



Local runners have success at Eden Invite

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EDEN - It was a record breaking day at the Eden Raiders Invitational on Friday as both the boys and the girls cross country course records were broken by over one minute.

The Fredonia Hillbillie boys' team won the meet with 55 points, followed by St. Francis 70, Orchard Park 71, East Aurora 80, Lake Shore 30, Hamburg 157, Silver Creek in seventh with 202, Dunkirk in eighth with 234, Eden 237, and JFK 265.

Lake Shore's P.J. Hornberger set the new 3.1-mile course record by crossing the finish line in 15:59, breaking the old record of 16:50, while Dunkirk's Alex Gonzalez was close behind him, taking second with a time of 16:03.

"They were very close and they both broke the course record," Dunkirk coach Kurt Warmbrodt said.

Fredonia finished sixth, seventh and eighth as Josh Szukala finished in 16:58, Alex Crise crossed at 17:01 and Chaz Mancino recorded a 17:09. Also running for the Hillbillies were Matt Meredith (11th, 17:24), Vince Ippolito (23rd, 17:52), Mark Dudek (28th, 17:58) and Jake Brown (36th, 18:27).

"We thought the guys ran a very nice race," Fredonia coach Carol Zirkle said, noting that most of them improved their times from this course last year by over one minute and that the time gap from her first runner to her fifth runner was less than one minute. "It was a very, very fast race from all of them. Their times were very quick today."

Other runners for the Marauders were Jeremy Kozlowski (70th, 19:38), Ray Tarnowski (77th, 19:52), Jon Fountain (79th, 19:54), Ken Dill (95th, 21:10), Duke Medema (127th, 26:07), Tyler Haynes (128th, 27:54) and Billy Bradley (129th, 27:55).

For Silver Creek, Jarrid Ringer ran a personal best, breaking 18 minutes with a 17:51, good for 20th place. He was followed by Shane Carline (37th, 18:30), Jake Capitano (49th, 18:51), Adam Tanner (55th, 19:06), Tyler Steklasa (66th, 19:25) and Josh Pfluger (91st, 20:46).

In the girls' meet, Orchard Park edged Fredonia for first place as the Opie's scored 39 points to the Hillbillies 61. They were followed by East Aurora 67, Hamburg 72, Lake Shore 148 and Silver Creek in sixth with 148 due to losing the tie-breaker based on the sixth runner.

Kaylea Rustay of JFK finished first and now holds the new course record of 18:46, smashing the old record of 20:50, and Fredonia's Lauren Reyda came in a close second in 19:01.

"She ran a phenomenal time," Zirkle said. "So far, her fastest ever."

Also finishing in the top 10 for the Lady Hillbillies were Jessica Swoyer in ninth with a time of 20:18 and Michaela Tramuta in 10th with a 20:23. Also running for Fredonia were Brittany Campaign (19th, 21:14), Jill Kowalski (27th, 21:50), Maitland Langworthy (28th, 21:52) and Alyssa Goot (30th, 22:00). Additionally, the top six Fredonia runners all posted personal best times.

Hannah Seiders from Silver Creek made the top 10, finishing seventh in a time of 20:12. Other runners for the Black Knights were Trisha Pfluger (35th, 22:21), Sarah Adams (47th, 23:50), Lauren Johengen (52nd, 23:59), Beth Kehrer (55th, 24:17) and Carol Pelz (64th, 27:53).

For the Lady Marauders, their lone competitor was Nicole Bannister.



The East Aurora girls' team, which is nationally ranked, and boys' team, which is ranked high in New York State, did not have their full teams running at Eden, with 12 girls and seven boys running at a different invitational located at the state meet course.

Silver Creek runs at home Monday and then Dunkirk, Fredonia and Silver Creek will compete at Counties at Long Point State Park on Friday.