

CROSS COUNTRY » CHRIS GREEN INVITATIONAL

# Ross' Guardiola inches closer to school record

By Chris Graber

News-Messenger correspondent

SANDUSKY — Louis Guardiola has only run at the Chris Green Invitational at Osborn Park twice in his high school career.

The relatively flat course is known to turn out friendly times early in the season, but not even Guardiola expected the result that came on Saturday.

The Ross junior put substantial distance between himself and the eight-team field after the first mile, accomplishing one of the fastest times ever recorded in Little Giants' history at 16:00 to win the boys race.

Even more remarkable, the performance comes one week removed from the 17:01.11 time he posted at the Norm Bray Memorial Invitational at Ross' home course at Walsh Park.

"The difference was more mentality during the race than anything," Guardiola said. "I was more mentally focused to run today than last week.

"I did not expect to run that fast this early (in the season)."

Guardiola led the Little Giants to a third-place team finish with a score of 102. Seneca East beat out Perkins, 40-52, for the top spot.

Little Giants coach Jon Elder said he expects as the season progresses that Guardiola will challenge the school record time at 15:51, set by Jeremiah Wagner in 1995.

*"I think Lou can break (the record). But when that will happen is a good question. He's our No. 1 runner, and he's got high expectations. He is a kid that not only has the talent but also works for it."*

**JON ELDER**

Fremont Ross cross country coach

"I think Lou can break (the record)," Elder said. "But when that will happen is a good question. He's our No. 1 runner, and he's got high expectations.

"He is a kid that not only has the talent but also works for it."

Devaun Churchya added a seventh-place finish (16:27) for The Little Giants. Tyler Edmonds took 11th (16:46), while Brantleigh Bunting was 28th (17:56) and Justin Schaeffer was 31st (18:04).

For the Ross girls, who also placed third in the team standings, Valerie Bixler paced herself to a runner-up finish at 19:39 with Faye Sloma ending up seventh at 21:09.

Clay's Erin Gyurke won the girls individual title at 18:57.

"There was no way Valerie could have beat (Gyurke) and she knew that," Elder said. "Her best was to be second and she ran a great race to do that and Faye Sloma also ran a great race."

The Bellevue girls team finished first in the invitational with a score of 32 and all five scorers

amongst the top 10. Perkins edged the Little Giants 98-102 for runner-up.

Madison Scagnetti was the top finisher for the Lady Red, crossing the line in fourth at 20:19. Whitney Schalk took fifth (20:20), Michaela Fox sixth (21:02), Ericka Hosang ninth (21:15) and Sarah Bedell 10th (21:23).

Rounding out the scoring for Ross were Paige Collier at 15th (21:38), Cassidi Lovell 50th (24:03) and Sarah Szymanowski 52nd (24:27).

"This is a great meet to start the year," Bellevue coach Lee Booze said. "The finish line of this race is just the starting point for our season."

The Bellevue boys, led by Andrew Beier's fifth-place run (16:20) placed fifth overall. Rounding out the Redmen scoring were Cory Huddleston at 14th (17:15), Austin Guthrie 18th (17:30) and Dylan Hall-Farmbrough at 27th (17:55).

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## Boys Cross Country

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### TIFFIN CARNIVAL

» **Site:** Tiffin, OH.

#### Division I

» **Fremont Ross (27th):** 45. Louis Guardiola 16:40.49; 53. Tyler Edmonds 16:49.01; 118. Devaun Churchya 17:28.62; 221. Brantleigh Bunting 18:45.24; 240. Brendon Scherf 19:09.73; 246. Justin Schaffer 19:41.75; 251. Devante Potter 20:04.99.

#### Division II

» **Bellevue (14th):** 12. Andrew Beier 16:54.74; 80. Cory Huddleston 18:05.06; 108. Austin Guthrie 18:17.66; 175. James Hickey 19:21.84; 183. Alex Drummond 19:27.44; 217. Addison Snyder 20:04.08.

» **Oak Harbor (23rd):** 48. Tyler Sievert 17:42.05; 65. Jake Wistinghausen; 138. Zachary Seaman 18:52.05; 162. Bryce Buderer 19:10.10; 227. Tristen Epling 20:16.95; 234. Nathan Purk 20:27.91; 258. Michael Lafountain 21:02.87.

