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# Regional cross-country roundup: Davis, Cultra win races

Sat, 10/24/2015 - 11:15pm | Anthony Zilis (/author/anthony-zilis)

PAXTON — When it comes to all-out 3-mile races, Oakwood's Jon Davis is without peers in Class 1A.

But in 200-meter sprints, that's not necessarily the case.

After Davis and Unity's Andrew Warnes went out at an easy pace at the Class 1A Paxton-Buckley-Loda Regional on Saturday, Davis found himself in one of his first all-out footraces of the season. Davis prevailed by one second, winning the race in 15 minutes, nine seconds.

"It's a lot more fun than the slower races I've been in earlier," Davis said. "(Warnes) definitely pushed me the last 200. I just think he was looking to survive and advance and have a pretty fast finish. I knew he was fast and knew how to close."

The race wasn't close to the personal best of either runner, who saved energy for the sectional and state meets. But Unity coach Dike Stirrett saw utility in Warnes' race as he led the Rockets to the team title.

"No disillusionment about it, Jonathan Davis is an extraordinary runner," Stirrett said. "But for Andrew to have that confidence, stay with him for that long and actually challenge him right down to the finish, that's a great race for Andrew."

For the rest of the top-ranked Rockets, whose 32 points were 39 better than second-place St. Joseph-Ogden, the objective was fairly simple. Like they have all season, Stirrett wanted them to run together as a pack and use as little energy as possible while moving on.

The four other scoring Unity runners, Getch Eisenmenger, Austin Woodard, Alex Morris and Dawson Dodds, all finished from 15:44 to 16:00.

"We're so used to doing it, it's just the way we've run all year," Stirrett said. "I wouldn't say it's something we've tried to cultivate, but they all have that feeling of not letting your teammates down. It's a trust that the teammates have between each other. It's turned into a real, real pack effort."

The girls' side of the area running scene didn't fall perfectly with rankings. Class 1A No. 5 St. Joseph-Ogden scored 42 points to take the PBL Regional, beating out No. 1 Uni, which finished second with 47 points, and No. 2 Unity, which finished third with 50 points. Urbana Uni High's Arielle Summitt and Annemarie Michael finished first and third in 18:11 and 18:24, respectively, but a balanced team effort from the Spartans, who have struggled with injuries all season, led them to victory. Faith Houston finished fourth in 18:51, and Hayley Grice, Hanna Atwood and Abby Gawthorp all finished in the top nine.

"We're continuing to make progress," coach Jason Retz said. "We've been a little banged up the last few weeks. (Saturday), we were just trying to be conservative and race smart knowing that the next couple of weeks are a heck of a lot more important than (Saturday) is."

**At Peoria.** For Class 2A No. 1 Mahomet-Seymour, the stakes were a bit different. With three other teams ranked in the Top 15 — No. 5 Normal University, No. 9 Metamora and No. 15 Danville — the Bulldogs couldn't coast to victory in the East Peoria Regional. Alex Keeble ran 15:02 to finish second, and Andrew Walmer, Jack Hyde and Ben Craw all finished in the top nine. A Bulldogs team that missed a few runners due to injury and a band competition scored 41 points to beat Normal University by 12, and Danville took fourth with 99 points.

"There were a lot of tough teams," Bulldogs coach Neal Garrison said. "In general, we've got to run pretty tough."

"It's a fairly small meet, so if one guy runs an okay effort, you can easily drop back a couple of teams. They performed well, and we're glad they won it. That was nice."

**At Kankakee.** Prairie Central's boys and girls advanced to sectional action in the Class 1A Kankakee McNamara Regional. The boys' team placed second with 94 points, 14 behind team champion Kankakee McNamara. The Hawks were led by a fifth-place finish from Jacob Maquet in 16:35 and a seventh-place run from Kyler Knapp in 16:53.

On the girls' side, Prairie Central placed fourth with 114 points and was paced by Caitlyn Ifft in ninth place (20:31).

**At Shelbyville.** Four area individuals advanced out of the Class 1A Shelbyville Regional. In boys' action, Bement's Luke Brewer (18th) and Clinton's JT Harrold (25th) moved on, and Clinton's Julia Sterr (13th) and Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond's Makenna Green (14th) qualified in the