

The Bandera PROPHEET

October 16, 2023

Bulldogs finish third at district cross country meet to advance to regionals

By Brady Keane
The Bandera Prophet

The Bandera boys cross country team put together an impressive performance Thursday morning at the District 27-4A meet with all seven runners posting a season-best or personal best time to help the Bulldogs finish third overall as a team.

Bandera, Davenport and Boerne qualified for the Class 4A Region IV meet, which will be held Oct. 24 in Corpus Christi.

“The guys knew this was going to be a battle this year at District,” Bandera Coach Sam Farrell said. “They all stepped up, No. 1 through No. 7. This was the best 1-7 average we’ve ever had at a district meet, and I’m looking forward to watching these guys compete at regionals.” Junior Ruben Ruiz-Palacios led the way for Bandera, getting off to a fast start and staying near the front of the pack before finishing 13th overall with a time of 17:16. Four Bulldogs finished in the Top 20 with Mack Robinson taking 16th (17:32), Mariano Casas placing 19th (17:45) and Zach Goodin placing 20th (17:47).

Fili Quintero was No. 5 for the Bulldogs, placing 24th (17:55). Bandera had just a 39-second gap between their No. 1 and No. 5 finishers.

The Bulldogs also got strong performances from their No. 6 and No. 7 runners, both of whom placed ahead of Fredericksburg No. 5 runner to add points to the Billies’ score and help Bandera secure its 3rd place finish as a team. Nino Martinez was 28th (18:30) and Hudson Jackson was 30th (18:34).

At the JV level, the Bulldogs also placed third as a team thanks to 13 season-best or personal-best times. JV finishers included Ayden Sarver

(6th, 18:50), Lane Timmons (9th, 19:31), Hayden Swalve (12th, 19:41), Keaton Sarver (16th, 20:17), Chris Hoffman (17th, 20:24), Carter Rissmiller (20th, 20:30), Adan Sixtos (23rd, 21:03), Jacob Tuma (27th, 21:32), Walter Roque (28th, 21:36), Mikey Verhey (29th, 21:41), Kelton Raab (31st, 21:53), Dominic Garcia (32nd, 21:59) and Marcus Gonzalez (45th, 25:19).

The Bulldogs will now shift their focus toward preparing for the regional meet, to be held at Texas A&M Corpus Christi University.

“The guys have put in the mileage and the work with tough workouts since June,” Farrell said. “We’re looking to sharpen up, work on speed and mostly make sure the boys are feeling fast and fresh the morning of regionals.”

Lady Bulldogs finish fifth at District

The Bandera girls cross country team came up just short of a regional qualifying spot after placing fifth overall, falling only nine points away of advancement. Fredericksburg (29), Davenport (60), Navarro (109), and Canyon Lake (114) finished just in front of the Lady Bulldogs (118). Boerne (119) finished sixth while Wimberley (145) was seventh.

Sophomore Tautym Moeller led the Lady Bulldogs individually, placing 18th overall with a 12:37. Freshmen Merry Robinson had a personal-best time of 12:45 to place 22nd overall while senior Carlye Niccum had a personal-best time of 12:49 to place 23rd. Rounding out the top five for the Lady Bulldogs were seniors Emily Presa (27th, 12:59) and Trinity Butler (28th, 13:00).

Other varsity finishers included Lori King, who placed 37th (13:31) and Kinlee Lawlis, who placed 39th (13:37).

At the JV level, Bandera finished 4th as a team. Senior Layney Bowman was second after knocking off a minute from her personal-best time. Junior Kierstin Brown also earned a medal with a 4th place finish. Riley LaLanne placed 12th, Jazlyn Dickerson was 13th and newcomers Riley Noon (18th) and Xio Cook (21st) rounded out the scoring for the Lady Bulldogs.

Other JV finishers included Isabella Chapa (22nd), Jalyn Lamb (23rd), Lauren Meier (30th), Julia Freeman (31st), Mylesia Casas (35th) and Celeste Martinez (40th).

"I am very proud of my girls," Coach Brooke Ashcraft said. "They ran their best race of the season, and for most of them, their best race ever. Our District race was faster than any other district race across the state for 4A."