

SU - Sep 11, 94

CROSS-COUNTRY

E. Meck captures boys title

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Special Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Despite a first-place finish by Providence's Justin Niedzialek (16 minutes, 24 seconds), East Mecklenburg held off the Panthers by 10 points Saturday to win the boys cross-country meet at the Seahawk Invitational.

Charlotte runners captured five of the top 10 places, with 139 runners competing from 22 schools in the boys division.

"I felt all along that Providence had one of the top returning squads in the state and so do we," East Mecklenburg coach Larry McAfee said. "I think it's going to be a tight battle all year long. It could flip-flop back and forth. We've got a talented group of athletes and they've got a talented group of athletes."

Said Niedzialek of the Panther's runner-up finish: "It showed me that we have a really strong team. Ever since I've been running, East Meck has been the team to beat. We've never beaten them. It shows that since we're close now we have a stronger team than ever."

Cary won the girls title as Providence finished fourth to take top honors among the Charlotte schools. Myers Park, East Mecklenburg and South Mecklenburg finished in the top 10 in the 23-team meet. The top Charlotte finisher was Providence's Kelly Wolfe, who finished eighth with a time of 21:23. She was four seconds ahead East Mecklenburg's Mary Van Hellemont.

"That's a good early-season meet to see what the competition is like during the year," Providence girls coach Curt Niedenzu said. "It helps to see where we are."

The meet allowed the Charlotte schools to see some of the top schools from the east before the Oct. 1 Wendy's Invitational, the South's largest high school cross-country meet. The state meet is Nov. 12. Both meets will be held at Charlotte's McAlpine Park.

Boys results — 1. E. Mecklenburg 81; 2. Providence 91; 3. Wilmington Hoggard 110; 4. Cary 117; 5. Sun Valley 167; 6. Surry Central 172; 7. Pinecrest 179; 8. Fay. Seventy-First 247; 9. Northside 248; 10. Myers Park 269; 11. Apex 296; 12. Cardinal Gibbons 308; 13. Wilmington New Hanover 353; 14. S. Mecklenburg 373; 15. Starmount 412; 16. Rocky Mount 470; 17. New Bern 481; 18. Southern Durham 487; 19. Garner 496; 20. Salisbury 513; 21. Wilmington Laney 538; Topsail (Incomplete).

Boys individual results — 1. Justin Niedzialek (Prov) 16:24; 2. Ryan Adams (SV) 16:37; 3. Michael McKee (RM) 16:42; 4. M. Griffin (Fay S-F) 17:05; 5. Josh Morgan (SM) 17:06; 6. Rob Reynolds (MP) 17:07; 7. John Hickman (Hoggard) 17:14; 8. Pen Peery (EM) 17:16; 9. Jodie Mitchell (SC) 17:18; 10. Brian Lesesky (Prov) 17:19.

Girls results — 1. Cary 84; 2. Apex 104; 3. Mt. Tabor 126; 4. Providence 127; 5. Wilmington Hoggard 168; 6. Myers Park 173; 7. Pinecrest 198; 8. Northside 204; 9. E. Mecklenburg 225; 10. S. Mecklenburg 248; 11. Sun Valley 295; 12. N. Forsyth 311; 13. Salisbury 328; 14. Garner 346; 15. New Hanover 360; 16. Cardinal Gibbons 398; 17. Southern Durham 439; 18. Rocky Mount 443; 19. Wilmington Laney 568; 20. Starmount 592; Surry Central (IC); Fay. Seventy-First (IC); New Bern (IC).

Girls individual results — 1. Lauren Escott (Mt. Tabor) 19:57; 2. Erin Howard (SV) 20:11; 3. Kristen McKinney (Cary) 20:24; 4. T. Sluss (Fay S-F) 20:38; 5. Sheila Brim (NH) 20:43; 6. Tricia Peckham (Apex) 21:03; 7. Briana Sullivan (Northside) 21:08; 8. Kelly Wolfe (Prov) 21:23; 9. Terry Cutler (Northside) 21:24; 10. Mary Van Hellemont (EM) 21:27.

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X COUNTRY

High School

GREENSBORO RELAYS

At Hagan-Stone Park, Greensboro

BOYS VARSITY

1. Mount Tabor A (Justin McIntyre, John Little, Nick Iauco, Christian Byrd, Chris Vaughan) 44:50; 2. Trinity 45:24; 3. Greensboro Grimsley 47:19; 4. Brents-vills, VA 47:30; 5. Mount Tabor B 47:32; 6. SW Guilford 47:32; 7. Greensboro Page 48:41; 8. Northeast Guilford 48:47; 9. Southeast Guilford 49:46; 10. Northwest Guilford 51:48.

OPEN

Mount Tabor finishers: Ronnie Vancannon (2nd, 9:58); Davis Mallard (3rd, 10:01); Matt Francis (4th, 10:03); Brad Pogue (5th, 10:09); Josh Tharington (7th, 10:15).

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN

Fritz Vaughan (Winston-Salem) 6th, 9:47 GIRLS

WILMINGTON INVITATIONAL

In Wilmington

GIRLS VARSITY

1. Cary 83; 2. Apex 106; 3. Mount Tabor 126 (out of 22 teams)

Mount Tabor top runner — Lauren Escott 19:57

Other Mount Tabor runners: Magan Reiner (11th) 21:35; Scottie Pate (26th) 22:12; Elizabeth Pate (42nd) 22:57; Katie Browder (57th) 23:23

JUNIOR VARSITY

Mount Tabor — Jill Griffenhagen (5th) 23:45