FRESHMEN SURPRISES HELP POWER CROCKETT XC TO IMPRESSIVE JAMBOREE SHOWING



Above: Crockett's girls cross-country team, fresh off a fourth-place finish in the West TN Jamboree Saturday (from left to right): Kamilla Combita (sidelined with an ankle injury currently), Anahy De La Rosa, Catherine Scruggs, Cesia Sanchez, Bradlee Dodd, Addie Davidson, Avery Thornton, Alivia Hale, Olivia Barger, Caroline Scruggs, Hannah Wede, Ruth Gourley, Marley Thornton, and Isabella Aguirre. (Photo courtesy of Julie Nass)

Coach Julie Nass is happy to have several returning runners with State Championships Meet experience for this season's cross-country squad.

But it was the performance of a few freshmen that really caused her eyes to light up at Saturday morning's West Tennessee Jamboree race at Jackson's Agricultural Center.

"Our returning leaders did what we expect of them," said Nass after both her teams had completed the 2.2-mile course with the girls placing fourth overall and the boys eighth against a strong field that featured many of the area's largest high schools. "But the real story was my new freshmen!"

One of the "newbies" was Crockett's top finisher in the boys race. Jose Aguirre covered the distance in 12:01.7 to place 21st overall in a stampede of 183 runners and was one of three Cavaliers in the top third of the group. Uriel Diaz finished 41st in 12:43.9 and Hutsen Stephens took 52nd with a time of 13:00.7 as Crockett defeated schools such as South Gibson County, Collierville, Madison Academic, Trinity Christian, and Millington Central.

"Jose didn't look like a freshman at all," Nass said. "He was running with the top guys from the opening gun. And Gabe Williams (89th in 13:56.0) and Nathan Bailey (98th in 14:09.1) claimed the #4 and #5 spots to make a statement. The future is bright."

Even brighter team-wise were Crockett's girls, who rode strong races from returnees Alivia Hale, Avery and Marley Thornton, and Ruth Gourley to their fourth-place showing, trailing only three large Memphis-based schools. And claiming the Lady Cavs' fifth spot was freshman Olivia Barger, who was right on Gourley's heels at the finish line.

Hale – still just a junior – was 15th overall in 14:31.4 to be a medalist. Senior Avery Thornton took 25th in 15:19.9 as her sophomore sister Marley was 32nd in 15:36.5. Sophomore Gourley (35th, 15:45.2) and Barger (36th, 15:47.4) were right behind the Thorntons as Crockett constructed a nice grouping in its opening run.

Not far behind that quintet was Caroline Scruggs in 50th overall (16:32.1), and it wasn't much longer that sophomore Hannah Wede (76th) and freshman Bradlee Dodd (79th) pulled in.

"I was really proud of how everyone raced today," Nass said. "They were practically swimming because it was so humid, with no breeze in sight. I fully expect the girls to make a run for State again this year but these freshmen boys might get the whole boys team to State too. That would end a dry spell for us on the male side."

Crockett's middle school teams were also in action at the Jamboree. Top performers for the boys were Harrison Duvall (45th), Reed Eison (46th), and sixth-grader Holden Eison (61st), while Colbie Clement placed 79th to spark an incomplete girls team.

High School Girls Team Scores: (1) White Station 42; (2) Collierville 60; (3) University HS 96; (4) Crockett County 113; (5) Arlington 136; (6) Hutchison School 162; (7) Trinity Christian Academy 165; (8) Memphis-Area Home Education Association 166; (9) Crosstown HS 248; (10) Madison Academic 283. Other Schools With Multiple Runners: Chester County, Fayette Christian, South Gibson County, West TN Home Education Association, Dresden, McEwen, Millington Central, Westview.



Above: Crockett's boys cross-country team, which placed eighth at the Jamboree (from left to right): Mase Utley, Jose Aguirre, Nathan Bailey, Gabe Williams, Uriel Diaz, Hutsen Stephens, Jose Diaz, Mason Claybrooks, and Javier Aguiree. (Photo courtesy of Julie Nass)

