

Recap: Ridge View cross country

John Devlin

After finishing third at state with a sophomore-dominated team in 2008, Ridge View's boys cross country team took a step forward this fall, but not quite far enough for the Blazers taste.

Brian Rosefield's team, ranked No. 1 for most of the season, had to settle for second place this time around. The bottom line: Lexington was better at the most important meet of the season.

It was the second time Ridge View has finished second at state. The Blazers also have two third-place finishes on the program resume. The big prize, however, remains elusive.

"My guys ran well, had a good race; Lexington was just decidedly the best team at the end of the season," said Rosefield.

"We learned a big lesson. We can't just show up and win a state championship. This should really motivate the guys to put in the miles in the between now and next season. I'm not saying it has to be running 24-7. But we have to put in those miles if we want to take that next step."

Prior to the disappointment at the Class 4A state finals, Ridge View had a wonderful season, with a long list of accomplishments at major outings, including wins at the Coaches Classic, the Sandhills Invitational, the Region 4-4A championships and the Middle State qualifying meet.

"It was a very good season," said Rosefield. "It just didn't turn out the way we wanted at the end. But this group of guys should all be back next season and we'll give it another try."

As usual, juniors Joe Keitt and David Jennings led the RV pack. Both earn all-state honors for the second year in a row. Keitt, who finished 10th a year ago, was second only to Fort Mill superstar Mark Blackmon, who became only the second three-time champion in Class 4A. Jennings finished eighth after placing fifth in 2008. Fellow juniors Raeven Lantz (28th), Jay Lynch (38th) and Step Rembert (57th) were Ridge View's other scoring runners.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

RESULTS: Cross Country championships

CLASS 4A

Boys

Team scores: Lexington 69, Ridge View 120, Fort Mill 126, Dorman 136, Dutch Fork 156, Stratford 157, Irmo 206, Spring Valley 219, Spartanburg 252, Wando 270, Mauldin 312, Nation Ford 315, Clover 323, Summerville 332, Easley 347, Carolina Forest 365, Beaufort 398.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Mark Blackmon, Fort Mill, 15:47.1; 2. Joseph Keitt, Ridge View, 16:03.5; 3. Sage Kosiorek, Boiling Springs, 16:04.9; 4. Brandon Easler, Dorman, 16:11.2; 5. Drew Harris, Lexington, 16:14.8; 6. Kevin Ketner, Nation Ford, 16:23.4; 7. Timothy Tyler, Wando, 16:25.7; 8. David Jennings, Ridge View, 16:26.5; 9. Colby Coulter, Lexington, 16:26.7; 10. Will Belue, Lexington, 16:27.1.

Girls

Team scores: Wando 63, Dorman 130, Mauldin 131, Stratford 145, Fort Mill 145, Spartanburg 157, Summerville 182, Irmo 219, Lexington 226, Dutch Fork 231, Boiling Springs 249, Northwestern 306, Spring Valley 323, Sumter 332, Nation Ford 395, James Island 418, Beaufort 477, Blythewood 537.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Jasmine Polite, Stratford, 18:40.5; 2. Alexa Neiling, Mauldin, 18:49.6; 3. Brittany Williams, Mauldin, 19:02.4; 4. Lauren DiNicola, Wando, 19:05.9; 5. Keely Gillespie, North Augusta, 19:15.4; 6. Clarricia Golden, Sumter, 19:16.0; 7. Meredith Kilburn, Fort Mill, 19:17.3; 8. Evie Tate, Spartanburg, 19:19.5; 9. Abbie Lewis, Fort Mill, 19:23.6; 10. Danielle Sams, Stratford, 19:29.5.

CLASS 3A

Boys

Team scores: Hilton Head 41, Wade Hampton (G) 69, Daniel 137, J.L. Mann 159, Chapin 204, Belton-Honea Path 205, Battery Creek 222, Riverside 239, Woodmont 278, Bluffton 290, Greer 317, Greenville 318, Blue Ridge 326, Travelers Rest 358, Eastside 360, South Aiken 379, Dreher 430, Myrtle Beach 442, Georgetown 474, Socastee 510, Lower Richland 663, Darlington 667, Wilson 704, St. James 715.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Aaron Ramirez, Woodmont, 15:45.5; 2. Jack Manesiotis, Hilton Head, 16:04.9; 3. Jack Felix, Hilton Head, 16:14.8; 4. Kyle Koby, Woodmont, 16:17.9; 5. Mackenzie Johnston, Hilton Head, 16:22.7; 6. Parks Edwards, J.L. Mann, 16:26.8; 7. Jamie Sires, Airport, 16:36.0; 8. Andrew Spencer, Wade Hampton (G), 16:41.8; 9. Andre Ivankovic, Daniel, 16:45.0; 10. Morgan Bateman, Wade Hampton (G), 16:48.5.

Girls

Team scores: Hilton Head 52, Daniel 58, Riverside 118, J.L. Mann 155, Wade Hampton (G) 186, Bluffton 200, Eastside 207, Chapin 233, Travelers Rest 302, South Aiken 306, Blue Ridge 320, Greenville 320, Union 361, A.C. Flora 414, North Myrtle Beach 421, Pickens 474, Belton-Honea Path 492, Airport 503, Darlington 505, Myrtle Beach 511, Dreher 521, Greer 544, St. James 556, Socastee 667.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Sinead Haughey, Daniel, 18:26.2; 2. Sara Manesiotis, Hilton Head, 18:31.2; 3. Tameka Jackson, Seneca, 18:37.2; 4. Faith Lifer, Hilton Head, 18:41.3; 5. Erica Segars, Daniel, 18:44.8; 6. Megan Stahlberger, Airport, 18:50.9; 7. Allie Arsiniega, Riverside, 19:08.3; 8. Emily Crick, Hilton Head, 19:27.5; 9. Lydia Davis, Eastside, 19:30.9; 10. Shelby Nicosia, South Aiken, 19:41.0.

