

The Bandera PROPHET

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Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs are state-bound in CC

By Chris Darus
The Bandera Prophet

Going south to head north seems a little out of the way, but it's a trek well-known to the Lady Bulldog cross-country teams over the past few years.

The Region IV Cross-Country Championship was held Tuesday in Corpus Christi at Dugan Stadium, with the top teams headed to Round Rock for the state meet.

The girls' championships boiled down to a two-way battle between CC Tuloso-Midway and Bandera, with the team from Corpus edging out the Lady Bulldogs by a scant five-point margin, 60-65. Wimberley finished third with 124 points.

Bandera's top finisher, Raelynn Butler, finished in fourth place, just ahead of Tuloso's Elizabeth Herrick in fifth, just a premonition of how things were going to unfold.

Morgan Cole, Makayla Gonzales and Hannah Edwards all finished in the top 25, but Tuloso also had three runners in the top 25 to keep things close.

Bandera's Dannielle Gonzales was the fifth runner in for Bandera in 36th, five spots ahead of Tuloso's fifth place runner and scores were being tabulated as the rest of the runners crossed the finish line with Bandera just missing the top spot on the podium.

Gracie Bankston finished in 37th and Trinity Butler was 52nd to round

out Bandera's runners in the field of 127.

Fredericksburg phenom, Taylor Grona, won the event with a scorching time of 11:27.56, 33 seconds ahead of the second place finisher from Port Lavaca Calhoun.

That going south to go north trek isn't quite so familiar to the Bulldogs cross-county squad, but it might become a regular trip if coach Sam Farrell and his team keeps improving as much as they did this season. After a second place finish in district, Bandera was hoping for a good result at regionals and they got one of the golden tickets to state with another second place finish to Fredericksburg. Hondo was third. Fredericksburg and Hondo took the top five places, but the consistency and depth of the Bulldogs helped them to score enough to take team silver.

Logan Dybowski, Braden Cox and Ethan Brown finished in 14th, 15th and 18th respectively, separated by less than eight seconds, to keep the 'Dogs in the hunt. Jacob Haas (38th) and Sam Nimmrichter (40th) were the last two points scorers for Bandera. Mario Casas and Joshua Short rounded out the Bulldogs in the field of 130 runners.

Fredericksburg's Andrew Kendrick ran a 16:31.37 to win the five-mile event.

The state meet will be held in Round Rock on Tuesday, Nov. 24, in an all day affair as all of the qualified teams in every state division will be there.

No ticket info is available yet. Check the UIL website for more information.

UIL Region IV CC Championships

Girls Two Mile

Team results:

1. CC Tuloso-Midway, 60, 2. Bandera, 65, 3. Wimberley, 124, 4. La Feria, 126, 5. Pleasanton, 149 6. Gonzales, 180, 7. Devine, 197, 8. Rockport-Fulton, 228, 9. Alice, 255, 10. Uvalde, 265

Bandera results: 4, R. Butler, 12:30.85, 7, M. Cole, 12:42.79, 23, M. Gonzales, 13:07.35, 24, H. Edwards, 13:13.30, 36, D. Gonzales, 13:35.92, 37, G. Bankston, 13:38.10, 53, T. Butler, 14:06.21

Boys Five mile

Team results:

1. Fredericksburg, 35, 2. Bandera, 105, 3. Hondo, 126, 4. La Feria, 135, 5. Devine, 139, 6. La Vernia, 145, 7., Needville, 178, 8. Bay City, 214, 9. CC Tuloso-Midway, 215, 10. Geronimo Navarro, 266

Bandera results: 14, L. Dybowski, 18:08.88, 15, B. Cox, 18:11.11, 18, E. Brown, 18:16.84, 38, J. Haas, 19:12.13, 40, S. Nimmrichter, 19:18.59, 66, M. Casas, 20:00.75, 75, J. Short, 20:14.32