

EAST CENTRAL INVITATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY MEET
Saturday, September 17, 2011

A diminished squad of O.L.A. runners participated in this big meet, which hosted approximately 25 Mississippi schools. In the girls varsity competition there were something in the vicinity of 200 runners. There were a good number of outstanding runners and, among the good teams, was perhaps the best girls team in the whole state, St. Patrick. In fact, St. Patrick finished first as a team, as its top five runners all finished in the top nine, a remarkable feat. However, the individual first place finisher was the remarkable 8th grader from Pass High, Regan McGhee, the youngest sister of Corey McGhee, who holds a number of state records in cross-country and track. So the competition was very tough.

Our squad consisted of four juniors and one sophomore and they performed well. Official results were not available immediately after the meet, but it would appear that O.L.A. finished in the top ten. Our individual results (with unofficial times) were:

25 th	Anna Taconi	17:53
58 th	Brittany Laurent	19:57
66 th	Savannah Matthews	20:15
100 th	Brooke Crowder	21:58
113 th	Nicki Reeder	22:28

All of our runners had better times than last week. One improved by about 2 minutes; another by about a minute. In fact our average time improvement per runner was about 50 seconds, so we had a good effort in such a large field of runners.

The backbone of our team at the present time is an active component of six junior runners and one sophomore. There are no seniors on our squad. We only have one freshman, Kaitlyn Laurent, who is a team manager. There are no 8th graders and, although we have five 7th graders who signed up for cross-country, a number of whom are quite talented and could be a big help to us, their participation has not been good. So we depend on a dedicated bunch of upper classmen, mainly juniors. Too many of our talented athletes have other priorities.

Our next meet is this Saturday at Biloxi.

Coach Hull