

ERA Patriot cross country going the distance

Special to Pelahatchie News

The MAIS AAAA East Rankin Academy (ERA) Patriot Cross Country Team is midway through the 2020 cross country season, with the young team's effort and hard work paying off in team trophies and personal records.

The season opened August 17 at the Simpson Academy Early Bird Two Mile at Neely Farms in Magee with the Junior Varsity Boys placing first, with top ten finishes from both Nic Riemann, fifth, and Michael Kanengiser, seventh. Junior Varsity Girls were second, with top ten finishes from Leah Collipp, fifth, and Emily Williams, eighth.

The August 20 Mississippi College High School opener pitted both public and private schools in competition at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. Junior Varsity Girls running 3000 meters finished third overall, with top ten finishes from Savannah Smithers, second, and Leah Collipp, seventh.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many meets converted to invitationals to help limit the numbers of attendees. Jackson Prep's Invitational on August 31 at Jackson Prep was no different, limiting to just twelve MAIS schools in attendance. Junior Varsity Boys had one top ten finish from Nic Riemann, eighth,

in the two-mile. Junior Varsity Girls team won first place, with top ten finishes from Savannah Smithers, sixth, Leah Collipp, seventh, and Emily Williams, eighth, in the two mile.

September 14 meet hosted by Presbyterian Christian School at Sandy Run Farms in Hattiesburg brought the first cross country race to split the varsity field, into two waves, again for COVID-19 restricted numbers. The Junior Varsity Boys team was second in the two mile, with a top ten finish from Michael Kanengiser, ninth. The Junior Varsity Girls team won their second consecutive team title in the two-mile, with top ten finishes from Savannah Smithers, fifth, and Leah Collipp, sixth. Varsity Girls were third in the 5k blue wave, with top ten finishes from Lydia Collipp, sixth, and Audrey Mayatte, tenth.

All ERA runners, including junior varsity, tackled the two wave 5k at the Park Place-Simpson Academy Invitational at Neely Farm on September 21. The ERA girls' team in the varsity



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The ERA cross country team is having a great season under the direction of Coach David Hopper. They have set personal records and won a few team trophies.

silver division was first in the silver team competition, with top ten finish from Kylee Holifield (9th).

The ERA girls' team in the varsity gold division was third, with top ten finishes from the Collipp sisters, Leah, seventh, and Lydia, eighth.

Next on the schedule; the team will run the Simpson Academy Invitational on September 28, the MC Watson High School Meet on October 3, the Columbia Academy Invitational on October 13, and the 2020 MAIS XC Finals on October 20, of which the ERA Junior Varsity Girls team is the defending champion, among all MAIS divisions.

The 2020 ERA team, coached by Coach David Hopper, is comprised of the following athletes:

Sixth: Leah Collipp, Lily Kanengiser, Jon Riemann, Nic Riemann, and Liz Stevens

Seventh: Jensen Baker, Parker Bankston, Arin Hawk, Neali Holbrooks, Paige Mayatte, John Parker Pierce, Kaylynn Ramirez, Savannah Smithers, Rone "RT" Tate, Addison Vowell, and Emily Williams

Eighth: Lydia Collipp, Audrey Hawk, Kylee Holifield, Michael Kanengiser, Audrey Mayette, Abby Raines, Marlee Rakinic, Lane Riemann, Leslie Scarberry, Katie Simpson, and Rachel Smith

Ninth: Grayson Blair, Addison Brown, Anna Lee Johnson, Abigail Stevens, and Allison Thompson

Tenth: Aiden Boyd, Carson Denton, and John Johnston



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