

Cross country notebook: Woodbridge Classic another successful event

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The 37th Annual Woodbridge Cross Country Classic was another success over the weekend.

Cooler than normal temperatures, racing under the lights with strong fields and a fast, flat course over three miles at the SilverLake Sports Complex led to quick times all around.

Meet director George Varvas also received some special news with the event –that the classic became the largest high school cross country meet in the world this year.

Woodbridge had nearly 14,000 registered entrants and 11,179 finishers over the Friday, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 16 race days.

The Northwood girls and Crean Lutheran boys teams each ran in featured races on Saturday night.

Crean Lutheran finished 14th out of 27 teams in the boys rated race. The Saints had 366 points and a five-runner team time of 1:18:07.

Senior Peter Weiss and junior Garrett Miller led the way. Weiss was 17th in 15:02.0, while Miller took 18th in 15:02.4.

Dylan Kochan was 46th in 15:20.6, Anthony Fitzgerald finished 135th in 16:15.0 and Jacob Sutherland placed 150th in 16:27.4 for the Saints.

The Northwood girls team competed in the Bob Day sweepstakes race. The Timberwolves took 21st overall and were led by senior Chloe Muller, who finished 119th in 18:24.6. Mary King was 140th in 18:42.4, Jazmin Esparza placed 151st in 19:17.4 and Sasaiya Robles was 153rd in 19:23.4.

Woodbridge's squads also took part in the Saturday night portion of the meet.

The Woodbridge boys team finished seventh out of 32 teams in a gold varsity race with 239 points and a team time of 1:19:04.

Senior Omar Ahmed led the way, taking 19th in 15:28.9. Benjamin Choi was 38th in 15:40.4, Caleb Terefe was 48th in 15:49.1, John Pantigoso placed 54th in 15:52.5 and William Talbert was 82nd in 16:13.7.

The Warrior girls squad also competed in a gold varsity race and placed 13th out of 30 teams. Junior Mariam Masud was 24th in 18:33.2, Amber Suyeon was 81st in 19:37.7, Sierra Shaver came in 97th in 19:54.1 and freshman Madeleine Zavala placed 98th in 19:54.2.

City runners shine on Friday night

There were several highlights for runners from Irvine city schools on Friday night at the Woodbridge Classic.

University freshman Collette Lowengrub won her second straight race. After capturing her freshman heat at the Laguna Hills Invitational two weeks ago, Lowengrub won a freshman red race at the Woodbridge Classic in a time of

19:08.4. Lowengrub, along with Sydney Field (10th in 20:01.5) helped Uni's frosh team place third in the race.

Also for Uni, Avery Klauke took third in a girls sophomore red race in 18:49.6.

Beckman's girls team finished fourth out of 23 schools in a varsity red race, finishing with 171 points and a team time of 1:35:19.

Sophomore Mackenzie Eloie led the way, finishing 17th in 18:32.5. Sophomore Olivia Knobbe was 19th in 18:33.4, freshman Hannah Faust was 40th in 19:12.5, Susana Ferro came in 56th in 19:27.7 and Jade Ramos was 60th in 19:33.4.

Irvine's Rebecca Rea took 20th in a varsity red race in 18:24.5. Florence Lee followed in 70th in 19:41.2 for the Vaqueros.

Beckman's boys team had a solid showing in a varsity red race. The Patriots took sixth with 196 points and a team time of 1:19:29.

Caleb Suhr came in 23rd in 15:35.0 with Rahul Aggarwal taking 29th in 15:45.2. Ryan Muto was 36th in 15:53.4, Hayden Flechner came in 52nd in 16:06.2 and Bailey Ipcizade was 58th in 16:09.4.

University's senior boys team finished third in its race with 123 points. Christian Go was eighth in 16:21.4, Amir Guity took 12th in 16:28.6 and Ryan Liang was 14th in 16:30.0 for the Trojans.

City teams will be competing in either the Dana Hills Invitational or the Sunny Hills Invitational in Fullerton this Saturday, Sept. 23.

Alumni update on some former runners

A former Woodbridge boys standout and Northwood girls star had great first races for UCLA recently.

UCLA opened the 2017 campaign at the George Kyte Classic at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff, Ariz. two weeks ago.

The Bruin men took second and the women's team placed third.

The men's 4.5-mile race kicked off the competition, and UCLA had a great showing, placing four runners in the Top 10.

Among them was former Woodbridge runner Jackson Marshall, who finished with a time of 23:22.7

Marshall, a red-shirt junior, was a two-time Pacific Coast League champion in cross country and two-time league champion in the 3,200 meters in track. He raced in the NCAA West Regional Championships in the 10K last season for UCLA and finished 44th.

Freshman Erika Adler, who was the Orange County Register runner of the year last season after winning the PCL title and taking second at the CIF State Cross Country meet, was UCLA's second runner at the Kyte Classic.

Adler finished seventh in her first collegiate race, running 15:49.3 over the 2.6-mile course.

UCLA competes again this Saturday at the Roy Griak Invitational in St. Paul, Minn.