

September 26, 2010

High School Extra: Orlowski wins close race at EA

The races don't get much closer than the one Nick Orlowski won at Saturday's East Aurora Cross Country Invitational. The Alden senior ran a 15:21.05 over 3.0 miles to edge Springville's Chad Malloy, who went 15:21.29.

"I was coming up the hill and I knew he was right behind me, I saw him, and then I was like, give it that little extra push," said Orlowski. "At first I thought he beat me, but then the official was like 'Alden.'"

Malloy had reason to believe he won the small school race. "I guess he got me at the end. That's what the officials ruled," he said. "I thought I beat him. My friend's got a picture of it. And I was over the line, but they can't overrule it because it's electronic. It was a good race. It's still early."

That official was Western New York Cross Country veteran Kevin Horn, who made the call at the finish line at the event that was using fully automatic timing. "The lean I gave to Alden because of the torso," he said. "You want to finish with your shoulders. The other guy did have his foot over the line, but it doesn't count."

There was more excitement in the large school girls race as Shaylyn Tuite of Pittsford-Mendon shattered the course record, finishing in 16:38.55. The previous record of 17:06.6 had been held by Catherine Lusardi since the 2007 ECICs.

"This is kind of the first race my coach let me go all out in this season," said Tuite. "I just wanted to see what I had in the tank. I knew this was a fast course, and I knew this would be good preparation for McQuaid next week."

Tuite had the entire East Aurora team on her heels as Marta McLaughlin and Megan Hulton finished 2-3 and Sarah Anstett and Sarah Mars were 5-6.

Another runner from Pittsford-Mendon took home a first place as Drew Zeccola won the large boys school race in 15:35.41. Kevin O'Connor of EA was runner-up in 15:40.01.

East Aurora's girls split its squad and still was able to win team titles in the large and small school races.



Roy-Hart's Pfeil, Immaculata's Leo set pace

Eddy Pfeil took on all the runners from the big schools and won. The Roy-Hart sophomore recorded the fastest time of the day at the Western New York Track and Field/Cross Country Invitational at Beaver Island State Park. Pfeil's 16:36.7 over the 3.1-mile course won the Division III race as well as the fastest time designation.

The Rams also won the Division III team title with a collective 92.47.6 to edge runner-up Nichols at 93.20.0.

Grand Island won the Division I race on its home course, led by the second-place finish by Nick Masiello. Arturo Salas of Hutch-Tech was the winner in 16:47.5.

The Division II title went to Pioneer, but it was Ryan Koch of Depew who won the race clocking a 17:05.4. The Panthers' top finisher was runner-up Nate Smith.

Lockport (Division I), Newfane (Division II) and Immaculata (Division III) took titles in the girls races. Gabby Leo of Immaculata had the fastest time of the meet for girls with a 19:42.3. Megan Karpie of Grand Island won the Division I race in 20:59.2 while

Abbie Benson of Iroquois was the Division II winner in 19:58.7.

