

East Aurora Advertiser

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Cross Country is Outstanding at Invitational

The East Aurora varsity and JV boys and girls cross country teams remained undefeated in ECIC competition by running past visiting Pioneer on Tues., Oct. 5. The squads also traveled to the Southern Tier Invitational on Sat., Oct. 9, turning in many outstanding performances.

The varsity boys team captured first with 33 points to runner-up Alden, which scored 93 in the 11-team race. Sean Phillips led EA with a third-place finish, followed by Larkin Bohanan sixth, Kevin O'Connor seventh, Gene Baritot eighth, Dan Egan ninth, Elliot Martynkiewicz 10th and Nick Zee 21st.

The boys JV team also raced to victory, scoring 22 to runner-up McDowell from Erie, Pa., which scored 55 in the 10-team field. Leading the EA charge were: Brendan Keany second, Luke Wolfling third, Skylor Sorrentino fourth, Tim Hollman sixth, Corey Hensen seventh, Lewis Hoffman ninth, Keith Horbachewski 13th, David Egan 19th and Aubrey McLaughlin 22nd.

The girls team turned in solid performances, placing first in the JV race and second in the girls varsity large school race even without eight of the team's top-nine runners. In the varsity race, Maple Grove (the number-one-seeded D school in the state) moved up to race what it thought was a depleted EA squad, but instead Maple Grove found another EA pack and plenty of competition. When the score was tallied, Maple Grove edged EA by a close five-point margin to take the win. The EA team was led by: Paige Anderson ninth, Megan Baritot 11th, Quinn Roesch 12th, Cleo Gallagher 13th, Mackenzie Donahue 18th, Madeline Murray 22nd and Gwen Federick 25th.

The girls JV team raced to victory led by the performances of Sidney Spaschak first, Emily Szopinski fourth, Lauren O'Connor fifth, Allyssa McLaughlin ninth, Alisha West 10th, Colleen Powers 14th, and Emily Nason 16th.

"Our athletes are really starting to race well. Our training is going great and we are figuring out how to race as a team and that makes all of us better," said Coach Walt McLaughlin. "I was very pleased at how we raced this past Saturday even without many of our top runners, who were taking the SATs or doing some specialized training. It's a great opportunity for our next group of athletes and they showed that they can race with the best small schools in the state. Our boys team is really coming together and it will be exciting to see how much better we can become in the next few weeks as we approach our championship contests."

East Aurora will travel to Alden on Saturday for that school's invitational.