

## **Cross Country Teams Open Season at Boscobel**

The Riverdale cross country teams kicked off their season on Saturday at the Boscobel Alumni Meet. No team scores were kept, but the Chieftains competed against teams from Boscobel, Lancaster, Boyceville, and Wisconsin Heights. The course was made even tougher than usual by the slick and muddy conditions which caused several runners to lose their footing at various points throughout the races.

Freshman Leah Underwood was the lone girl runner for Riverdale. She ran well, finishing in 32<sup>nd</sup> place with a time of 29:11 over the 5k (3.1 mile) course. The race distance for the girls was changed this year by the WIAA from 4k (2.5 miles) to 5k, although the race distance at each meet will be determined by the host school.

Sophomore Brian Mathews led a young group of runners for the Chieftains, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall with a time of 17:38. Mathews battled Dakota Kauffman from Boscobel for the first mile before falling off the pace, but came back with a solid third mile to close out the race. Kauffman has finished in the top five the past two years at the WIAA State Meet. Following Brian were three freshmen running in their first cross country meet ever. Dakota Fiebranz crossed the line in 39<sup>th</sup> place, and Shale Meyer was close behind in 41<sup>st</sup>. Dawson Mueller came across in 47<sup>th</sup>. Junior Alexander Schneider, one of only three returning runners for the Chieftains, was the final finisher for Riverdale, coming across the line in 50<sup>th</sup> place.

The teams will look to improve on their opening season marks when they travel to Darlington next Saturday.