» **Port Clinton (30th):** 136. Nick Reineck 18:49.75; 141. Jason Bailey 18:53.04; 146. David Leone 18:57.72; 172. Michael Leone 19:19.72; 191. Ty Gallogly 19:32.22; 202. Aaron Smith 19:44.61.

» **Genoa (35th):** 88. Clay Parlette 18:14.27; 167. Kyle Farrell 19:12.71; 188. Drew Keenan 19:31.27; 196. Jared Lesniewicz 19:36.69; 219. Stewart Coffman 20:06.08; 278. Noah Garza 21:45.38; 289. Emanuel Aranda 22:55.99.

» **Clyde (43rd):** 207. Matt Gerber 19:48.98; 218. Matt Sepeda 20:05.41; 244. Skyler Eversole 20:43.39; 246. Austin Gale 20:47.51; 249. Tommy Davis 20:51.08; 254. Jacob Robinette 20:55.91; 257. Matt Webb 21:01.38.

#### Division III-A

» **Old Fort (27th):** 13. Marcus Meyer 16:47.56; 73. Brad Bannister 17:52.2; 146. Donald Young 18:50.36; 190. Elliot Phillimore 19:35.51; 228. AJ Phillimore 20:41.34; 251. Marc Harris 22:09.72; 263. Matt Kelblu 26:25.59.

#### Division III-B

» **Woodmore (8th):** 13. Ryan Avers 18:20.48; 23. Kaleb Perez 18:32.25; 62. Joey McTague 19:22.16; 83. Matt Robleski 19:42.82; 107. Grant Matwiejczyk 20:12.72.

#### » Lakota (13th).

» **Gibsonburg (15th):** 8. Jacob Merryfield 18:05.68; 79. Dillon Bogner 19:36.8; 92. Josh Bryan 19:53.76; 110. Ian Reineck 20:14.84; 120. Logan Damschroder 20:30.66; 138. Cody Reel 21:07.59; 162. Branden Martinez 21:57.03.

» **Margaretta (22nd):** 24. Kris Lyons 18:33.14; 74. Tyler Rogers 19:33.7; 127. Dalton Sullivan 20:42.11; 138. Cody Reel 21:07.59; 174. Noah Stanley 22:20.42; 194. Mychael Fuller 24:52.57.

» **SJCC (28th):** 67. Nate Rosengarten 19:26.58; 125. Cody Snodgrass 20:38.46; 167. Mike Kuss 22:05.3; 172. Josh Kelbley 22:16.03; 191. Kaleb Bickley 24:00.51; 200. Kyle Snodgrass 27:25.97.

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## Girls Cross Country

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### TIFFIN CARNIVAL

» **Site:** Tiffin, OH.

#### Division I

» Fremont Ross (30th): 33. Valerie Bixler 19:46.90; 129. Faye Sloma 21:22.22; 186. Paige Collier 22:31.33; 211. Holly Fisher 24:36.77; 214. Abby Burrell 25:29.31; 215. Cassidi Lovell 25:35.21. 217. Kristina Treece 26:11.97.



Fremont Ross' Louis Guardiola holds a slim lead on Bellevue's Andrew Beier early in the race Saturday at the Lakota Cross Country Invite. JONATHON BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

# Bellevue's Beier outruns Ross star

## Girls pick up a win, too

**By Chris Graber**  
News-Messenger correspondent

BETTSVILLE — It was a stunning day for Fremont Ross' Louis Guardiola in a runner-up finish

for the Little Giants on Saturday at the Lakota-hosted Myron Cline Invitational.

The Little Giants junior has been on verge of besting the school record of 15:51, held by Je-

remiah Wagner since 1995, after posting a mark at 16:00 two weeks ago.

On Saturday, the Ross standout comfortably held a 20-meter lead on the field in the Joe McKown Division to only be outkicked in the final stretch by Bellevue senior

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# Bellevue

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Andrew Beier, who would win the race at 16:19.23 with Guardiola at 16:24.09.

The Redmen would edge the Little Giants 68-63 and the Lady Red would claim Julie Harrison Division title ahead of Liberty Benton, 42-50.

"You can never underestimate your competition and I knew he would be a guy that would fight with me," said Guardiola of Beier. "I ran the race well. I will tweak some things and train and move on to the next race."

