

## **CROSS COUNTRY - Stratford Sweeps District Varsity XC Races**

October 11, 2018

Nottingham Park hosted the District meet like many years in the past. Stratford finished with the District Title in hand on a day that saw 15 Spartans run faster than they ever had before. In Girls Varsity action it was all Spartans early and often, highlighted by Grace Custer claiming her second Individual District Championship in a time of 18:24 over the 5k course, 20 seconds ahead of second place. Fay Gibb continues impressive form with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish with Jana Mahlich in 5<sup>th</sup>. Hope Sage showed a return to form of seasons past with 8<sup>th</sup> place, followed by Ella Gibb in 9<sup>th</sup> to give Lady Spartans 5 runners in the top 10.

Also competing in Varsity action were Irlanda Crowley and Georgia Letchford both posting Life Time Best Performances of 21:34 and 22:19. The team amassed only 27 points for a dominating first place performance as the Lady Spartans continue a long string of District Championships.

The Varsity Boys entered District Competition as an underdog, but the fight in these dogs would loom large. Coach Brillon made the infrequent move to run two freshmen in varsity competition for this District Race. They did not disappoint. At the gun, Freshman Emanuel Galdino took to the lead alongside Senior leader Tyler Egger. Egger held that front runner position to pull in a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Emanuel Galdino held on for 5<sup>th</sup> place finish with a Life Time Best Performance of 16:43. Senior Nate Learussa came to play like never before with a massive jump in his Life Time Best Performance of 16:56 for a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish. Freshman Mitchell Harper showed he was up to standard for a varsity jersey posting a Life Time Best Performance of 17:21 for 16<sup>th</sup> place. Kamal Jalal was not going to left out of the top performance mix, posting his own Life Time Best Performance of 17:29 for 20<sup>th</sup> place. Sam Hinojosa came in 29<sup>th</sup>. On strength of four Life Time Best Performances your Stratford Spartans won the Boys Varsity District race by 8 points over Memorial in a total team effort.

In Boys JV action Caron Gentil showed the way with 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in a Life Time Best Performance of 18:14. Caleb Oliphant pulled in 14<sup>th</sup> place. Junior Evan Roberts with a Life Time Best Performance of 19:30. Micheal McDonald, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Landen Reed, 34<sup>th</sup>, both posted Life Time Best Performances of 19:42 and 20:06. The JV Team posted a 4<sup>th</sup> place team finish.

Your Lady Spartans were all over the JV action. XC standout Junior Olivia Hirst ran in the shorter 2-mile JV race as she makes her way back from injury. It did not take long to see, She's Back! Hirst shredded the field by over a minute with a Life Time Best Performance of 12:03, in the 2-mile XC distance she has not competed in since her freshman year. Marlene Soto would not be deterred from showing her good form with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Giana Avila came in 5<sup>th</sup>, Calista Kumar 7<sup>th</sup> and Brooklyn Luna 11<sup>th</sup>, to give the JV Girls 5 Spartans in the top 11. Alyssa Bommer, 16<sup>th</sup>, and Yomary Mata, 19<sup>th</sup>, put points into the other teams with strong performances securing the JV Girls Victory for the Spartans.

Also competing in JV Girls competition were Valentina Chelala (32<sup>nd</sup>), Nahaly Alisirat (53<sup>rd</sup>), Neena Lester (54<sup>th</sup>), Abir Jalal (77<sup>th</sup>), Zoe Hetman (78<sup>th</sup>), and Lulu Sawaf (91<sup>st</sup>).

The Freshman Boys Competition showed a bright future for Spartan Boys running as the team took 3<sup>rd</sup>, even after moving two freshman boys to varsity. Andre Urista showed well with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Zach Tobin took 11<sup>th</sup> and Matt Gaiser 12<sup>th</sup>. Also competing were Fernando Mejia (30<sup>th</sup>), Addison Mitchell (32<sup>nd</sup>) and Camden Graham (40<sup>th</sup>).