

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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O'Connor runs away with X-country race

Ryan O'Connor can add Sunday's 25th Annual Checkers/Runners Roost All Western New York Invitational to his list of cross country wins this season. The **East Aurora** senior covered the 3.0 mile course at East Aurora High School in 17:19, winning the race by 19 seconds among a field of 47 runners.

O'Connor had just returned from the Federation meet on Saturday where he finished 12th.

"It's not hard to do two races in a row, when you get to three, it gets tough," said O'Connor. "I just like running races. Some kids enter and don't take it very seriously. Why race if you're not going to race? I didn't race to the death today, but I did what I had to do to win."

This season O'Connor placed third at the state meet in Class B, won his third straight Section VI title, the ECIC Championships and invitationals at Byron-Bergen, McQuaid, Southern Tier and Alexander.

The top seven finishers are considered All Western New York first teamers, Joining O'Connor on the first team were: Aaron Foote (**Niagara-Wheatfield**), Jason Zjac (**Royalton-Hartland**), Zack Ball (**Kenmore East**), Will Barclay (**Starpoint**), Ryan Wentz (**Starpoint**) and Jacob Hagen (**Sweet Home**).

Placing 8-14 and considered second team All Western New York were: David Lee Klimchuck (**Akron**), Dan Heberle (**Niagara Wheatfield**), Geriant Davies (**Clarence**), Jeff Rozier (**Maple Grove**), Lyle O'Brien (**East Aurora**), Casey Perdziak (**Clarence**), and Peter Grupp (**Clarence**).

Skrabacz tops runners at All-WNY race

Leanne Skrabacz of **West Seneca East** won the 25th Checkers/Runners Roost All Western New York Invitational on Sunday by a 10 second margin. She covered the 3.0 mile course at East Aurora in 21:17, beating 36 other runners.

The top seven finishers are considered All Western New York first teamers. Joining Skrabacz on the first team were: Lauren Scarupa (**Starpoint**), Kelsey McGill (**Lewiston-Porter**), Jamie Wallace (**Alden**), Alissa Conti (**Fredonia**), Samantha Kopp (**Franklinville**) and Amanda Solly (**West Seneca East**).

Second team All Western New Yorkers were: Katie Saff (**Falconer**), Catherine Phillips (**East Aurora**), Erin Crawford (**East Aurora**), Kristen Weberg (**East Aurora**), Catherine Lusardi (**East Aurora**), Jenna Hulton (**East Aurora**) and Megan Niblock (**Sweet Home**).