

Jackson, Holland, Osborne Pace WHS In XC Opener

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga High boy's and girl's cross country teams officially got their season underway on Saturday by hosting the Pioneer Clash of the Classes at the State Farm Fields in Boone, N.C.

WHS failed to win a race, but the Pioneers posted three second-place finishes. Celia Jackson paced the WHS girls by finishing second in the senior race. She crossed the finish line in 13-minutes, 14 seconds. Caroline McLeod of Graystone Day School, a public charter high school in Misenheimer, N.C., won the race in 12:41.9

Sophia Prisco and Sidney Wiswell of the Pioneers cracked the top 20. Prisco was 13th in 15:10.8; Wiswell finished 14th in 15:11.7

Kathleen Mansure (third in 12:45.1), Lily Weeks (fourth in 13:09.1), and Shelby Hickernell (fifth in 13:24.9) paced WHS in the junior race; Lauren Welsh was 13th (14:32.7) and Simran Sethi finished 22nd (16:20.2) in the freshman race. Overall, the WHS girls posted four top-ten finishes and eight runners finished in the top 20.

The WHS boys posted six top-ten finishes on Saturday. Michael Holland and Matt Osborne led the way with a pair of second-place showings in their respective races. Holland finished second in the junior race 10:06.9; Osborne finished second in the senior race in 10:25.0.

Grant Pilkington finished fourth (12:20.5) in the freshman race; Joel Brown was sixth (11:18.6) in the sophomore race; Will Vandenberg finished sixth (10:44.2) in the junior race; Jacob Soule finished eighth (11:12.3) in the senior race.

The WHS boys also had 17 top-20 finishers. The seniors had five runners in the top 20; the juniors had six.

West Forsyth paced the field winning four races---Garrett Farrimond won the boy's senior race in 10:05.0; Nelson Russ won the boy's sophomore race (10:16.6); Sarah Timberlake won the girl's freshman race (13:35.4), and Ellen Spencer won the girl's sophomore race (12:21.1).

Josh Lamont of Tailwinds won tyhe middle school boy's 3K race in 12:37.2; MaryLouise Sprague of Tailwinds won the girl's 3K race in 15:20.3.

The Pioneers travel to Hendersonville for the Western North Carolina Cross Country Carnival next Saturday, August 24 at Jackson Park. T.C. Roberson will be the host school.