CLASS 2A

Boys

Team scores: Bishop England 56, Liberty 78, Broome 80, Woodruff 112, Pelion 205, Emerald 230, Ashley Ridge 249, Chesnee 258, Walhalla 261, Pendleton 278, Palmetto 282, Andrews 345, Wade Hampton (H) 364, Batesburg-Leesville 375, Gilbert 376, Waccamaw 390, Cane Bay 435, Eau Claire 456, Woodland 513, Hanahan 533, Crescent 546, Cheraw 567, Edisto 642, Aynor 750.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Austin High, Chesnee, 16:42.1; 2. Brett Vangsnes, Broome, 16:51.0; 3. Nathan Leach, Bishop England, 16:57.7; 4. Jake Goodnough, Liberty, 16:59.0; 5. Sid Houting, Bishop England, 17:02.8; 6. Miguel Omedo-Pulid, Andrews, 17:03.8; 7. Blake Arnold, Woodruff, 17:07.8; 8. Craig Dillard, Liberty, 17:12.0; 9. John Callis, Wade Hampton (H), 17:12.9; 10. Dakota Stewart, Liberty, 17:14.0.

Girls

Team scores: Landrum 42, Pendleton 133, Pelion 155, Broome 156, Bishop England 162, Christ Church 174, Walhalla 188, Palmetto 206, Ashley Ridge 269, Waccamaw 278, Mid-Carolina 301, Woodruff 311, Emerald 344, Academic Magnet 360, Aynor 412, Cane Bay 424, Gilbert 435, Tamassee-Salem 506, Crescent 511, Cheraw 555, Marion 599, Indian Land 602, Chesterfield 622, Latta 631.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Jeanne Stroud, Bishop England, 18:32.9; 2. Samantha Waters, Landrum, 19:13.1; 3. Caroline Jennings, Christ Church, 19:43.7; 4. Sarah Cash, Landrum, 19:52.7; 5. Victoria Barthelme, Christ Church, 20:03.4; 6. Nevada Minard, Pelion, 20:03.8; 7. Walker Marion, Academic Magnet, 20:11.0; 8. Lucie Kulze, Academic Magnet, 20:13.2; 9. Jessica Whitmire, Pendleton, 20:20.7; 10. Grace Barnett, Waccamaw, 20:32.3.

CLASS A

Boys

Team scores: Landrum 43, Christ Church 82, Academic Magnet 133, Ninety Six 133, Tamassee-Salem 155, Greenville Tech 169, Indian Land 230, Brashier Middle College 241, Southside Christian 250, Green Sea-Floyds 267, North Central 274, Governor's School 342, Bamberg-Ehrhardt 353, Dixie 357, Chesterfield 380, Latta 388, Carvers Bay 538.

Top 10 individuals: 1. Chad Hampton, North Central, 17:00.9; 2. Brandon McKellar, Ninety Six 17:01.3; 3. James Quattlebaum, Christ Church, 17:04.7; 4. Cody Ridley, Landrum, 17:14.68; 5. Robbie McKellar, Ninety Six, 17:32.1; 6. Jonathan Banks, Southside Christian, 17:35.9; 7. J.J. Carruth, Landrum, 17:36.12; 8. Kevin McLeroy, Greenville Tech, 17:42.0; 9. Kenneth Human, Landrum, 17:43.74; 10. Patrick McCarthy, Academic Magnet, 17:47.5.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Wednesday, Nov 11, 2009

Posted on Wed, Nov. 04, 2009

Preview: 4A state cross country

John Devlin

Saturday's Class 4A state boys cross country state championship at Clemson Research Park is shaping up as a potential duel between Midlands rivals Ridge View and Lexington.

Ridge View edged Lexington 42-44 at last week's Middle State qualifying meet with the ultimate difference being at the back of the scoring pack where Blazer Jay Lynch finished 16th, two spots ahead of Wildcat freshman Blake White.

As a result, Ridge View was reinstated as the No. 1 team in the latest SCTCCCA poll released on Tuesday, while Lexington moved up from fourth to second. Dorman, which replaced the Blazers in the No. 1 position a few weeks ago, dropped to No. 4 after finishing second to Fort Mill at the Upper State qualifier.

Joe Keitt and David Jennings set the tone for Ridge View, finishing in the top two spots with national elite times. Keitt's winning mark was 16:03.53, while Jennings checked in at 16:10.69. Raeven Lantz (9th, 16:47.88), Mike Lantz (14th, 17:06.22) and Lynch (16th, 17:07.12) rounded out the Blazers scoring lineup.

Drew Harris and Colby Coulter led the Wildcats with national elite times. Harris finished third ion 16:20.88 and Coulter was fifth at 16:28.60. Will Belue (7th, 16:40.25), Jay Lloyd (11th, 17:04.22) and White (18th, 17:07.97) accounted for the rest of Lexington's team points.

Neither team has won a state championship, which makes the local angle on Saturday even more compelling. Ridge View has been a Top 10 fixture since the school opened in 1995 and put together runner-up performances in 2001 and 2004. Lexington, on the other hand, has only four Top 10 finishes since 1992. The Wildcats' best-ever state showing was a fifth-place effort in 1997.