Beier said he knew coming into the race that it would take a really great performance to compete with Guardiola.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for (Guardiola) and I knew I had to basically kill myself in the race to beat him," Beier said. "I was told to stay back and stopped myself from going too fast at the beginning."

"I had it in my mind for the entire race that I was going to beat him and stayed in a good position."

Ross coach Jon Elder said it was the best his team has run all year. Other scorers for the Little Giants were Tyler Edmonds at fifth (16:48.27), Devaun Churchya seventh (17:04.68), Brantleigh Bunting 27th (18:03.7) and Justin Schaeffer 29th (18:05.2).

"We are doing a lot of running right now, so we are not as fresh as we will be at the end of the season," Elder said. "I'm really happy with Justin Schaeffer, who has struggled this season and had a great performance today."

For the Lady Little Giants, Valerie Bixler surprised Elder by winning the girls race with a new personal best at 19:12.92.

"She ran a wonderful race and I didn't expect that it would be that fast," Elder said. "I expected a possible first, but that's awesome."

For the Lady Little Giants, Faye Sloma finished 15th (20:54.15), Paige Collier 31st (21:56.73), Holly Fisher 60th (23:25.85) and Cassidi Lovell 66th (23:44.85).

The Lady Redmen would place Whitney Schalk third

(19:49.87), Ericka Hosang fourth (19:58.54), Madison Scagnetti seventh (20:09.41), Sarah Bedell 19th (21:18.13) and Lindsey Yantz 20th (21:19).

Both Bellevue "teams are getting better and better and I know that the boys want to win a league championship, something that hasn't been done here since 1985," said Redmen coach Lee Booze. The boys also "had a nice comeback from Dylan Hall-Farmbrough, our No. 2, who is coming off a stress fracture."

Hall-Farmbrough placed eighth (17:07.56) to pace the Redmen with Cory Huddleston 16th (17:25.36), Austin Guthrie 17th (17:33.93) and Alex Drummond 24th (27:57.6).

The girls "ran really good to compete against Liberty-Benton, a state caliber Div. III school," said Booze. "Whitney Shaulk ran her first race in the 19s and Lindsey Yontz, a first-year senior had a great day."

"We had a lot of PRs (personal records) and it was just a fun meet."

For the Oak Harbor boys, who ended third at 78, Jake Wistinghausen placed 10th (17:11.9), Tyler Sievert 11th (17:15.59), Zach Seaman 13th (17:21.66), Tim Poiry 18th (17:33.18) and Bryce Buderer 28th (18:04.91). Buderer set a personal best by more than one minute.

Rockets coach Eric Buckman said seeing the development of his team is indescribable, having coached some of the runners since the junior high level.

"We had two season-bests and three PRs today," Buckman said. "We were runner-up in the SBC (Sandusky Bay Conference) last year and the year before and if we can get these guys down in the 16s we can compete with Perkins (reigning conference champion)."

Oak Harbor's girls ended fourth (115) with Clyde eighth (217).

Trinity Gephart paced the Lady Rockets at 10th (20:22.51) with Allie Dresser 14th (20:50.31), Maria Boers 21st (21:22.34), Madelaine Newman 36th (22:14.1) and Andrea Cecil 48th (22:32.03).

Lady Fliers placed Chloe Ruttschaw 17th (21:10.92), while the 10th place Clyde boys were led by Matt Gerber at 42nd (18:34.81).

