray** was fifth with a time of 15:46.60; Centerville's Kasem Kaheal (6<sup>th</sup>) – 15:50.40; and Marquette's Seppi Camilli (7<sup>th</sup>) – 15:53.00.

Divine Child as a team didn't fair in the Elite race as the team finished 18<sup>th</sup> out of twenty teams. The top five team were Northville won the team competition with 58 points, nearly doubling runner-up, Jenison who finished with 106 points. Placing third was Marquette with 120 pts.; Centerville was fourth with 126 pts.; and finishing 5<sup>th</sup> was Brighton with 136 pts.

Individually, Divine Child had a hard time dealing with the heat. No one other than Murray, came close to their season best. Senior Nicholas Nakic was second among DC runners and the only one to break 19 minutes in this race. Nakic finished 138<sup>th</sup> with a time of 18:44.30. The next five finishers were: sophomore Joseph Arriola (147<sup>th</sup>) – 19:11.50; freshman Landen Bermudez (152<sup>nd</sup>) – 19:22.00; senior Maximiliano Juarez (153<sup>rd</sup>) – 19:22.20; senior Tamer Zahr (178<sup>th</sup>) – 19:59.00; and sophomore Brendan Miller (195<sup>th</sup>) – 20:48.70.



**Nicholas Nakic (#4799) at the one-mile mark (5:30.32)**

In the All-Division Junior Varsity race, Divine Child placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall with 374 points, out of 18<sup>th</sup> teams. Dublin Jerome (OH) won the Junior Varsity race convincingly with 17 points. They took six of the first seven places to capture the victory. Each of their runners were under 18 minutes and 19 seconds, which is great for a junior varsity squad.

Divine Child only had five runners competing in the Junior Varsity race. Led by junior Samuel Corak who placed 79<sup>th</sup> with a time of 20:47.80. Followed by

freshman Zachary Barszczowski (99<sup>th</sup>) – 21:44.20; sophomore Connor Chittaro (102<sup>nd</sup>); sophomore Nicholas Sargent (116<sup>th</sup>) – 22:40.80; and junior Conor VanBulher (125<sup>th</sup>) – 23:17.20.



**Samuel Corak (#4793) in the Junior Varsity Race leading DC**

Divine Child will be hosting the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Nicholas Soter – Erica Crane Invitational** on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> on Belle Isle State Park in Detroit, MI at 4:00PM. Followed by the **Otsego Bulldog Invitational** on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Otsego High School Cross Country Course in Otsego, MI at 10:00AM.