

October 3, 2010

Maple Grove Girls Shine at McQuaid Invitational

ROCHESTER - The Maple Grove Lady Red Dragons, ranked No. in the state in Class D, made quite a statement at the McQuaid Invitational cross country meet on Saturday.

Competing in the seeded race, they finished first as a team with 52 points, ahead of Holland Patent with 117 and Mercyhurst Prep with 125.

Megan Marsh was the team's top finisher with a fifth-place finish (18:34) and Caroline Benson came in seventh (18:43).

"It's the first time anyone from Chautauqua County has ever won the girls varsity seeded race," Maple Grove coach Robert Rappole said. "The only other school from our county in that race (this year) was Fredonia."

The seeded race is a compilation of the best schools competing in the event.

A total of 236 schools attended the invitational this year and among the 7,000 competitors, Sherman's Holly Eliason was one of the best.

Eliason finished in first place in the unseeded A-3 race with a time of 18:18.

In the girls unseeded A-2 race, three seconds was the difference between first and third place.

Kirsten Holmberg of Falconer ended up winning with a time of 18:33, one second ahead of Gabrielle Leo of Immaculata Academy and three seconds ahead of Lady Golden Falcon teammate Shannon Murphy.

"Kirsten, Gabrielle Leo and Shannon were all neck and neck with like 400 meters to go," Falconer coach Dave Nelson said. "It was an exciting race."

Falconer finished third in the team standings with 168 points, just behind winner Wayland Cohocton (91 points) and Williamson Central (128). Southwestern finished 23rd with a score of 580.

Katie Saff also had a strong race for Falconer, coming in 16th place with a time of 19:58.

Led by Eliason's first-place finish, Sherman's girls team finished ninth in the A-3 race. Frewsburg game in 12th, using a 24th place finish from Chelsea Smith (20:35).

Jamestown's girls team placed seventh in the mixed unseeded race, led by Olivia Zabrodsky's seventh place finish. Haley Kulakoski finished strong, posting a 13th place finish.

In the boys race, Maple Grove finished third in the team standings in the unseeded A-3 race. The Red Dragons were led by Corey Wefing, who finished in fourth place with a time of 16:12 and Nick Zuroski who placed 13th with a time of 17:08.

Frewsburg came in 13th place as a team in the same race with Nick Holsinger placing 24th (17:34). Sherman came in 19th and Ripley placed 24th. Ryan Carpenter was Sherman's top finisher, running the distance in 18:06 for a finish in 50th place.

In the boys A-2 unseeded race, Falconer finished in 10th place with 296 points. James Cardot was the top racer for the Golden Falcons, coming in 10th place with a time of 16:57 and Mike Saff placed 32nd (17:49).

The Post-Journal

Southwestern came in 15th place as a team in the A-2 race, scoring 364 points. Paul Armstrong finished 18th for the Trojans with a time of 17:29. Pete Mueller came in 37th (17:54).

In the boys unseeded race, Jamestown finished 14th as a team. Brandon Delgado was the team's top finisher, coming in 21st position.