Elementary girls place third in state championships, boys fifth

The elementary and middle school state championships were held recently at Cave Lake Park in Wayne County. This season marked the first time an elementary championship had ever been held. The need for an elementary state meet arose due to the large number of younger runners becoming involved in cross-country throughout the state.

The elementary girls' team had an awesome race. Overall, they finished third out of a talented field of runners. The elementary races were limited to fifth grade and below. Rockcastle fifth grader Katy Mattingly led the team with an awesome 18th place finish. She covered the treacherous 1.8 mile course in 14:54.9, a Rockcastle elementary girls' record for a 3,000 meter race. Fourth grader Bethany Clontz ran a spectacular race and finished 32nd overall in 15:55.9. Fourth grade teammate Cora Collinsworth ran extremely well and finished in 50th place overall in 17:36.8. Katie Howard, also a fourth grader, ran an exceptional race and placed 55th overall in 18:07.3. Third grader Morgan Hunt ran an awesome race and finished 61st overall in 20:21.1. Fourth grader Samantha Bussell ran a great race and placed 64th overall in 22:34.4.

The boys' elementary team also had a great meet. The five-member team finished fifth overall out of a stellar field of male competitors. Fourth grader Blake Parsons, considered one of the favorites coming into the race, ran a spectacular 3,000 meter race. Blake covered the course in a Rockcastle elementary boys' record time of 12:31.3 and placed seventh overall. Fifth grade teammate Bryan Clontz ran an exceptional race and placed 23rd overall with a personal best time of 13:17.3. Fourth grader Andrew Pensol, perhaps the most improved Rockcastle runner this season, ran a terrific race and placed 29th overall with a personal best time of 13:34.8. Fourth grader Devon Davidson ran extremely well and placed 64th overall in 16:42.0. First grader Jacob Bussell completed the scoring for Rockcastle. He continued to run very impressively and finished 68th overall in 17:54.8. The team was without fourth grader Robbie Miller. Based on earlier performances this season, Robbie would most likely have finished high enough to give Rockcastle the state championship. The team finished only twenty points behind the winner.

The meet represented the first time Rockcastle's Middle School runners had ever competed for a state title. Eighth grader Kayla Hayes led the girls' team with yet another spectacular race. Out of 229 runners, Kayla placed an amazing seventh overall. In the process, she shattered the old RCMS 4,000 meter record with a tremendous effort of 16:13.5. Eighth grade teammate Elizabeth Bussell ran an exceptional race and placed 66th overall with a personal best time of 18:18.0. Mourine Ramsey, also an eighth grader, ran very well. She finished 127th overall with a superb effort of 19:56.5. Kayla was recently named to the Region 8 All-Area Middle School Cross-Country Team for her spectacular season. The team consists of only seven runners from an area including close to thirty high schools.

Seventh grader Bryan Gilbert led the boys' middle school team with a hard fought race. Out of 317 runners, Bryan finished in 58th place overall, despite getting a late start this season and missing the first couple of months of conditioning. Bryan covered the course in 15:53. Seventh grader Josh Blair also ran a great race. Josh placed 242nd overall with a great effort of 18:51.2. Seventh grade teammate Drew Davidson also ran exceptionally well and finished 265th with a time of 19:25.7.

A select few of Rockcastle's runners are presently engaged in junior Olympic cross-country competitions. Results of those meets will appear at a later date.

Monday, December 3 marks the beginning of indoor track practice for RCMS and RCHS. Practice will be held Monday through Friday of each week from 3:00-5:00. Each child must have a physical and parent's permission to stay. For more information, contact Coach Mark Brummett at RCMS 256-5118.

Eighth grader Kayla Hayes placed seventh out of 229 runners in the KTCCCA Middle School State Championships. She shattered the old RCMS record by nearly 16 seconds. She was also named one of seven all-area middle school runners for Region 8.

Fourth grader Blake Parsons finished seventh in the KTCCCA Elementary School State Championships while establishing a new record time for a Rockcastle runner. He recently placed third in the Region V Junior Olympic Championships in Detroit, Michigan and will compete in the national championships in Lincoln, Nebraska on December 8th.

Fifth grade Bryan Clontz placed 23rd in the KTCCCA Elementary School State Championships with a personal best effort.

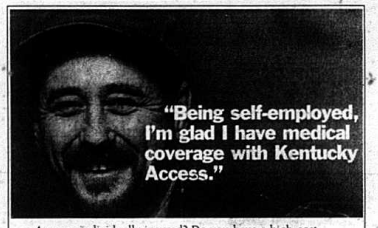
Fourth grader Andrew Pensol placed 29th in the KTCCCA Elementary School State Championships with a personal best performance.

Fourth grader Bethany Clontz placed 32nd at the KTCCCA Elementary School State Championships with a personal best effort.

Seventh graders Josh Blair and Bryan Gilbert ran very well in the KTCCCA Middle School State Championships. Bryan led RCMS with a 58th place finish out of 317 runners.

Fourth grader Cora Collinsworth and first grader Jacob Bussell placed 50th and 68th, respectively, at the elementary state meet.

The elementary girls' team placed third overall in the KTCCCA Elementary School State Championships. Team members are, from left: Katy Mattingly, Katy Howard, Samantha Bussell, Morgan Hunt and Bethany Clontz. Not pictured was Cora Collinsworth.



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LOCATION: HIGHWAY 25, 1/2 MILE NORTH OF RENFRO VALLEY. NEXT DOOR TO MT. VERNON PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL SUPPLY.

PARTIAL LIST OF ITEMS:

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NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JEFF CROMER AT 606-256-4545 OR HAROLD BUSTLE AT 606-308-5901.

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