Lady Bearcat team qualifies for state cross country

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THE ANDERSON NEWS



Submitted

LAWRENCEBURG – For only the second time in school history, the Anderson County girls' cross country team qualified for this Saturday's Kentucky Beef Council KHSAA state championship.

Coach Ryan Smith's team finished in third place on Saturday in the Class 3A Region 6 at Great Crossings High School. Last year, the team placed fifth in the regional meet.

By virtue of the finish, the entire team will have the opportunity to compete at the Kentucky Horse Park on Saturday.

Leading the way for the Lady Bearcats was eighth grader Addison Hagan. She had a time of 20:00.49 to place sixth in the field of 77 runners.

Teammate Lilly Watts, a ninth grader, was right on her heels with a time of 20:02.12, which was good for seventh place.

Eighth grader Lilly Cox was 16th with a time of 20:29.34 over the 5,000-meter course.

Taylor Northcutt, a junior, placed 32nd for the team with her time of 22:03.30.

In 40th place was senior Rachel Kendrick. She had a time of 22:22.46.

The fifth scoring member of the Lady Bearcats was eighth grader Allyssa Howard, who finished 66th with a time of 25:36.33.

Also running and advancing to state will be eighth grader Alexus Conway, who placed 72nd with a time of 26:09.69.

For the team event, Frederick Douglass won with a total of 37 points. Lafayette, another Lexington school, was second with 77 points.

Anderson County was third with a total point score of 100. The combined five times was 1:44:57.82, which was 4:42 behind the winning time but only two minutes behind second place.

In terms of rankings of times against all competitors in Class 3 A, which includes the major schools in Jefferson County, Hagan has the 38th best time of the 280 competitors.

Watts is just behind in 40th place with her regional time. Cox is 59th and Northcutt is 143rd. Kendrick checks in with the 157th best time and Howard is 255th.

Smith said it is still an extremely young team that should only improve over the next few years. Four of the top runners are still in middle school and another is a freshman.

BOYS COMPETE IN REGIONAL

The Anderson County boys' team placed 13th in the regional meet on Saturday.

The top finisher for the Bearcats was senior Oren Gettelfinger, who placed 64th with a time of 19:33.47. That was not good enough to qualify for an individual invitation to the state tournament.

He did finish with a personal best time in his final high school competition.

And Smith said the next five runners were within 45 seconds of each other at the regional meet.

Eli Newton, a freshman, was next for Anderson County, finishing in 75th place with a time of 20:59.52. Teammate Mason Hume, a seventh grader, was right behind with his time of 21:10.63, which was almost one minute better than his previous personal best.

Bryce Wilson, a junior, was 78th with his time of 21:20.26. He was followed by a pair of teammates as freshman Quartus Gettelfinger was 79th in a time of 21:20.78 and freshman Tristan Wilson was 80th in a time of 21:44.39.

Seventh grader Sams Gettelfinger was 86th with a time of 23:07.81.

The team had a combined time of 1:44:24.66 for the top five runners.

Like the girls, Smith said the boys have an extremely young roster. And he's looking for big improvements next year.

He will have a junior, three freshmen and two seventh graders expected to be on the roster.

DISTRICT

FROM **PAGE A2**

be addressed," said Mattingly. "I believe my background and expertise will lend themselves well to this need for change in the Sixth District and Anderson County as a whole."

Over the next four years, he would like the county to expand First Responder services to the Sixth District. And he would like to see the road system continue to be maintained.

The communication between Fiscal Court and his Sixth District constituents also needs to be improved.

As a magistrate, Mattingly said the key trait should be a willingness to listen to his or her constituents and convey those issues to the appropriate parties.

"This ability to communicate with neighbors and colleagues is paramount," said Mattingly.

Honesty and straightforwardness, follow-through, visibility and availability are important characteristics a public servant should have. The knowledge of construction is another positive trait.

He sees no problems in working together with the county judge and returning magistrates in a professional manner as Anderson County residents expect no less.

Over the next four years, he believes the issue of data centers will be one that must be addressed. With a lot of rural property and with Anderson County being close to three major cities, Mattingly said there must be guidelines aimed at preserving the natural landscape of the county.

He said the continual concerns over maintaining roads and continuing to support First Responders will also be issues for the court.

Mattingly said he has visited each of the residences in his district and listened to the concerns of each.

"I have not made promises, except to be available and follow through on their concerns," said Mattingly. "I have answered questions honestly and directly, even if my opinions varied from the listener."

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