Dutch Fork, Irmo and Spring Valley earned the three other state invitations.

Roland Hakes led sixth-ranked Dutch Fork with a fourth-place finish and a national elite time of 16:22.82. Andrew Jordan was the frontrunner for seventh-ranked Irmo, finishing eighth in 16:43.53. Matt Johnson (13th, 17:05.91) was leaded for unranked Spring Valley.

On the girls side, Lexington continued its recent mastery of Dutch Fork. The youthful Wildcats scored a convincing 34-57 win over the Silver Foxes, allowing them to jump ahead of DF in the latest rankings. Lexington enters the state meet at No. 7 in the 4A pecking order, while Dutch Fork slipped one spot to eighth.

The trend was the same in individual matters. Lexington seventh-grader Haylee Love beat out Dutch Fork seniors Samantha Hughes and Michelle Arms at the finish line. All three posted national elite times. Love clocked in at 19:17.76, followed by Hughes (19:23.76) and Arms (19:33.38).

Freshmen Meri Hennage (5th, 20:04.42) and Val Feliciano (8th, 20:38.98), junior Beka Rush (9th, 20:40.62) and seventh-grader Katlin Killman (11th, 20:46.68) lined up in support of Love.

Irmo, Spring Valley and Blythewood also emerged as state qualifiers.

Sophomore Savannah Radenbaugh helped Irmo to a third-place team finish with a national elite time of 19:42.53. Emily Bakaj (7th, 20:10.51) was the top Spring Valley runner. Sophomore Claire Stephan (27th, 22:08.49) and eighth-grader Kendra Burkhardt (33rd, 22:42.80) were key to Blythewood returning to state after missing the cut last season.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Wednesday, Nov 11, 2009

Posted on Thu, Nov. 05, 2009

Title contenders

The state's top cross-country runners converge on the Midlands this weekend for the SCHSL championships at Clemson's Sandhills Research Park in Northeast Richland.

Ridge View, ranked No. 1 among Class 4A boys, has high hopes to bring home a state championship. But the Blazers will have a strong challenge from Lexington, which is ranked No. 2.

Among individuals, keep an eye out for Airport's Megan Stahlberger in the Class 3A girls race and Pelion's Nevada Minard, the defending Class 2A girls champion.

Here's a longer look at the top Midlands teams and athletes who will compete on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

RIDGE VIEW BOYS

David Jennings and Joe Keitt nearly led the Blazers to a state championship in 2008 as sophomores and they look capable of completing the task this year.

The S.C. Track and Cross Country Coaches Association has Ridge View ranked No. 1 mostly because Jennings is the No. 4-ranked boys runner in the state while Keitt is No. 6.

Stratford, a Class 4A team, is the only other school that has two runners in the top 10 of the individual rankings, which include all classifications.

Last season, Jennings placed fifth at the Class 4A state meet while Keitt came in No. 10

At last weekend's Class 4A qualifying meet, Keitt and Jennings placed first and second.

LEXINGTON BOYS AND GIRLS

The Lexington boys have improved dramatically since last season, when they placed No. 17 at the Class 4A state meet.

Their No. 2 ranking in the coaches poll means they've impressed plenty of people while winning the Region 5-4A championship.

Drew Harris is Lexington's top runner. The senior is No. 10 in the coaches' individual rankings. At last weekend's qualifying meet, he placed third behind Keitt and Jennings.

Lexington also counts on strong performances from senior Will Belue, junior Jay Lloyd and freshman Blake White, who all placed in the top 20 at the qualifying meet.

The top runner for the Wildcats' girls team is seventh-grader Haylee Love, who is No. 6 in the coaches' rankings. She prepared well for her first state meet by winning Saturday's qualifying meet with a time of 19:17.76. Lexington, in Hall of Fame coach Catherine Lempesis' first season at the school, is ranked No. 7 in the Class 4A poll.

PELION GIRLS AND BOYS

Pelion pushed into the top five at last season's Class 2A-A girls meet, finishing third with 109 points behind champion Christ Church (78) and Landrum (101).

Nevada Minard, an eighth-grader at the time, spurred the rise with her first-place finish.

This season, Pelion carries the No. 3 ranking into the state meet, trailing Landrum and Christ Church in the coaches' eyes.

Minard, who ran 19:49 in her championship performance, placed third at last Saturday's Class 2A Lower State qualifying meet with a time of 20:50.72.

The Panthers, though, placed first in the team standings. Pelion senior Alexandria Kyzer placed fifth, freshman Patricia Garcia was 11th and sophomore Morgan Payne finished 19th.

All will need even better performances Saturday if the Panthers are to grab the top prize.

The Panthers boys team placed second at the Lower State qualifier, led by freshman Zack Tharp's ninth-place finish. The Panthers are ranked No. 5 in the coaches poll.

AIRPORT BOYS AND GIRLS

Stahlberger placed No. 15 in the Class 3A state meet with a time of 19:58.99 last season and has improved her performance as a freshman.

At last Saturday's Class 3A Lower State qualifier, Stahlberger placed second to Hilton Head's Sara Manesiotis with a time of 19:14.66.

On the boys side, the Eagles have a good chance to build on their 10th place finish at last year's state meet.

Seniors Jamie Sires and Joshua Williams were individual qualifiers thanks to strong running at the qualifying meet. Sires was third at Lower State with a time of 16:47, while Williams was eighth in 17:50.16.

Sires looks to cap a standout career with another top finish. He is a two-time, all-state runner, placing 15th as a sophomore in 2007 and ninth last season.

