

## East Aurora Advertiser

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### Girls Earn a Perfect Score in Section VI Championship, Boys Place First with Strong Lead

The East Aurora girls cross country team ran the perfect race last Friday at the Section VI cross country championships held at a wet and muddy Elma Meadows Golf Course. The girls team raced to a perfect low score of 15 points and placed all seven runners in the top 10 to clinch its 10th consecutive Section VI title. This was the first time a Section VI team scored the lowest possible score of 15 at a sectional championship.

The East Aurora girls, currently ranked number one in New York State Class B, also won the overall merge, finishing more than 100 points ahead of the second-place team from Maple Grove. The EA squad was led by the fastest two runners of the day among all five races, freshman Marta McLaughlin and senior Captain Megan Hulton. The rest of the EA team finished close behind, with Sarah Anstett third, Amanda Westfall fifth, Paige Anderson sixth, Megan Barlot eighth and Emma Holbrook 10th. East Aurora's normal number-four runner, Sarah Mars, sat out due to a lower body injury. She is expected to recover and race with the team at states.

The East Aurora boys team continued to dominate the competition, scoring just 29 points, well ahead of runner-up Alden, which scored 91 in the 16-team field. This was the eighth section championship earned by East Aurora in the last 10 years. In the overall merge results, the tough EA squad finished more than 50 points in front of the second-place team from Williamsville North, which won the AA race.

Leading the EA charge through the mud was senior Captain Kevin O'Connor, who turned in his strongest performance of the season so far to place second in his race and also earn the second-fastest time of the day among all five class races. He was followed closely by his teammates Alex Weberg fifth, Sean Phillips seventh, Gene Barlot ninth, Elliott Martynkiewicz 11th, Larkin Bohanan 13th and Dan Egan 20th. East Aurora's time gap of just 39 seconds was very impressive for its top five runners.

The winning team in each of the five class races plus the first five individuals not on those winning teams qualify for the New York State championship meet to be held at Lakeside Park in Pawling, about 30 miles east of Poughkeepsie.

"Our kids ran very smart races on this tough course and moved up well throughout the race. It will be really exciting to see how much more we can improve next week at States," Coach Walt McLaughlin said. "I don't think we expected to dominate sectionals to the extent that we did, but when you add mud and cold rain to one of the toughest courses around, the cream tends to come to the top. You can't fake it at that point. Either you have what it takes or you don't. We will know in a week how good we really are among the best in New York State. For us, that's what it is really all about."