## Boys Cross Country

### MYRON CLINE INVITATIONAL

» Site: H.P. Eells Park, Bettsville.  
Joe McKown 5K Run  
» Team Scores: 1. Bellevue 63, 2. Fremont Ross 68, 3. Oak Harbor 78, 6. Port Clinton 150, 7. Woodmore 152, 9. Genoa 182, 10. Clyde 277.  
Top 5 Finishers/Team  
» Bellevue: 1. Andrew Beier 16:19.23; 8. Dylan Farmbrough 17:07.56; 16. Cory Huddleston 17:25.36; 17. Austin Guthrie 17:33.18.  
» Fremont Ross: 2. Louis Guardiola 16:24.09; 5. Tyler Edmonds 16:48.27; 7. Devaun Churchya 17:04.68; 27. Brantleigh Bunting 18:03.70; 29. Justin Schaffer 18:05.20.  
» Oak Harbor: 10. Jake Wistinghausen 17:11.90; 11. Tyler Sievert 17:15.59; 13. Zachary Seaman 17:21.66; 18. Tim Poiry 17:33.93; 28. Bryce Buderer 18:04.91.  
» Port Clinton: 22. David Leone 17:47.49; 25. Nick Reineck 18:00.28; 34. Ty Gallogly 18:13.63; 35. Jason Bailey 18:21.65; 39. Michael Leone 18:31.28.  
» Woodmore: 19. Ryan Avers 17:34.52; 20. Kaleb Perez 17:35.31; 26. Joey McTague 18:02.02; 37. Matt Robleski 18:30.25; 62. Grant Matwiejczyk 19:21.97.  
» Genoa: 15. Clay Parlette 17:25.10; 30. Kyle Farrell 18:05.4; 46. Jared Lesniewicz 18:42.08; 47. Drew Keenan 18:42.32.  
» Clyde: 42. Matt Gerber 18:34.81; 51. Matt Sepeda 18:54.53; 64. Austin Gale 19:26.50; 77. Tommy Davis 20:01.37; 81. Jesse Gonzalez 20:05.55.  
Doug Nieset 5 K Run  
» Team Scores: 1. St. Mary CC 64; 4. Old Fort 100; 8. Lakota 194; 11. Margareta 259; 13. St. Joseph CC 347.  
Top 5 Finishers/Team  
» Old Fort: 1. Marcus Meyers 16:49.79; 2. Brad Bannister 17:04.09; 20. Donald Young 17:52.15; 23. Elliot Phillimore 17:59.01; 61. AJ Phillimore 19:39.29.  
» Lakota: 27. Luke Baker 18:04.86; 40. Caleb Tolento 18:54.56; 55. Isaac Ritter 19:23.87; 57. Matt Steiner 19:37.0; 59. Tyler Aldrich 19:36.04.  
» Margareta: 19. Kris Lyons 17:49.03; 54. Tyler Rogers 19:20.51; 66. John Harris 19:50.28; 76. Cody Reel 20:04.48; 78. Dalton Sullivan 20:11.68.  
» SJCC: 39. Nate Rosengarten 18:46.98; 83. Cody Snodgrass 20:20.17; 86. Mike Kuss 20:47.99; 92. Josh Kelbley 21:14.67; 118. Kaleb Bickley 23:16.18.  
» Put-in-Bay: 12. Elliot Kowalski 17:33.60.

## Girls Cross Country

### MYRON CLINE INVITATIONAL

» Site: H.P. Eells Park, Bettsville.  
Julie Harrison 5K Run  
» Team Scores: 1. Bellevue 42; 3. Port Clinton 108; 4. Oak Harbor 115; 6. Fremont Ross 138; 7. Genoa 199; 8. Clyde 217.  
Top 5 Finishers/Team  
» Bellevue: 3. Whitney Schalk 19:49.87; 4. Ericka Hosang 19:58.54; 7. Madison Scagnetti 20:09.41; 12. Michaela Fox 10:30.46; 19. Sarah Bedell 21:18.13.  
» Port Clinton: 8. Kennedy Gulas 20:17.51; 23. Hannah Weaver 21:27.41; 24. Claire Zielinski 21:27.84; 29. Abbi Pitts 21:43.78; 32. Tori Koebel 22:02.98.  
» Oak Harbor: 10. Trinity Gephart 20:22.51; 14. Allie Dresser 20:50.31; 21. Maria Boers 21:22.34; 36. Madelaine Newman 22:14.10; 48. Andrea Cecil 22:32.03.  
» Fremont Ross: 1. Valerie Bixler 19:12.92; 15. Faye Sloma 20:54.15; 31. Paige Collier 21:56.73; 60. Holly Fisher 23:25.85; 66. Cassidi Lovell 23:44.85.

ors at 75 (36-39), but Clyde finished third at 340.

Port Clinton earned its second straight conference title while the Fliers will finish second overall with a victory over Oak Harbor on Tuesday.

The Fliers' Luke Hohenstein carded a 78 for third, including three birdies, and Zach Reiman had one birdie Saturday.

