

Sixth place Warren Invite finish solidifies girls' XC squad's place among local elite

w Sarah Masanek
Staff Writer

On Sept. 16, the girls' cross country team attended its third large invitational meet of the year at Warren High School's O'Plaine Campus in Gurnee. They placed sixth out of the 20 teams that competed. The varsity race included over 100 runners from schools that include Niles North, Evanston, Stevenson and Grant. The varsity squad lost two of their important members, seniors Flona and Luna Younan, due to the ACT test. Despite that, the Wolves managed to place well against some of the tougher teams in the competing area.

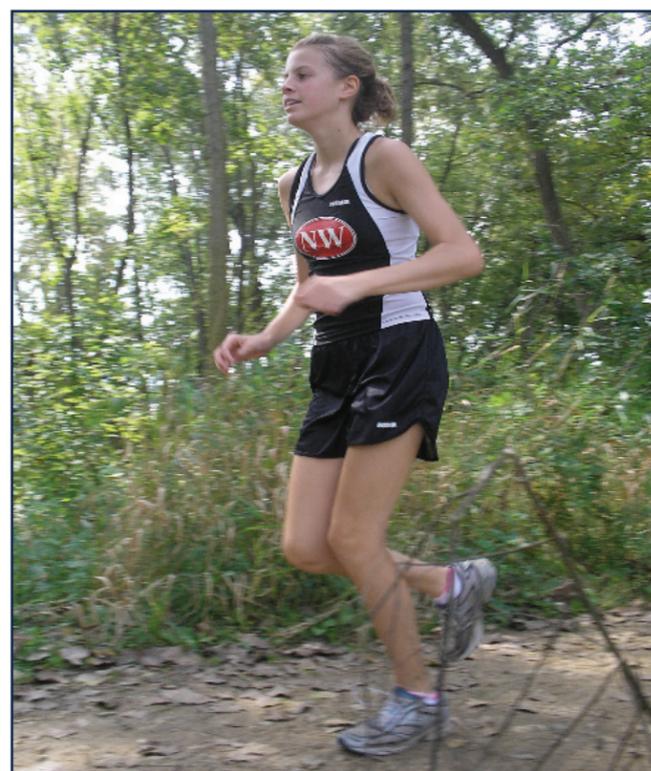
"We were without two of our best runners, the Younan twins. We still ran well, but our place could have been better if they ran," said assistant coach Tricia Woods.

Junior Cari Krikorian led the team for West, as she finished in fourth with a time of 19:11. She ran strong and surged at the last second to finish just 0.3 second ahead of Evanston's Natalie Fenn. Senior Colleen Oakes placed 21st with a time of 20:29. Senior Mary Saleh finished third for the Wolves on the three-mile course with a time of 20:26 and was directly followed by standout freshman Carmin Beck, who ran a time of 20:57. They were in 30th and 35th place respectively. Junior Sarah Masanek and sophomores Emma Avilez and Matea Selak were the next varsity runners to finish, in 48th, 68th and 79th place.

The team had a strong performance from the junior varsity level, which placed first overall.

"The frosh-soph girls really stepped it up at this meet," Woods said and especially noted sophomore Molly Gstalter and freshmen Josephine Tritsch and Becky Traisman.

The combination of Tritsch and Gstalter was crucial to the team; they finished in sixth and seventh place, in 21:51 and 21:54 respectively. They were directly followed by Traisman, who placed ninth and ran 21:57. Sophomores Edelynn Cayas (22:42), Stephanie Barajas (23:09) and Jessica Morrison (23:15) were the next best finishers for West, contributing to their first place finish.



Junior Cari Krikorian warms up to compete.
Photo by Sarah Masanek