

Chieftain Runners Take to the Course in Darlington

The Riverdale cross country teams traveled to Darlington on Saturday to compete in the twenty-three team invitational. On a great morning for a meet, all Riverdale runners improved on their times from last week. The young team looked much more comfortable in their second meet of the year.

Leah Underwood ran well in her first 4000 meter race. She has been battling a tough cold recently, but fought through to finish 69th in the JV race with a time of 23:20. Leah has been steadily improving through the first few weeks, and will look to continue that trend next week when the girls will return to the 5000 meter race distance.

The Chieftains had four boys compete in the JV race. Levi Bird came across first for Riverdale, finishing in 73rd place with a time of 25:00. Alexander Schneider rebounded nicely from a tough first meet last week, taking over three minutes off his time to finish in 26:18. Dawson Mueller was close behind, coming across in 26:55. Trever Hudson was the final JV finisher for the boys. Running strong in his first meet and battling all the way to the finish line, Hudson edged out another runner to finish in 103rd place.

In the varsity race, Brian Mathews led the way for the Chieftains, finishing in 4th place in an impressive early season time of 17:07. Mathews was running in second until shortly after the two mile mark when Jaden Komprood of Darlington overtook him. Brian kept running strong, but was unable to fend off a second Darlington runner in the last 400 meters. He also earned the award for the fastest sophomore finisher after earning the fastest freshman award last year. Running in their first varsity race, Dakota Fiebranz and Shale Meyer ran well. Both have struggled a bit with consistency through the first few weeks, but it didn't show on Saturday. Dakota ran a strong, steady race and had a solid finish to come across in 88th place with a time of 23:01. Shale ran tough, shaking off some environmental challenges to finish strong in 98th place with a time of 24:59.