

October 12, 2023

Creek Cross Country Boys Earn Third in Trailways Conference; Girls Sixth

Princeton, WI – The Johnson Creek varsity boys cross country team placed third and the girls sixth at the Trailways Conference meet hosted at Princeton High School Thursday, under the coaching of Benjamin Hail (third year at Johnson Creek) and Brett Perucco.

The season started with a goal for each sex to move up two places as a team over last year. The boys improved by five, the girls by one, but only eight points from having achieved that goal of two. Pack running in practice paid off, and everyone rose to the occasion to push themselves and work together.

The Bluejays brought home three individual all-Conference medals: Tyler Skogman first team, Rylee Hucke second team, and Lauren Nadboralski second team.

Hail explained, “I am just thrilled with the growth of this program in the three seasons I have been with the team. For the boys to finish third in Conference, moving up from eighth just one season ago, speaks volumes of the work they are putting into practice and how they are learning to race. Having multiple athletes on All-Conference teams is also huge for this program. The future of this team is bright as we have some outstanding talent coming up from the middle school next year. With sectionals next week, I am excited to see our top runners compete for a spot at the State meet. There are a few that have a real shot to go this year.”

Perucco said, “As I was reflecting on our season on the drive this morning, I was thinking about how much this program has grown. It wasn't long ago we didn't even have enough runners to score at Conference. Now our boys were able to place third, improving significantly over last season. Our girls' team also improved one spot to finish sixth in the Conference. It's quite exciting to not only see us grow in numbers, but also ability as we are becoming more competitive. I'm proud of all our runners for the effort they've put in this season to continue to grow the program.”

The sum of the varsity girls' times improved on the sum of their prior personal records by three minutes and eight seconds, and the varsity boys improved on the same measure by fifty-one seconds.

High Schoolers compete for opportunities to race at State by racing in Sectionals held at UW-Parkside Saturday, October 21. The Bluejays thank their nine seniors for their leadership and dedication.

Scoring varsity girls: Junior Rylee Hucke (ninth, 21 minutes and six seconds), Freshman Lauren Nadboralski (tenth, 21:13) and seniors Ava Sixel (40th, 25:43), Maggie Markus (41st, 25:48), and Hailey Kvalheim (42nd, 25:48).

Scoring varsity boys: Senior Tyler Skogman (seventh, 18:17), sophomore Evan Chowanec (25th, 19:46), senior Ben Trudell (29th, 20:12), freshman Collin Hucke (30th, 20:19), and senior Connor Gerstner (44th, 20:53).

Scoring MS boys: Eighth grader Max Chowanec (twelfth, 12:53), eighth grader Ethan Broich (fifteenth, 13:08), Sixth grader Bradley Hail (26th, 13:48), and seventh graders Reed Wilbanks (29th, 13:53), and Joey Steenbergen (33rd, 14:12).

Scoring MS girls: Eighth graders Lia Constable (second, 13:08) and Kiara Dach (eighth, 13:49), seventh grader Allison Malueg (26th, 15:15), eighth grader Avril Gutierrez (37th, 15:56), and sixth grader Bella Achter (40th, 16:06).