

August 31, 2024

Varsity Bluejays Compete in First Cross Country Meet of 2024

Watertown, WI – The Johnson Creek High School cross country team opened their season at the Glenn Harold Invitational at Watertown High School Saturday morning. “Watertown, being the first meet of the season makes it a bit of a temperature check for the reason of the season. It’s a big meet with a lot of big, talented programs. We had some impressive first races of the season today. On the girls’ side, senior Rylee Hucke showed up in shape and ready to compete and ran a solid race. This meet will set her up nicely for the rest of the season. Freshman Kiara Dach showed up and inserted herself as the team’s number two runner. The girls’ squad is a small but talented group, and we are excited to see what they can do this season. On the boys’ side, junior Francisco Gutierrez impressed us with a 50-second improvement of his lifetime best 5K time. It is clear he put in a lot of work over the summer and came into the season ready to compete. Junior Evan Chowanec also ran an impressive race, and these two boys will continue to set the pace for the boys’ team this season,” Coach Ben Hail recapped.

Coach Beth Hanna added concerning the girls’ race, “Rylee’s first race of the season shows she’s prepared for a stellar senior year in cross country. We can’t wait to see what her year brings.”

The girls placed ninth with 252 points, an improvement of two positions and 18 points over last year. The boys placed twelfth with 381 points, and improvement of one position and 12 points over last year.

Three of the four boys who ran this meet last year improved their times in similar conditions, Gutierrez’s time standing out at more than four minutes faster than his 2023 finish, and 8:17 faster than his freshman debut in 2022.

The Bluejays race again Thursday September 5 at CamRock park.

Scoring varsity girls: Senior Rylee Hucke (24:17.30), freshman Kiara Dach (24:25.55), sophomore Lauren Nadboralski (24:54.66), freshman Lia Constable (27:23.03), and freshman Avril Gutierrez (28:20.66).

Scoring varsity boys: Junior Francisco Gutierrez (20:24.00), junior Evan Chowanec (20:39.14), junior Collin Hucke (23:26.91), sophomore Duncan Thomas (23:42.31), and freshman Max Chowanec (23:46.92).