DUTCH FORK GIRLS

Samantha Hughes is expected to have a top finish for the Silver Foxes, who placed No 5 in Class 4A last season.

Hughes carries the No. 10 ranking among individual runners after placing 20th at the Class 4A state meet in 2008 as a junior with a time of 19:58.74.

Hughes was second to Love at the 4A qualifying meet, finishing with a time of 19:23.76.

Michelle Arms, No 19 in the state in 2008, was third at the qualifying meet. If freshman Ameila Syfert and Haley Saxby, who placed 14th and 15th at the qualifying meet, can move up this Saturday, the Silver Foxes will be in position for another top-five finish.

CHAPIN BOYS AND GIRLS

Chapin seeks to have top-10 performances by its boys and girls runners for the second consecutive season.

The Eagles boys and girls teams prepped well for the state meet with sixth-place finishes at last weekend's Upper State qualifying meet at Heritage Park in Simpsonville.

Heath Lorick (17th, 17:21.02), Carson Barnes (22nd, 17:30.33) and Hunter McGahee (24th, 17:30.83) were the leaders for the Chapin boys, who are ranked seventh in the coaches poll.

Lannon McCoy (9th, 19:53.17) and Julia Von Vollenho (20th, 20:38.66) led the way for the Eagles girls, who stand at No. 8 in the 3A rankings. Individually, McCoy will be out to gain a spot on the all-state team for the first time after placing 17th as a freshman last season and 20th as an eighth-grader in 2007.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Thursday, Oct 29, 2009

Posted on Sun, Oct. 25, 2009

RV boys, SV girls rule in 4-4A

Ridge View's boys cross country team claimed its third straight title and the Spring Valley girls turned in a perfect performance at the Region 4-4A championship meet last week at Clemson Research Park.

The Blazers, ranked No. 2 in Class 4A, was an easy 22-52 winner over runner-up Spring Valley.

David Jennings, Joe Keitt and Raeven Lantz were the top three runners at the finish line. Jennings earn the individual title with a run of 16:02.27, Keitt was second in 16:12.66 and Lantz third in 16:47.75. Jennings and Keitt had the meet's national elite times.

Jay Lynch (7th) and Step Rembert (9th) joined their RV teammates on the all-region team.

Spring Valley's William Ivey (5th) and Connor McCormick (8th) and Blythewood's Andrew Gordon (10th) were the other Midlands runners to make the all-region cut.

Spring Valley occupied the top five spots at the finish line, resulting in the Vikings perfect 15-point showing. Emily Bakaj's winning time of 20:27.81 set the tone. Alanna Cates (2nd), Christine Nixon (3rd), Annie Niehaus (4th) and Alex Berry (5th) fell in behind the senior leader. Ironically, Sarah Beasley earned a spot on the all-region team with a seventh-place finish, but did not contribute to the team score.

Ridge View finished a distant second with 72 points.

Ridge View's Alesha Love (6th) and Blythewood's Claire Stephens were the other Midlands runners to earn spots on the all-region team.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Tuesday, Oct 27, 2009

Posted on Sat, Oct. 24, 2009

High school tennis, cross country results

Girls tennis

Porter-Gaud 6, Heathwood Hall 0

at Sumter

SCISA tournament

Semifinals

Singles: Jeannete Fischer (PG) d. Lauren Armstrong 6-0, 6-1; Mikola Cooper (PG) d. Karson Kocher 6-2, 6-1; Carissa Steichen (PG) d. Katherine Lough 6-1, 6-0; Annie Hay (PG) d. Elise McKelvey 6-1, 6-0; Christina Connolly (PG) d. Daniele Zoucher 6-2, 6-1; Carcyle Williams (PG) d. Katie Beach 6-2, 6-0.

Boys cross country

Region 4-4A meet

Team scores: Ridge View 22, Spring Valley 52, Rock Hill 82, Blythewood 109, Lancaster 127, South Pointe 151

Top five individuals: David Jennings (RV) 16:02; Joe Keitt (RV) 16:12; Raeven Lantz (RV) 16:47; Wylie Penegar (L); William Ivey (SV) 16:58.



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, Oct. 15, 2009

Cross country, volleyball state rankings

SC Track and Cross Country Coaches Association top 10 poll

Boys

Class 4A

1. Dorman
2. Ridge View
3. Fort Mill
4. Stratford
5. Lexington
6. Spring Valley
7. Irmo
8. Dutch Fork
9. Mauldin
10. Spartanburg

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Tuesday, Oct 13, 2009

Posted on Mon, Oct. 12, 2009

Keitt, RV boys prevail at Sandhills Invitational

John Devlin

So some reason, the Ridge View boys cross country team fell from the top spot in latest SCTCCCA Class 4A rankings early last week, despite a strong showing the previous week at the Wendy's Invitational in Charlotte.

The Blazers were reward by the voters for that effort with a drop to No. 2 behind Dorman, which been keeping a low profile since winning its own Cavalier Invitational On Sept. 26.

Do rankings matter? No, but Ridge View had a nice response with another win at a big meet last weekend, prevailing by a 41-59 point margin over 4A fifth-ranked Lexington at the Sandhills Invitational on its home course.

Joe Keitt's championship run set the tone for the Blazers. The junior turned in a national elite time of 16 minutes, 26.66 seconds on the way to first place. He had Top 10 backing from teammate David Jennings (5th, 16:58.01) and Raeven Lantz (10th, 17:16.55).