Girls High School Top 20 (Race: 2.2 miles): (1) Hudson McDaniel, Dresden 12:15.9; (2) Alaina Uselton, Westview 12:43.8; (3) Lola Coupe, White Station 13:08.0; (4) Susannah Flack, University HS 13:15.9; (5) Allison Hackett, White Station 13:31.2; (6) Emmi Roberts, White Station 13:32.7; (7) Bailey Warbington, Dresden 13:33.4; (Emery Fondren, Arlington 13:34.2; (9) Caroline Fisher, Hutchison 13:38.9; (10) Elizabeth Stewart, MHEA 13:41.6; (11) Audrey Maier, Collierville; (12) Rachel Mullaly, Collierville; (13) Emily Lotz, Collierville; (14) Eden Sykes, White Station; (15) Alivia Hale, Crockett 14:31.4; (16) Mary Edwards Smith, Arlington; (17) Neela Wilson, TCA; (18) Ruthie Watson, University HS; (19) Amber Gipson, Tipton-Rosemark; (20) Mary Hannah Fielek, Collierville. Other Crockett County Finishers: (25) Avery Thornton 15:19.9; (32) Marley Thornton 15:36.5; (35) Ruth Gourley 15:45.2; (36) Olivia Barger 15:47.4; (50) Caroline Scruggs 16:32.1; (76) Hannah Wede 18:13.0; (79) Bradlee Dodd 18:24.5; (83) Anahy De La Rosa 18:48.8; (89) Addie Davidson 19:18.3; (103) Catherine Scruggs 20:13.2; (106) Cesia Sanchez 20:23.0; (110) Isabella Aguirre 21:03.4. Total Runners: 134.

Boys High School Team Scores: (1) Dresden 42; (2) Arlington 74; (3) White Station 82; (4) University HS 119; (5) MHEA 175; (6) WTHEA 177; (7) Chester County 229; (8) Crockett County 265; (9) South Gibson County 282; (10) Collierville 284; (11) Madison Academic 293; (12) Tipton-Rosemark Academy 331; (13) Crosstown HS 339; (14) Martin Middle School 351; (15) Trinity Christian Academy 384; (16) Augustine School 389; (17) Hollow Rock-Bruceton 421; (18) Fayette Christian School 448; (19) Millington Central 523; (20) Scotts Hill 572.

Boys High School Top 20 (Race: 2.2 miles): (1) Declan Murphy, University HS 10:28.1; (2) Sam Catlin, White Station 10:45.0; (3) Carson Rendon, Dresden 10:50.0; (4) Vaughn Bounds, Dresden 10:53.9; (5) Zachary Crane, Tipton-Rosemark 11:01.8; (6) Will Glenn, Arlington 11:09.5; (7) Bradley Skelton, Arlington 11:15.2; (8) Jay Stewart, MHEA11:37.2; (9) Henry Burlison, White Station 11:43.0; (10) Miles Cary, Dresden 11:47.4; (11) Domanic Ledezma, Dresden; (12) Archer Walkley, Crosstown HS; (13) Martin Benton, Arlington; (14) Connor Evans, Dresden; (15) James Digmon, White Station; (16) Jackson Woodrough, Martin Middle; (17) Clay Pruett, South Gibson; (18) JP Patrick, University HS; (19) James Green, McEwen; (20) August Akers, University HS. Crockett County Finishers: (21) Jose Aguirre 12:01.7; (41) Uriel Diaz 12:43.9; (52) Hutsen Stephens 13:00.7; (89) Gabe Williams 13:56.0; (98) Nathan Bailey 14:09.1; (104) Jose Diaz 14:19.4; (119) Mase Utley 14:58.2; (133) Javier Aguirre 16:09.5; (175) Mason Claybrooks 19:42.3. Total Runners: 183.

Middle School Girls Top Teams: (1) Dresden 68; (2) Obion County 69; (3) McEwen 100; (4) Coillierville 135; (5) West Collierville 136.

Middle School Girls Top Individuals (Race: 1.5 miles): (1) Ali Webster, McEwen 8:42.4; (2) Bella Ross, Obion 8:46.3; (3) Eleanor Hight, Collierville 8:46.6; (4) Margaret Chiles, University MS 8:46.7; (5) Taelyn Trevathan, Dresden 8:52.1. Crockett County Finishers: (79) Colbie Clement 12:04.8; (110) Maria Stewart 13:47.4; (139) Lily Farmer 19:02.1. Total Runners: 140.

Middle School Boys Top Teams: (1) St. Louis Catholic 50; (2) MHEA 63; (3) West Collierville 71; (4) Maxine Smith STEAM Academy 97; (5) Obion County 182; (11) Crockett County 315. Schools With Multiple Runners: 21.

Middle School Boys Top Individuals (Race: 1.5 miles): (1) Benjamin Pettit, Dresden 7:03.5; (2) Noah Bryant, W Coll 7:41.2; (3) Mason Patrick, W Coll 7:42.9; (4) Luke Sharpley, STL Catholic 7:52.8; (5) Liam Cook, MHEA 7:52.9. Crockett County Finishers: (45) Harrison Duvall 9:15.2; (46) Reed Eison 9:15.4; (61) Holden Eison 9:34.8; (121) Benjamin Aguirre 10:52.9; (171) Easton Kinney 12:05.5; (174) Dylan Ponce 12:22.3; (204) Hayden Forsyth 15:15.6; (206) Kayden Valle 15:19.0. Total Runners: 207.