

Championships at the finish line

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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CG-Belgium girls make most of home course on way to Rocket Invite title

With all of its five scoring runners placing in the top 13, the Cedar Grove-Belgium girls' cross-country team had no trouble securing top honors at the annual Rocket Invitational on Sept. 12.

Junior Lily Paul led the home team with a second-place time of 15 minutes, 46 seconds on the 4,000-meter course.



Among the Rockets' other scoring finishes, Molly Ison was fourth (16:36), followed by Sydni Loose in sixth (16:54), Emily Sass in 12th (17:47) and Jericho Duenk in 13th (17:50).

Cedar Grove-Belgium had 37 points, comfortably ahead of second-place Howards Grove's 74.

"The girls' team continues to progress nicely. The team score was solid," Rockets coach Les Paul said.

Cedar Grove-Belgium's other runners were Maggie Turchinski in 18th (18:12) and Elysia Hoopman in 40th (20:24).

In the boys' race, the Rockets placed third with 109 points, trailing Sheboygan Lutheran (37) and Oostburg (48).

Freshman Ian Ison led Cedar Grove-Belgium with a 5,000-meter time of 18:21, good for fifth place.

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The Rockets' other scoring finishes were Derek Arndt in 16th (19:07), James Krauska in 26th (20:30), Abel Brockman in 30th (20:42) and Colin Kettenhoven in 32nd (20:52).

"The boys had a good outing with continued improvement across the entire group," coach Paul said.

The Rockets were without Peter Merritt, who is recovering from an injury.

The next meet for both Cedar Grove-Belgium teams will be the Angel Invitational this Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha. Races start at 9 a.m.

Voeller leads Ozaukee girls

Hannah Voeller has emerged as one of the top runners on the Ozaukee girls' cross-country team this season.

Last Friday, the freshman led the Warriors at the Mayville Invitational with a 13th-place time of 16:53.

"Hannah continues to improve each week," Ozaukee coach Greg Mielke said.

The Warriors finished 27th in a 33-team field.

Their other scoring runs came from Ashley Preisler in 95th (19:03), Natalie Bares in 237th (23:04), Brianna Leitzke in 238th (23:07) and Jessica Wengel in 256th (24:18).

"Senior Ashley Preisler once again gave an impressive performance, shaving another minute off of her time," Mielke said.

The Ozaukee boys, who had an incomplete lineup, were led by sophomore Nathan LaSage, who placed 187th with a 5,000-meter time of 22:14. Also for Ozaukee, freshman Aaron Schubert was 202nd (22:42) and senior Taz Gottsacker battled through a knee injury to take 256th (27:30).

"I'm proud of his integrity to finish the race," Mielke said.

The Warriors' next meet will be the Valders Invitational at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19.

Image Information: THE CEDAR GROVE-BELGIUM girls' cross-country team had no trouble ruling the course at the annual Rocket Invitational. Photo by Sam Arendt