Step Rembert and Jay Lynch rounded out the all-junior RV top five, placing 12th and 13th, respectively. Rembert clocked in at 17:30.15, Lynch at 17:35.14.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Mon, Oct. 12, 2009

Lexington teams finish second at Sandhills meet

John Devlin

Lexington's strong cross country season continued at the Sandhills Invitational on Saturday. The Wildcats boys and girls teams both finished in second place.

The Class 4A fifth-ranked boys team finished 15 points behind No. 2 Ridge View in the final tabulations with sophomore Colby Coulter and seniors Will Belue and Drew Harris all cracking the Top 10.

Coulter was third Ridge View's Joe Keitt and Dutch Fork's Roland Hakes at the finish line, clocking in at 16 minutes, 43.93 seconds. Keitt had a winning time of 16:26.66. Belue (17:05.84) and Harris (17:16.04) finished seventh and ninth, respectively.

Junior Jay Lloyd (14th, 17:35.46 and freshman Erik Wendt (26th, 18:08.16) were Lexington's other scoring runners.

The Wildcats girls' team, ranked No. 7, may end of losing ground in the next poll because the youthful team was beaten out for first place by a familiar foe - ninth-ranked Dutch Fork. It was the third head-to-head clash of the season at a major meet for the two Midlands rivals. DF now has a 2-1 edge vs. Lexington. The Wildcats beat out the Silver Foxes for first place at the Lexington County meet, but has since finish below DF at Sandhills and Lake Murray. The Silver Foxes winning margin on Saturday was 53-71.

Seventh-grader Haylee Love and freshman Valeria Feliciano had Top 10 efforts at Sandhills. Love was third with a time of 20:00.86, while Feliciano was ninth in 21:17.60.

Seventh-grader Katelin Killman (13th, 21:34.24) and freshmen Meri Henenage (17th, 22:03.74) and Rochelle Kellis (30th, 23:08.71) closed out the Lexington scoring.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, Oct. 08, 2009

Spring Valley hosts annual Sandhills Invitational

State title meets at USC, Clemson Saturday

At Sandhills Research Park on Saturday, 10 teams will compete in one of the last big meets of the regular season.

The field for the Sandhills Invitational, hosted by Spring Valley, features Rock Hill, Emerald, Dutch Fork and Airport among others. Several of the state's top runners - Samantha Hughes (Dutch Fork), Ridge View's Joe Keitt and David Jennings among them - are registered to compete.

Region meets and state qualifiers are set to begin on Oct. 19, three weeks ahead of the Nov. 7 state finals, which also will be run at Sandhills.

This weekend's races begin at 9 a.m. with the girls varsity competition. Boys varsity follows at 9:30 a.m.

At the Pelion Invitational on Sept. 30, Lexington's girls edged Dutch Fork 51-55 to win the 15-team event. Lexington had five runners finish in the top 15, with Haylee Love leading the pack in fourth and Meri Henage in at sixth.

Despite the victory, the Wildcats slipped from sixth to seventh in the SCTCCCA Coaches Class 4A rankings. The Wildcats, in their first season under coach Catherine Lempesis, are ranked 10th in the coaches association's all-class poll.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Tuesday, Oct 13, 2009

Posted on Mon, Oct. 05, 2009

Blazers falter vs. Hilton Head in North Carolina

The battle for supremacy in South Carolina boys cross country continued on Saturday in North Carolina.

Ridge View, which staked claim to the No. 1 overall position at the Coaches Classic gathering last month, took a step back on Saturday at the Wendy's Invitational In Charlotte. The Blazers, ranked No. 1 in Class 4A, finished second in the Open Division behind Hilton Head, ranked No. 1 in 3A and second behind RV in the SCTCCCA all-classification rankings.

Hilton Head, which lost its top overall billing to Ridge View at the Coaches Classic, avenged that disappointing performance by easily mastering the Blazers, 51-91.

Joe Keitt and David Jennings ran extremely well for RV, placing fourth and seventh, respectively, with times of 16:12 and 16:26. The difference in the team matters, however, was rather stark. Hilton Head placed all five scoring runner in the Top 16.

Raeven Lantz (22nd, 17:00), Jay Lynch (26th, 17:11) and Step Rembert (32nd, 17:18) accounted for the rest of Ridge View's team points.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

No. 1 Blazers dominate Coastal Carolina meet

Ridge View, the state's No. 1 team in boys cross country, breezed to a win at the Coastal Carolina Invitational on Saturday in Conway.

The Blazers dominated the field, posting a winning score of 24 points, 52 ahead of runner-up Carolina Forest. Ridge View, in fact, had all seven runners in the lineup crack the Top 11, though only five men actually contributed points to the team total.

As usual, David Jennings and Joe Keitt led the Blazer effort. Jennings was the individual champion with a time of 16:59.60. He finished one second ahead of Keitt.

Raeven Lance (6th, 17:37.58), Jay Lynch (7th, 17:45.77) and Mike Lantz (8th, 17:49.55) around out the scoring lineup.

Step Rembert and Tevin Yarborough also ran exceedingly well, but were out of the money in team scoring matters. Rembert finished 10th (18:24.99), and Yarborough was 11th (18:29.67).

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

Friday's high school roundup

High school cross country

The North Myrtle Beach girls and Ridge View boys won titles at the Coastal Carolina Invitational.

BOYS

Team Results: 1. Ridge View 24; 2. Carolina Forest 76; 3. Nation Ford 79; 4. Sumter 142; 5. Waccamaw 158.

