

## Pioneers Pace Field In Home Opener

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Watauga High cross country coach Randy McDonough has built a dynasty in Watauga County. Every year, the names might change, but the results are always the same and the boy's and girl's team are readily recognized by their success on the course.

And 2013 is no exception. The Pioneers, who lost a bevy of talent to graduation, have some new faces in the line up. And despite some early-season growing pains, the Pioneers are gradually working their way back into the mix.

That was evident on Wednesday, when the Pioneers christened their new home facility with a dominating effort. The WHS boys bested the field with 29 points. South Caldwell finished a distant second with 77 points. The Pioneers had four runners in the top ten and seven runners in the top 20.

Michael Holland paced WHS by finishing second. He completed the race in 17-minutes, 43 seconds. He finished nine seconds behind Dylan Mathewson of South Caldwell, who captured the gold in 17:34. But the Pioneers were tightly packed as Will Vandenberg finished third in 17:55, Matthew Osborne was fourth in 17:55, and Zach Styron was eighth in 18:50.

Kathleen Mansure paced the WHS girls as she won her third race of the season. Mansure, who posted victories at the Pioneer Clash of the Classes (on August 17), and the Caldwell County Invitational (on September 4), won the race in 20:27. Celia Jackson finished second in 21:38, Lily Weeks was third in 21:54, Lynde Wangler finished sixth (23:56), and Lauren Welsh was eighth (24:20).

The Pioneers will host the High Country Classic at the State Farms Fields next Saturday, September 28.