Tyler Smith shot a 79 for fourth, including one birdie as Margareta was seventh.

Bryce Rubie shot a 97 as Oak Harbor was eighth.

Rupert, Hohenstein and Smith were recognized first-team all-SBC. Rupert or Smith will be player of the year.

## Cross Country

### Cardinal Stritch Invitational

Louis Guardiola was second at 16 minutes, 26.25 seconds as Fremont Ross's boys won the Red Division. Tyler Edmonds was fourth and Devaun Churchya eighth for the Little Giants.

"Great meet for the boys," Ross coach John Elder said. "I knew we had a solid one and two, but De has stepped in and given us a first three that can match up with almost anyone. Brantleigh (Bunting, 18:03) and Justin (Schaffer, 18:29) as our four and five runners, are improving weekly and if they can run in the low 17s, we will be very competitive.

"The whole team has been improving, which is great since next week we run at Clay in what usually is a good preview as to where we stand in our district."

Dylan Hall-Farmbrough was 14th (17:18.78) as Bellevue finished fifth. Andrew Beier was 15th and Cory Huddleston 30th for the Redmen.

Tyler Sievert was 11th (17:09.26) as Oak Harbor finished seventh. Jake Wistinghausen was 19th and Tim Poiry 23rd for the Rockets.

Matt Sepeda was 83rd (19:17.30) as Clyde finished 16th.

Otsego's Brandon Avers won the boys race at 16:20.55.

Woodmore freshman Courtney Burner (20:18.30) finished first in the Black Division for the girls.

Samantha deAnda was 11th (21:42.05) as Gibsonburg finished fourth. Colleen Reynolds was 27th, Molly Burkett 32nd and Alyssa Escobedo 37th for the Golden Bears.

Alexis Rhodes was fourth (21:12.34) as Old Fort finished sixth. Kayla Garza was 15th and Jackie Becker 16th for the Stockaders.

Brooke Foster was 35th (23:05.35) for St. Joseph Central Catholic.

Jenna Gasser was 36th (23:05.93) as Margareta finished 17th. Elmwood won the girls portion.

Marcus Meyers finished second in the Black Division at 16:43.55 as Old Fort's boys were third. Brad Bannister was fifth, Donald Young 16th and Elliot Phillimore 22nd for the Stockaders.

Ryan Avers was 10th (17:54.37), Kaleb Perez 12th and Matt Robleski 27th as Woodmore finished fourth.

Jacob Merryfield was ninth (17:52.36) as Gibsonburg finished ninth.

Kris Lyons was 17th (18:14.35) as Margareta finished 10th.

Nate Rosengarten was 50th (19:28.17) as SJCC was 14th.

Nick Raymond finished first (15:16.44) as Erie-Mason won as a team.

Ericka Hosang was eighth (19:53.45) as Bellevue was third in the Red Division for the girls. Whitney Schalk was 14th, Madison Scagnetti 23rd and Michaela Fox 25th for the Lady Red.

"Last year at this meet the guys were 10th and the girls seventh," Bellevue coach Lee Booze said. "We really improved. Both teams were in the hunt with some of the better D-I squads in Northwest, Ohio. A lot of runners notched some season and career bests."

Valerie Bixler was 24th (20:52.56) and Faye Sloma 27th as Ross finished 10th. The Little Giants have several girls battling illness or injury.

"They are still fighters and work hard," Elder said.

Allie Dresser was 32nd (21:17.08) as Oak Harbor was 12th without Trinity Gephart. The Rockets were second among Division II schools.

Chloe Ruttschaw was 37th (21:40.82) as Clyde finished 14th.

Oregon Clay's Erin Gyrke (19:02.04) won the girls race while Notre Dame Academy finished first as a team.

### Van Wert Invitational

Cariss Reese was eighth (20:45) and Zac Baker 46th (18:35) as Lakota's girls and boys were both 10th in the Large Division.

Morgan Mowry was 50th for the Raiders' girls while Luke Baker was 59th, Caleb Tolento 64th and Isaac Ritter 65th for the boys.

Van Wert won for the girls and Coldwater for the boys.

## Girls Soccer

### Woodmore 5, Ottawa Hills 0

Leah Henry scored two goals and goalkeeper Leah Bench made five saves as Woodmore posted its sixth shutout of the season and third in a row.