Individual Results: 1. David Jennings (RV) 16:59.60; 2. Joe Keitt (RV) 17:00.67; 3. Kevin Ketner (NF) 17:02.76; 4. Zach Hensel (CF) 17:13.64; 5. Miguel Olmedo-Pulido (Andrews) 17:31.85.

GIRLS

Team Results: 1. North Myrtle Beach 41; 2. Sumter 42; 3. Waccamaw 68; 4. St. James 107; 5. Darlington 152.

Individual Results: 1. Claricia Golden (S) 20:41.93; 2. Benjamin Jenerette (NMB) 21:33.84; 3. Jessica Hatchell (D) 22:41.43; 4. Caroline Keener (NMB) 23:11.99; 5. Grace Barnett (W) 23:33.08. ALSO 7. Jill Transou (NMB) 23:45.74; 9. Nicole Schmitz (NMB) 24:11.62; 19. Jennifer Boyer (NMB) 24:58.72

High school boys soccer



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, Sep. 17, 2009

SC Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Top 10 Poll

Boys

Class 4A

1. Ridge View
2. Dorman
3. Fort Mill
4. Wando
5. Spartanburg
6. Stratford
7. Irmo
8. Mauldin
9. Northwestern
10. Dutch Fork



Tuesday, Sep 22, 2009

Posted on Mon, Sep. 14, 2009

Blazers confirm No. 1 ranking

Ridge View's boys cross country team cemented its early-season standing as the No. 1 team in South Carolina on Saturday at the annual Coaches Classic meet.

Brian Rosefield's Blazers entered the meet ranked No. 1 in Class 4A and No. 2 overall behind Class 3A Hilton Head in the all-classification rankings. Hilton Head moved ahead of Ridge View on the all-class list in the second SCTCCCA poll, but that will change again after Saturday.

The junior-dominated Blazers set the pace in the elite International Division race, winning 136-147 over Fort Mill. Hilton Head, meanwhile, finished a distant 10th in the early season showdown.

Junior Joseph Keitt led the RV pack, finishing 6th with a time of 16:22. He had fine backing from David Jennings (13th, 16:48), Raeven Lantz (20th, 16:59), Mike Lantz (36th, 17:21) and Jay Lynch (63rd, 17:51).

The Blazers, who finished third at state a year ago, have been a Top 5 team six times in the last eight seasons, but are still chasing the elusive goal of winning a state championship.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

The Herald | heraldonline.com

Area cross country teams look forward to Coaches Classic

By Karl Lyles - kyles@heraldonline.com

Several Herald-area schools will be at the Coaches Classic cross country meet in Columbia this Saturday. The meet already registered some 2,200 runners. It will be run on the same Sandhills course that hosts the state meet the first weekend in November.

Most of the area's schools will compete in the International Division, with the varsity boys' race starting at 10 a.m., followed at 10:30 a.m. by the varsity girls.

Fort Mill has the highest-ranked teams among local schools in the latest South Carolina Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (SCTCCA) poll. The Jackets boys' team is third and the girls are eighth.

"We enjoy this race because it showcases what cross country looks like in the state at this point of the season," Fort Mill coach **Marc Pyrc** said. "It is hard to compare how the Upstate looks to the Lower State when you only have times to go by. Everyone is at this race, and you can see how your runners stack up."

Only Fort Mill's **Meredith Kilburn** has cracked the 20-minute mark among local girls this year. She ran a 19:50 Saturday at the Trojan Invitational and owns the 10th-fastest time in the state this year.

Fort Mill's **Mark Blackmon** has won the last two Class AAAA state championships. His best time this season (16:56) is good for 15th in the state so far. **Jake Manesiotis** of Hilton Head has the state's best time in 2009 at 16:10.

Pyrc said it is too early to pick favorites for state titles, but this race narrows the field.

"Our training changes after this race, and we start gearing toward the last few weeks of the season," Pyrc said. "I don't like to look at a race this early as an indicator for state favorites, but it does show who will be strong."

Fort Mill will be without some runners who will be out of town, according to Pyrc.

"This is a great race to see where we stand at this point in the season versus the other teams in the state," Ridge View boys coach **Brian Rosefield** said. "Our focus is still going to be on ourselves and making sure that we run a great race with great effort. Of course, having great teams around us like Dorman, Fort Mill, Lexington, Northwestern, Spartanburg, Lexington, Spring Valley, Mauldin and others will help us run better."

Dorman's boys are ranked No. 2 among AAAA schools.

"We always try to support the Coaches Classic meet as it is a great way to give back to our coaches association," Dorman boys coach **Jeff Buys** said. "The meet is very well-run, and we enjoy running the best teams in the state early in the season. It's also a lot of fun for our newer athletes to experience a large invitational and see what cross country invitationals are all about."

Class AAAA Cross Country polls: Girls — 1. Wando; 2. Mauldin; 3. Stratford; 4. Dorman; 5. Spartanburg; 6. Summerville; 7. Dutch Fork; 8. **Fort Mill**; 9. **Northwestern**; 10. **Nation Ford**

Boys — 1. Ridge View; 2. Dorman; 3. **Fort Mill**; 4. Wando; 5. Spartanburg; 6. Stratford; 7. Irmo; 8. Mauldin; 9.

Northwestern; 10. Dutch Fork

Sunday, Sep 13, 2009

Posted on Fri, Sep. 11, 2009

Coaches Classic meet attracts more than 2,500 runners

The Coaches Classic cross country meet, featuring more than 2,500 runners from around the state, takes place Saturday at Clemson Research Park. The largest cross country event of the year in South Carolina, run on the state championship meet course, annually serves as an early-season measuring stick on for the top teams in all classifications.

