

September 12, 2024

### **Creek Cross Country Girls Runners Up at Poynette, Boys Seventh**

Poynette, WI - The Johnson Creek High School Varsity Girls' Cross Country team earned second place in the small school division at their meet in Poynette Thursday afternoon with a score of 61 points. The team's top scorer, earning a medal for fifth as an individual, sophomore Lauren Nadboralski stated, "I'm very proud of our girls' team for getting second place and racing hard. We are a small team, but we can compete with anyone. Can't wait for next week!" The team has just five runners, so everyone's result is used for the team score.

The boys earned seventh place with 164 points, led by junior Evan Chowanec, who commented, "It was a tough course out there. I'm proud of our team for sticking pretty close together despite the conditions. Congratulations to the girls' team as well, I look forward to more wins in the future." Three of the six runners competed in this race last year, and they all ran faster times this year, despite it being 85 degrees at the start.

Freshman Lia Constable, second scoring runner for the team and earning a medal for sixth as an individual, finished second for the girls overall last year in the middle school race, and spoke to how different the final leg of the high school five-kilometer course was from what she raced there previously. "Besides the longer distance, the course added different types of terrain. This included sand and wood chips, both which added a few levels of difficulties. Outside of the differences, this was a fun race and glad our girls' team took second place at the meet."

Fourth-year coach of the Creek program Benjamin Hail beamed, "We've got a special group of kids this season. Two meets in a row and the girls' team takes a podium as a team."

The Bluejays race again Thursday September 19 at home in Johnson Creek on the school campus.

Scoring varsity girls: Sophomore Lauren Nadboralski (5<sup>th</sup>, 23:16.95), Freshman Lia Constable (6<sup>th</sup>, 23:22.55), senior Rylee Huckle (11<sup>th</sup>, 24:23.53), freshman Kiara Dach (17<sup>th</sup>, 25:16.62), and freshman Avril Gutierrez-Flores (30<sup>th</sup>, 27:31.49).

Scoring varsity boys: Junior Evan Chowanec (19<sup>th</sup>, 20:04.08), junior Francisco Gutierrez (22<sup>nd</sup>, 20:36.79), sophomore Collin Huckle (33<sup>rd</sup>, 21:28.29), freshman Max Chowanec (41<sup>st</sup>, 22:33.05), and sophomore Duncan Thomas (49<sup>th</sup>, 24:15.23).

### Middle School

Seventh-grader Bradley Hail went out hot from the gun to finish second with a new personal record pace in the middle school race. Eighth-grader Reed Wilbanks was right on his tail, nine seconds back at the mile mark, ultimately finishing in sixth place. Sixth-grader Charli Wendt was the top finisher of Creek girls, placing 28<sup>th</sup> for all middle school girls, with a significant improvement on her personal record pace in just her second-ever meet.