

Cross Country Heads to the Hills

The Riverdale cross country teams traveled to North Crawford on Tuesday afternoon to compete in the Goat Hill Classic. The runners took the challenge of “Goat Hill” head on, and they ran well as a result.

The middle school boys led off the meet with the first race. The boys ran tough, with sixth grader Chase Shauer finishing third overall. Teammate Kyle Hanke was close behind, coming in fifth place. Zane Blood was the final finisher, crossing the line in 14th place. Riverdale also had two middle school girls competing at the meet. Seventh grader Kenlee Mathews ran strong, coming across in tenth place overall in the girls race. Sixth grader Katie Nachtigal also ran well, finishing close behind in eleventh.

In the high school competition, Brian Mathews led the way for the Chieftains (along with everyone else). Brian set a fast early pace and fought through the tough course to come away with first place overall in the race. Dakota Fiebranz came next, finishing in 25th place. Shale Meyer ran strong, surging ahead in the second half of the race to finish 37th. Teammates Alexander Schneider and Levi Bird were close behind, finishing in 38th and 40th places respectively. Dawson Mueller and Trever Hudson rounded out the boys runners for Riverdale. Dawson finished 43rd in the race while Trever was 47th. In the girls’ varsity race, Leah Underwood ran a solid race. She had a strong finish, but couldn’t quite catch the girl in front of her for a top ten finish.

On Saturday, the Chieftains headed to Brookwood for more hills on a tough, muddy course. The varsity boys placed ninth out of the fourteen teams that were there. The girls’ varsity and both middle school teams did not have at least five runners each which kept them from earning a team score.

This time, it was the varsity boys that started things off. Brian Mathews once again got out fast, but not as fast as Dylan Smith from Brookwood. The Falcon runner led the field of 94 runners with Brian close behind for the first mile of the course. Shortly after the mile mark, Brian took over and began to dictate the pace. That pace proved to be too much for the rest of the field as Mathews pulled away to finish first overall. Dakota Fiebranz didn’t let the mud and hills bother him much. He moved up steadily throughout the race to finish in 49th place. Shale Meyer continued to show his affinity to hills, seemingly getting stronger and stronger as the race went on. Meyer powered up the last hill 300 meters from the end and finished strong to come in 69th place. Alexander Schneider was once again right on his heels, coming in just behind Shale to finish 71st. Levi Bird also ran tough, finishing 85th. Dawson Mueller was the Chieftains’ sixth runner, coming in 87th. Trever Hudson completed the varsity squad, battling through the hilly course to finish 91st. Leah Underwood also had another solid race in the girls’ race on Saturday. She struggled a bit in the second mile of the race, but closed well in the last mile to finish in 47th place out of 77 runners.

Both boys and girls ran together in the middle school race on Saturday. Chase Shauer again led the way for the Riverdale boys, and once again, Kyle Hanke was right behind. Kyle started out strong and was able to maintain a solid pace throughout the two mile race. Chase

started closer to the back, but moved up as the race went on. Shauer finished in 14:14, good for 29th place. Hanke wasn't quite able to hold off a couple of late challengers, but still finished strong in 32nd place. For the middle school girls, sixth grader Leah Hunt was the top finisher for Riverdale in her first meet of the year. Hunt started out strong, but unfortunately appeared to hurt her ankle as she was racing. Nonetheless, Leah still toughed it out to finish in 49th place. She had help from her teammates that were right behind her. Kenlee Mathews finished the challenging course in 51st place, while Katie Nachtigal was close behind in 52nd place.

The teams will travel to Richland Center next week on Thursday afternoon and then to Fennimore on Saturday for the Vince Lease Eagle Relays.