The Midlands focus will be on the Ridge View boys team, which is currently No. 1 in Class 4A in the latest SCTCCCA rankings.

The Blazers have already had a strong showing at a feature event – finishing fourth at the Providence Invitational in Charlotte on Aug. 29. Brian Rosefield's highly regarded team had the second-best showing by a South Carolina team – finishing five points and one place in the final standing behind Hilton Head, the No. 1 team in 3A.

Juniors David Jennings and Joe Keitt led the way in the season opener with national elite times. Jennings finished in fifth place (16:19) and Keitt was sixth (16:28). The front runners had solid support from junior Raeven Lantz (18th, 16:54), junior Jay Lynch (52nd, 17:45) and eighth-grader Mike Lantz (60th, 17:53).

Jennings and Keitt was the RV leaders a year ago when the team finish third behind champion Dorman and runner-up Fort Mill at the 2008 4A state finals. Lynch is another returning starter.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

Sunday, Sep 13, 2009

Posted on Sun, Sep. 13, 2009

Ridge View, Dutch Fork run to victory

By MISTI BAILEY
Special to The State

Ridge View and Dutch Fork came out as the big winners at the annual Coaches Classic cross country meet Saturday morning at the Sandhills Research Center.

The Blazers finished with 136 points to win the boys international division by nine points over Fort Mill. Joe Keitt led Ridge View by placing sixth in a time of 16 minutes, 22 seconds. Fort Mill's Mark Blackmon won in a time of 16:00.

Dutch Fork, meanwhile, won the boys championship division and swept the individual championships.

Roland Hakes won the boys race by 16 seconds over a teammate, Grant Pensa.

"It's such a good thing to compete with other runners from the state," said Hakes, a sophomore. "Doing so well is a good feeling because a sport like cross country takes a lot to train for. It's not like other sports."

Samantha Hughes won the girls race by 10 seconds. as the Silver Foxes finished third in the girls championship division, eight points behind Boiling Springs.

Hughes' time of 19:25 was a personal best by at least 40 seconds, she said.

"Our team has come really far," Hughes said. "Our camaraderie has improved the most."

"They're good athletes," Dutch Fork coach Barry Lindler said, "but more than that, they're good people. And that's a rare combination to find."

More than 2,500 runners from across the state turned the Research Center into a field of school-affiliated colors. This year set a record for participating schools with 77 entered.

"It's a pretty big measuring stick, since you get to run against everyone in the state," Ridge View coach Brian Rosefield said.

The day was about more than the races, however. Rick Zeller, who has coached cross country and track and field for the past 21 years at Wade Hampton, was inducted into the Coaches Classic Hall of Fame.

International Boys

Team Results: Ridge View 136, Fort Mill 147, Dorman 166, Stratford 171, Lexington 175, Spring Valley 196, Wade Hampton (G) 225, Spartanburg 232, Irmo 257, Hilton Head 273, Mauldin 301, Riverside 315, Broome 320, Northwestern 362; Summerville 402; Chapin 411; Daniel 436; J.L. Mann 440, Boiling Springs 488, Hillcrest 542, Wando 572, Beaufort 579, Woodmont 601, Eastside 652, Greer 683, Dreher 730, Wade Hampton (H) 792, Seneca 819, Greenville 855, Wilson 881.

Top 20 Finishers: Mark Blackmon, Fort Mill, 16:00; Aaron Ramirez, Woodmont, 16:06; Sage Kosiorek, Boiling Springs, 16:09; Jack Manesiotis, Hilton Head, 16:19; Steve Rivard, Stratford, 16:21; Joseph Keitt, Ridge View, 16:22; William Ivey, Spring Valley, 16:28; Bobby O'Brien, Stratford, 16:32; Andrew Jordan, Irmo, 16:35; Jack Felix, Hilton Head, 16:42; Kyle Koby, Woodmont, 16:44; Chase Wolfe, Dorman, 16:47; David Jennings, Ridge View, 16:48; Ian Kimbrell, Dorman, 16:48; Matthew MacPhail, Spartanburg, 16:49; Will Belue, Lexington, 16:50; Aaron Skiro, Irmo, 16:52; Avery Martin, Fort Mills, 16:56; Matt Johnson, Spring Valley, 16:58; Raeven Lantz, Ridge View, 16:59.

Championship Boys

Team Results: Dutch Fork 94, Bishop England 187, Rock Hill 201, Blythewood 213, Battery Creek 219, Bluffton 245, Porter-Gaud 264, Landrum 272, Nation Ford 278, Travelers Rest 293, Byrnes 323, Clover 335, Gaffney 361, Christ Church 415, James Island 416, South Aiken 429, Pelion 447, Pendleton 488, Ashley Ridge 494, Chesnee 525, South Florence 624, Palmetto 634, Academic Magnet 650, Airport 672, Union 678, Batesburg-Leesville 694, Hammond 698, Heathwood Hall 719, Lower Richland 760, Richland Northeast 764, Ninety Six 773, Hartsville 844, Darlington 923, Spartanburg Christian 933, Cheraw 993, Pinewood Prep 1047, Kings Academy 1060, North Myrtle Beach 1116, Mid-Carolina 1123, North Central 1137, West Florence 1148, A.C. Flora 1212, Barnwell 1308.

