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## EA Cross Country Teams Undefeated in ECIC, Race Well at Invitational

**The East Aurora Cross Country Teams had another outstanding week as they remained undefeated in ECIC dual meet competition and raced well at the McQuaid Invitational.**

The boys and girls teams traveled to Alden this past Tuesday where they outran Alden and Depew to keep their ECIC undefeated streak alive.

The teams traveled to Rochester on Saturday for the McQuaid Invitational, the second largest invitational in New York State. The East Aurora harriers moved up to the large school divisions for some extra competition and rose to the occasion.

The boys varsity won the AA race, led by Scott Anderson second, Lyle O'Brien fifth, and Alex Weberg eighth. Also running well were Tom Neu 33rd, Kevin O'Connor 44th, Brad Whitney 41st, and Matt Malican 57th.

The junior varsity boys ran well in the large school race and placed fourth. Solid performances were turned in by Jake Thornley 12th, Jack Wynes 29th, Phil Trzyzewski 33rd, Steve Smith 42nd, Luke Wolfling 66th, Greg Harts 69th, Matt Hoeh 70th, Simon Pabst 94th, Sam Naughton 97th, Christian Link 120th, and Mark Nowak 177th.

The girls varsity ran the AAA-seeded race, where they matched up well with Fayetteville-Manlius and Burnt-Hills, ranked first and third nationally. The East Aurora team finished third in the race, 70 points ahead of Hilton, last year's national runner-up and national champion team two years ago. Catherine Lusardi led the team with a fifth-place finish, followed by Jenna Hulton in sixth, Erin Crawford 24th, Alice Coughlin 25th, Tara O'Connor 27th and Paige Peltan 28th.

Coach Walt McLaughlin was pleased with the team's performances. "Our boys are improving and running well," he said "They are ranked 10th in New York State and first in Western New York small schools, but we still have a lot of work to do before our big meets at the end of the season.

"We wanted to see how we match up to the best in the country and we turned in good performances," said McLaughlin. "Our true test will come at the end of the season when we run them again at the Federation Championships. That will not only decide who is the very best in New York State, but also who qualifies for the Nike Team Nationals."

The team also welcomed the newest member to the East Aurora cross country program, Max William McLaughlin, who arrived Friday evening. His future looks good, with stats of 8.3 pounds and 21¼ inches.

The teams will host Tonawanda and Cleveland Hill this week and will travel to the Southern Tier Invitational on Saturday.

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