

October 3, 2023

**Creek Cross Country Girls Earn First Win in History; Boys Third in Waterloo Pirate Invitational  
MS Boys Win; MS Girls Second  
Thirteen Individuals Medal**

Waterloo, WI – The Johnson Creek varsity girls cross country program earned its first-ever win Tuesday evening at the Waterloo Pirate Invitational.

Coach Ben Hail said elatedly, “The course at Firemen’s Park in Waterloo is a tough one and one we knew we wouldn’t see any personal records. The goal with this meet was for the athletes to just go out and race, and really race for position. The girls squad stepped up with Lauren (Nadboralski, freshman) being out sick and they took the team title. This is another first in program history. I know the girls’ team was really stoked to bring home a plaque for the trophy case. It was exciting to see the team bring home so many medals, and I think it is worth noting the talent we have coming up through the middle school ranks. It was just an exciting evening of racing from this team.”

Coach Brett Perucco added, “Our girls’ team really came to run. While down two varsity runners, the others really stepped up and performed their best. You could see the determination on their faces as they were tackling the hills, picking up positions in the process. I’m incredibly proud of how they performed. It’s exciting to finally put some hardware in the trophy case.”

Perucco continued, “The boys also ran exceptionally well for a tough course. Their training has really been paying off and we continue to see growth. It was great to see David (Arevalo, junior) stepping up to challenge Carson (Vaughn, also junior) for his varsity spot as they were neck and neck into the finish.”

Arevalo won the JV division.

Middle School boys also earned the overall win as a team, edging out neighboring Deerfield/Cambridge by just four points.

Sixth-grade work horse Bradley Hail won the middle school meet individually, with teammate eighth-grader Max Chowanec in second. The two were in lock step at the halfway point of the two-mile race, before Hail pulled away.

Coach Natasha Steenbergen reflected, “Bradley is continuing to prove that hard work pays off. He has been running on his own for years and came in with a nice aerobic base from summer running. That set him up to perform workouts at a high level, and he’s learning quickly how to race well. He is a true student of the sport, asking thoughtful questions, following as a fan, and actively seeking out how to improve. As he continues to lead by example, the entire team will rise.”

Middle School girls finished second place as a team.

Johnson Creek will be fielding four athletes in the Middle School State Championships on Saturday in Weyauwega – Hail, Chowanec, Constable, and Dach.

The full squad then travels to Princeton next Thursday, October 12, for the Trailways Conference championship meet.

Scoring varsity girls: Junior Rylee Hucke (second, 25:17), seniors Ava Sixel (sixth, 27:40), Maggie Markus (seventh, 28:05), Hailey Kvalheim (ninth, 28:47), and Xanthe Sanchez (21st, 37:35).

Scoring varsity boys: Senior Tyler Skogman (Fourth, 19:44), sophomore Evan Chowanec (11th, 21:29), Connor Gerstner (13th, 21:49), senior Ben Trudell (18th, 22:44), and freshman Collin Hucke (20th, 23:04).

Scoring MS boys: Sixth grader Bradley Hail (first, 13:23), eighth grader Max Chowanec (second, 13:35), eighth grader Ethan Broich (sixth, 14:22), and seventh graders Joey Steenbergen (16th, 15:38), and Reed Wilbanks (17th, 15:58).

Scoring MS girls: Eighth grader Lia Constable (second, 14:48) and Kiara Dach (sixth, 15:24), seventh grader Allison Malueg (tenth, 17:32), eighth grader Avril Gutierrez (11th, 17:34), and sixth grader Bella Achter (13th, 18:06).