Top 20 Finishers: Roland Hakes, Dutch Fork, 16:43; Grant Pensa, Dutch Fork, 16:59; Anthony Vecchio, Bluffton, 16:52; Jesse Kemmerer, Travelers Rest, 16:54; Austin Steagall, Gaffney, 16:59; Matt Humphries, South Florence, 17:01; Andrew Gordon, Blythewood, 17:06; Mick Francis, Clover, 17:08; Kevin Ketner, Nation Ford, 17:09; Justin Blackwell, Chesnee, 17:13; Nathan Leach, Bishop England, 17:14; Jamie Sires, Airport, 17:18; Christian Ruppe, Rock Hill, 17:22; Josh Minton, James Island, 17:22; Sid Houting, Bishop England, 17:23; Brandon McKellar, Ninety Six, 17:24; Rhakeem Brown, Battery Creek, 17:27; Calbe Creel, Byrnes, 17:31; Zac Jaynes, Dutch Fork, 17:32; Brent Demarest, Porter-Gaud, 17:33.

International Girls

Team Results: Wando 81, Hilton Head 119, Stratford 126, Mauldin 160, Summerville 161, Dorman 189, Daniel 200, Lexington 228, Spartanburg 247, Riverside 253, Northwestern 287, Eastside 291, Irmo 297, Chapin 300, Fort Mill 332, Christ Church 376, Broome 493, Seneca 512, Beaufort 522.

Top 20 Finishers: Alex Neiling, Mauldin, 18:59; Brittany Williams, Mauldin, 19:06; Sraa Menesiotis, Hilton Head, 19:11; Sydney Hazel, Summerville, 19:28; Danielle Sams, Stratford, 19:33; Jasmine Polite, Stratford, 19:34; Evie Tate, Spartanburg, 19:39; Savannah Radenbaug, Irmo, 19:41; Meridith Kilburn, Fort Mill, 19:41; Lauren DiNicola, Wando, 19:47; Katie Inclan, Dorman, 19:48; Caroline Jennings, Christ Church, 19:52; Emily Crick, Hilton Head, 19:57; Brennan McDavid, Wando, 19:58; Madeline Fitts, Wando, 19:59; Tameka Jackson, Seneca, 20:04; Allie Arsiniega, Riverside, 20:08; Georgia Compton, Wando, 20:12; Dani Inglesby, St. Joseph's, 20:16; Sarah Baker, Northwestern, 20:17.

Championship Girls

Team Results: Boiling Springs 173, Bluffton 178, Dutch Fork 181, J.L. Mann 184, Spartanburg Christian 194, Spring Valley 227, Wade Hampton (G) 231, Landrum 238, Pelion 305, Greenville 345, Union 402, Hammond 403, South Aiken 404, Bishop England 437, Pendleton 450, North Myrtle Beach 490, Heathwood Hall 517, Hillcrest 543, Nation Ford 557, A.C. Flora 564, Ashley Ridge 573, Ridge View 576, Travelers Rest 590, Academic Magnet 598,

Clover 670, Blythewood 700, Palmetto 741, Batesburg-Leesville 757, Mid-Carolina 780, Greer 800, West Florence 842, Darlington 918, Colleton County 919, South Florence 935, Byrnes 939, Richland Northeast 951, Pinewood Prep 954, Airport 994, Cheraw 1083, Gaffney 1116, North Central 1144, Barnwell 1224, Chesnee 1244, Wilson 1265, Ninety Six 1348, Wade Hampton (H) 1437.

Top 20 Finishers: Samantha Hughes, Dutch Fork, 19:25; Jeanne Stroud, Bishop England, 19:35; Anastasia Kolesnit, Boiling Springs, 19:40; Hannah Burkholder, Boiling Springs, 19:48; Shelby Nicosia, South Aiekn, 19:51; Walker Marion, Academic Magnet, 19:54; Emily Bakaj, Spring Valley, 20:19; Lucie Kulze, Academic Magnet, 20:27; Megan Stahlberger, Airport, 20:32; Brooke Grice, Heathwood, 20:32; Vannica Williams, Bluffton, 20:36; Nevada Minard, Pelion, 20:39; Samantha Waters, Landrum, 20:53; Brittany Fulton, Bluffton, 20:51; Sarah Cash, Landrum, 20:53; Elizabeth Armstron, J.L. Mann, 20:56; Mary Davidson, Spartanburg Christian, 20:59; Catherine Herring, Hammond, 21:03.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, Sep. 03, 2009

Polls: Track, cross country, volleyball

SC Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Preseason Top 10 Poll

Boys

Class 4A

1. Dorman
2. Fort Mill
3. Ridge View
4. Wando
5. Mauldin
6. Northwestern
7. Stratford
8. Spartanburg
9. Lexington
10. Spring Valley

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Wed, Sep. 02, 2009

High school scoreboard

Cross Country

Ridge View 28, Blythewood 39, South Point 61

At Blythewood

Top finishers: Cranford (S) 22:06, Smith (R) 22:42, Eastwood (B) 23:44. **Source:** B

Ride View 16, Blythewood 47, South Pointe 77

Top finishers: Lantz (R) 17:14, Gordon (B) 17:23, Mitchell (S) 18:55. **Source:** B

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



Sunday, Oct 18, 2009

Posted on Thu, Sep. 17, 2009

2009 Boys Cross Country Team Previews

RIDGE VIEW

Coach: Brian Rosefield

Last season: Won Region 4-4A, placed third at Class 4A state meet

Returning athletes: David Jennings, Joe Keitt, Jay Lynch, Mimoun Annouri.

Outlook: The Blazers will make a run at a state championship this season after a solid finish in 2008. Ridge View is ranked No. 1 in Class 4A, led by all-state and all-region runners Jennings and Keitt. The two juniors were top-10 finishers at the state meet as sophomores.

© 2009 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>