

SHS, BA cross country teams fare well

Statesboro High's boys and girls varsity teams each came home with second place trophies Saturday in the Vidalia Invitational Cross Country Meet. Bleckley County was first in both the boys and girls races, while Swainsboro finished third in both events of the 19-team field.

The Blue Devils' Paul Welle, the defending Region 3-AAAA cross country champion, won the boys division with a blistering time of 16:37 in the 5k event. Other top Statesboro finishers were Jordan Jones (fourth, 17:15), Cam Sutcliff (18:24), Jared Kilpatrick (18:48), Steven Harvey (19:03), Jay Brunson (19:57), and Josh Pollak (20:41). Each runner posted their best individual time so far this season.

In the girls varsity race, Statesboro's Morgan VanGorder finished a strong third, with a time of 19:53. Kate Brunson was 10th with a time of 21:46. Rosa Town came in at 22:27, followed by Tiffany Woodard (22:39), Jordan Long (23:17), Kate Handley (23:19), and Lauren Thomas (23:35). The boys team average was 18:03, while the girls turned in a time of 22:01.

In the middle school division, a two-mile race, Statesboro's top finisher was Stuart Bauler in 11th place with a time of 13:09.

The Blue Devils will be in action again on Saturday when they travel to Conyers, Ga., to participate in the Patriot Invitational. This race features some of the best athletes in the state and is usually visited by several college scouts.

BA battles

Monday's battle in the season-long war between cross-country runners John Manack of Bulloch Academy and Brian Remler of Frederica Academy went to the St. Simons Island speedster.

Fastbreak



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Statesboro High's Paul Welle (upper left) won the boys division of the Vidalia Invitational on Saturday. Top right: Bulloch Academy junior Matt Williamson (foreground) and eighth-grader Will Johnson seem to run in unison as they trek along the dirt-road portion of the BA cross-country course Monday afternoon.

Remler took the lead early in the 3.2-mile race and never looked back as he clocked a 19:20 on the warm afternoon to win the 38-runner race. Manack was a steady second on the first loop around the BA campus but fell further behind the Knight runner. Instead, the BA sophomore was slowly challenged by Frederica's Adam Higgins.

On the second and final loop, Higgins hit the dirt road portion of the course in second place but Manack caught and passed him going through the woods, emerging in second. BA eighth-grader Phillip Brunson was hot on Higgins' heels and wound up taking fourth.

Gator runners captured the fifth through eighth spots to help Bulloch win the varsity boys' team title.

The varsity girls race became

anyone's to win with the absence of Bulloch Academy super sophomore Susanna McKee. McKee has been bothered by knee and shin pain during the season and has been given some time off to rest and recuperate before the region and state meets.

Frederica's Katie Macquire took advantage of the situation to shine as she won the 32-runner race, clocking a 23:22. Teammate Haley Watkins took second with a 23:27. Morgan Carr of Trinity Christian School of Dublin was third (24:26), TCS's Sarah Everitt was fourth (24:44) and Jessie Been of Frederica was fifth (25:34). Frederica won the girls' team title.

Eighth grader Laura Minick was Bulloch Academy's highest finisher, taking ninth place with

a 26:50.

The BA junior varsity girls almost had a perfect score in their team meet, having four runners finish in the top five. Erin O'Sullivan won the 36-runner race with a 10:29 on the 1.6-mile course. Emily Morgan was second (10:46), Haley Burke was third (10:46) and Madeline Manack was fourth (11:00).

Frederica's John Stroud won the 33-runner junior varsity boys' race with a blistering 9:16.

Bulloch County Sharks swim well

The Statesboro-Bulloch County Sharks participated in the Eighth Annual BYST Sensational Invitational Swim Meet in Brunswick on Sept. 16 and 17.

Sarah Schmidt swam to a fourth-place finish with an impressive time of 28.16 in the 50-meter freestyle. Gunther Griffen, competing in his first swim meet, placed 18th in both the 100-m freestyle and 50-m backstroke.

Chris Stalcup had Top 10 finishes and scored in all eight of his events. Also scoring for the Sharks were Marijke Griffin, Stanley Ngai, J.D. Schmidt, Sarah Schmidt, and Julie Stalcup.

Swimming personal best times were Caroline Crumrine, Marijke Griffin, Beth Miller, Laura Miller, J.D. Schmidt, Sarah Schmidt, Chris Stalcup, and Julie Stalcup. Leading the way in improved times was Laura Miller with a 12.8-second improvement in the 50-m fly, followed by Marijke Griffin with a 14.58-second improvement in the 100-m free.

The Sharks will compete next in the Carey Hilliard Invitational in Savannah at the Chatham County Aquatic Center on October 27-29.

SEBMS downs Screven 8-5

Southeast Bulloch Middle School (7-3) defeated Screven Friday 8-5 in the first round of the softball playoffs on Monday.

Bridget Devlin started the hitting rally with a hard-hit line drive between center and right field, earning her a triple. She ended up leading the team at the plate going 3-for-4. Ansley Rushing was 2-for-4.

Melissa Kennedy pitched the entire game to earn the win, striking out five.

Next up is an undefeated South Effingham squad today at 4:30 p.m. in Effingham.

Middle School softball will wrap up on Friday with the championship game.

BA soccer edges PC 3-2

SAVANNAH – Bulloch Academy nipped region foe Providence Christian 3-2 in GISA boys soccer action Monday at the Chatham Soccer Complex.

The Gators (4-10-1, 4-2) had goals from Jeremiah Masters, Trevor Darden and John Harden. Bulloch travels to Hinesville Thursday to battle another region foe, First Presbyterian School.

UGA's Cox, GT's Johnson earn awards

Georgia quarterback Joe Cox was the SEC freshman of the week after passing for 154 yards and two TDs in a 14-13 come-from-behind win against Colorado.

His 20-yard TD pass to Matrez Milner with 46 seconds left was the game-winner.

In the ACC, Georgia Tech wide receiver Calvin Johnson had a personal-best 165 yards and touchdowns. His scores covered 58 yards and 66 yards in the Yellow Jackets' win over Virginia to earn the award for offensive backs.

GSU golf sits in 13th

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Georgia Southern golf team finished the second of three rounds in 13th place Monday evening at the Shoal Creek Intercollegiate. The Eagles recorded a 305-299—604 (+28) with one round remaining at the par-72, 7,114-yard course located at the Shoal Creek Golf Club.

Jordan Johnstun and Chris Smith finished the first two are tied for 38th at +7, 10 strokes off the individual lead. Alabama's team currently leads, sitting at even par with one round to play.