



Fredonia has strong showing at Breezewood

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By Scott Kindberg - Special to the OBSERVER

FALCONER - The Fredonia Hillbillies enjoy making the trip to the 3-mile cross country layout at Breezewood Golf Course.

The reason?

It's simple, really.

"We love to come to this course," Fredonia co-coach Mark Fitzgerald said, "because it's a lot like Elma Meadows (the site of the Section 6 championships). This is the closest we've come to a course like that. I love to have our kids run this course and get the experience of long, gradual hills. To look at it, it doesn't look hilly, but it's a tough course. That's why I like my kids to run here."

Josh Szukala and Lauren Reyda won't argue with their coach.

Szukala toured the course in 17 minutes, 21 seconds, while Reyda recorded a 19:13, leading Fredonia to a sweep in a Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association meet with Falconer and Olean. The Fredonia girls finished with 28 points, Falconer had 35 and Olean 72. In the boys race, the Hillbillies had 21 points, Olean 49 and Falconer 56.

"We have high expectations for Lauren and Josh and they certainly have it for themselves, but we don't focus much on that, because they're just a part of our team," Fitzgerald said. "They're doing their best and they realize it helps the team the better they do. And then we have a bunch of other runners who keep pushing them. That just makes a good team. It seems to be working so far."

The girls took to the course first and Reyda, coming off a third-place finish in the Varsity A seeded race at the McQuaid Invitational last Saturday, shrugged off a little lingering soreness and surged into the lead after the three-quarter mile mark.

"I was thinking to let the Falconer girls set the pace at the beginning and see how I felt," Reyda said. "A half-mile into the race, I just felt great."

Reyda crossed the finish line a minute ahead of Falconer's Shannon Murphy (20:14). Kirsten Holmberg of Falconer (20:36) was third and Fredonia's Michaela Tramuta (20:52) was fourth.

Murphy, who finished first in the A-2 unseeded race at McQuaid said she was "looking forward to other big invitationals, looking forward to counties, sectionals and all the training in between."



Rounding out the top 10 were Katie Saff, Falconer, 21:27; Meredith Zebracki, Fredonia, 21:59; Kelsey Brown, Olean, 22:10; Brittany Campaign, Fredonia, 22:35; Maitland Langworthy, Fredonia, 22:36; and Jill Kowalski, Fredonia, 10th, 22:58.

Falconer coach Dave Nelson has grown accustomed to the Hillbillies' excellence.

"Fredonia beat us to go to the state meet at the sectionals the last four years," he said. "They've been first and we've been second in the girls. They are kind of the standard. If you can run with them, you know you belong."

In the boys race, Szukala finished 20 seconds ahead of John Panus of Olean (17:41). The rest of the top 10 were Alex Crise, Fredonia, 18:03; Chaz Mancino, Fredonia, 18:07; Jake Brown, Fredonia, 18:35; Jesse Middleton, Falconer, 18:55; Mike Saff, Falconer, 19:23; Alex Glasier, Fredonia, 19:35; Jake Cihall, Olean, 19:39; and Bobby Deuling, Olean, 19:54.

Szukala, who finished 13th in the Varsity A seeded race at McQuaid, said he doesn't "like planning my races" and jumped out to the lead right away.

"Sometimes I tell myself that I'm not going to do that," he said, "but once the gun goes off it all changes."

As for his goals for the rest of the season, Szukala said he's going to take it race by race.

"I'm going to give it all I've got and whatever happens happens," he said. "As long as I give it 100 percent, I'm happy."

Seiders takes first

in?Silver Creek win

LAKEWOOD - Hannah Seiders crossed the finish line in a meet-best 21:37 as the Silver Creek girls' cross country team ran to a first-place finish in Southwestern.

The Black Knights finished with 29 points, one less than the second-place Lady Trojans (30). Franklinville finished with 61 points while Ripley was incomplete.

Also for Silver Creek, Sarah Adams finished third in a time of 24:11 while Trisha Pfleuger was sixth in a time of 25:32. Beth Kehrler (26:47) and Heather Serio (26:50) finished in ninth and 10th, respectively.

Southwestern took the top three spots to win the boys' meet.

Jordan Power took first in a time of 19:37 and was followed by Trojan teammates Paul Armstrong (19:37) and Collin Hanson (20:00).

Southwestern finished with 17 points and was followed by Franklinville, which had 46 points. Silver Creek and Ripley finished the race with incomplete scores.



The Black Knights were led by Jack McAlevey's 14th-place finish, as he crossed the finish line in 23:22 while teammate Justin Gloss was 23rd in a time of 26:55.

Marauders finish

last at Maple Grove

BEMUS POINT - The Dunkirk Marauders' boys (1-8) took fourth place Tuesday while the girls (1-7) finished incomplete at Maple Grove High School.

Ray Tarnowski was the Marauders' top runner with a 14th-place finish at 21:27 on the 3.1-mile course. Jon Fountain was right behind him with a time of 22:18. Nick Stolinski took 25th place with a time of 26:53. William Bradley took 26th place with a time of 27:42.

Maple Grove's Corey Wefing won the race with a time of 17:13.

Maple Grove took first place with 17 points followed by Sherman 56, Allegany-Limestone 72 and Dunkirk at 101.

For the Dunkirk girls, Nicole Bannister placed 21st. Maple Grove's Hope Pietrocarlo took first place with a time of 20:33.

Maple Grove took first with 19 points followed by Sherman 55, Allegany-Limestone 55 and Dunkirk was incomplete.

Nielson places first for Gowanda

COLLINS - Taylor Nielson took first place Tuesday in a time of 15:36 to help the Gowanda Panthers to a first-place finish in boys' high school cross country action.

The Panthers finished with a meet-best 35 points and were followed by Jamestown (40), Frewsburg (64) and Randolph (132).

Also finishing for Gowanda were Jonas Aldana (fifth, 16:45), Johnny Shaw (seventh, 16:50), Cole Smith (eighth, 16:57), Lucas Myzel (14th, 17:38) and Jake Pound (23rd, 18:22).

Randolph's Hunter Lienhart finished second in a time of 15:45 while Jamestown's Christian Edbory took third in a time of 16:24.

In the girls' meet, Gowanda's Katie Stang (19:15) finished second behind Jamestown's Olivia Sabradski (18:33). Frewsburg's Chelsea Smith took third in a time of 19:26.

The Lady Panthers finished second behind Jamestown (29) with 40 points while Frewsburg was third with 62.



Also finishing for Gowanda were Colleen Steward (fifth, 19:34), Sarah Grubbs (eighth, 20:35), Lauren Wing (15th, 22:04), Taylor Kickbush (18th, 22:33) and Alex Fox (20th, 22:48).

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