Freshmen Jessie Wegert and Maddie Hines, and Taylor Haar added goals for the Wildcats (8-1-1). Hines had one assist as seven players registered at least one point.

Woodmore outshot Ottawa Hills 33-5.

The Wildcats (5-1) host Lake on Thursday. The Flyers beat Woodmore 4-0 for its only setback in the Northern Buckeye Conference.

## Volleyball

### Woodmore sweeps

Nicole Busdeker had seven kills and Maddie Phillips six as Woodmore topped Danbury 25-20, 25-10 for their fourth consecutive victory.

Courtney Clowers added 12 assists for the Wildcats (4-9).

Phillips had nine kills and Busdeker had five while Clowers added 13 assists in a 21-25, 26-24, 25-18 win over Port Clinton. Alex Sandwisch had five aces in the two matches combined.

### Sandusky Invitational

Abbie Gezo had 18 assists and nine digs, but Oak Harbor fell to Clearview 25-21, 27-25.

Katelyn Tice had eight kills and Jordyn Thorp added seven.

Gezo had 19 assists and Tice had nine kills as the Rockets lost to Sandusky 26-24, 25-21. Lindsey Reau and Gezo had seven digs, and Tice added four aces.



A pair of Fremont Ross runners compete during the Oregon Clay Invite on Saturday. JONATHAN BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

## Oak Harbor makes progress

By Chris Graber

News-Messenger correspondent

OREGON—Oak Harbor put together a stellar performance in the Div. II-III race at the Clay Eagle Invitational on Saturday to finish runner-up to Sandusky Bay Conference rival No. 10 Perkins, 57-133.

Two sophomores led the Rockets in the race with Tyler Sievert finishing 14th (17:12.7) and Jake Wistinghausen 23rd (17:45.1), while Woodmore ended eighth in the team standings at 244, with Gibsonburg 17th (441), Clyde 21st (507) and St. Joseph Central Catholic 21st (634).

Oak Harbor coach Eric Buckman said he is really excited with how his team ran.

"We have shown a lot of progress throughout the year," Buckman said. "It says a lot about this group coming together."

Rounding out the scoring for the Rockets were Zachary Seaman at 25th (17:45.1), Tim Poiry at 27th (17:50.4) and Bryce Buderer at 48th (18:29.9).

"The kids put together some nice races and I wouldn't say Oregon is a slow course, but it definitely isn't fast either," said Buckman.

In the Division I race, Fremont Ross' Louis Guardiola continued his already impressive season with a sixth-place finish (16:40), while teammate Tyler Edmonds added a ninth (16:58) to lead the Little Giants to fifth place (169).

"The competition was there and my mentality was good during the race," said Guardiola, who won the Chris Green Invitational and finished runner-up at the Lakota Invitational. "My strategy needs a little more tweaking on finding where to

take off at."

"I had a lot left at the finish." Ross Coach John Elder said Guardiola had by far his best closing finish of the season and added that Edmonds also ran really well.

Despite a good showing, the Little Giants fell short against Three Rivers Athletic Conference rival Findlay, 169-124.

"Our top three is as competitive as anyone else's but there is a slight drop off in our No. 4 and No. 5 runners, but those kids are getting better too," Elder said. "With how competitive our league is, we could finish sixth and still do really well."

Rounding out the Ross scoring were Devaun Churchya at 25th (17:43.7), Ryan Schaffer 63rd (18:21) and Brantleigh Bunting 66th (18:23).

For the Ross girls, Valerie Bixler ended 11th (20:03.08) to pace the Little Giants to 13th (330).

"Valerie has been sick and she is recovering so she is definitely not at full strength," Elder said. "She ran a 19:12 at Lakota and she is such a strong runner."

Faye Sloma contributed the second best finish for Ross at 42nd place (21:22.5) with Paige Collier 81st (22:38.5), Holly Fisher 116th (24:13.2) and Sarah Szymanowski 122nd (24:56.7).

In the Division II girls race, Woodmore's Courtney Burner had the highest area finish at 12th (20:56.6), while Oak Harbor ended as the area's top team at eighth (204) with Gibsonburg ninth (277).

The Lady Wildcats did not facilitate a full team, while the Lady Rockets were led by Trinity Gephart at 16th (21:18.9) with

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