Punxsy Cross Country teams run past Brockway 15-49

The Punxsy boys cross country team swept the first six places and claimed eight of the top nine spots as well on their home course yesterday against the Brockway Rovers to earn a 15-49 win. DuBois Central Catholic also competed in the meet but did not field enough runners for a complete score.

“Brockway has a fairly large team, but we finished ahead of them by a pretty substantial margin on Saturday at Ridgway and I was hoping to give the guys an opportunity to take it a bit easier today after having had nine tough races in less than five weeks so far,” said boys head coach George Wehrle. “For the most part it worked out well for the majority of the team.”

Owen Bartlebaugh won the race in 17:32, followed by Ethan Brentham just 10 seconds later. Jake Dinger, Liam Storms and Alex Eberhart all finished within three seconds of one another at just a shade over 19 minutes, and Corbin Heitzenrater completed the uninterrupted run of Chucks with a time of 19:23. “Jake did the best job of all these guys in executing the race plan, while Owen, Liam and Corbin ran seasonal bests despite that not being an objective for this meet,” said Wehrle. “Ethan and Alex ran quite well also, so maybe everyone was more relaxed today knowing there was less pressure than normal.”

After Brockway took the 7th position, Ethan May and Kevin Ingros took the next two places with times of 19:49 and 19:50, respectively. “Ethan was right on the money with what we were shooting for, and Kevin clocked a huge personal best and broke 20 for the first time ever,” said Wehrle. “I never expected any seasonal bests today and somehow we got four and another four who were very close to theirs. Conditions must have been nearly perfect out there.”

Evan States placed 13th overall with a time of 20:46, with Jacob Good one place behind in 22:06. Sam Rodgers placed 18th overall in 23:00, followed by Luke Poole in 19th with a time of 23:17. Copeland Whitfield was timed in 34:36 to cross the line in 28th.

“Looking at their splits, Evan, Jacob and Luke were all a bit fast through 2 miles, but Evan’s final time was dead on and Luke and Jacob were not too far off at all,” said Wehrle. “Sam did the best job of pacing himself and Copeland was pretty solid today as well. All in all the guys exceeded expectations time-wise and we’ll move on to the next challenge.”

Punxsy will recognize their two seniors, Jake Dinger and Alex Eberhart, next Tuesday against Brookville in the final meet of the season before the District 9 Championships on October 29th in Ridgway.