

Wichita County CC: Lady Indians Defend Regional Championship- 10/23/10

The Wichita County Lady Indians will return to the State Championships having won the Oberlin Regional in defeating Salina Sacred Heart 59-70, a team that has been rated #1 in class 2A for a majority of the season. Paige Wells led the team with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish (15:25) behind defending 1A 3200 meter champion Jenna Farris of Lincoln. Nicole Huber grabbed an automatic qualifying spot with her 10<sup>th</sup> place finish as teammate Sarah Ridder was 11 seconds back and in 12<sup>th</sup> place. This was Ridder's first race since an injury on September 14<sup>th</sup> forced her to take time off. To be able to run at the level she did is an amazing feat and bodes well for this team at this weekend's State meet in Wamego. Junior Makenna Clark has shown incredible improvement over the last 4 meets of the year and put together her strongest race of the season with a 16:58 and 19<sup>th</sup> place. Our senior leaders came in next with 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> place finishes for Hannah Mehl and Rachel Busch respectively. Lindsay Schumacher completed the team effort running on an injured knee while finishing 51<sup>st</sup>. Our ability to run 6 runners in the top half of the field makes this team competitive and should put us in contention for a top 3 placing at state. The 2A girl's race will be one of the tightest races of the day with the race starting at 12:30 pm on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>. Farris and Ellinwood's Jenna Snell, the defending 3A cross country champion, are favorites for the individual title while Ellinwood, Ness City, Republic County, Sacred Heart and Wichita County will race for team placings.

Girls Team: Wichita County 59, Sacred Heart 70, Lincoln 82, Bennington 90, Osborne 120, Oakley 141, Hill City 161, Oberlin 171.

Freshman Joshua Mehl grabbed an automatic qualifying spot for next week's State Championships with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Oberlin cross country regional. Running an even split race Mehl was near 30<sup>th</sup> place approaching the opening half mile and then gradually moved up the field. Joshua took over the 4<sup>th</sup> place spot near the 2.5 mile mark but was unable to hold off a hard charging Bennington runner at the finish line. Indian teammates ran their best races of the season as the team fell 5 points short of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place qualifying spot, tying with Lincoln for 4<sup>th</sup> place at 103 points. Seniors Jesus Holguin and Mario Mancillas ended their cross country careers with Jesus 15 seconds behind the final qualifying spot, while Mario ran the best race of his career. Junior Justin Kiser and freshman Lane Ridder ran terrific races, recording season's best times, but unfortunately concluding their seasons. What a great team effort to finish the season. The 2A boys race begins at 11:30 on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> at Wamego.

Boys Team: Bennington 50, Sacred Heart 90, Oberlin 98, Lincoln 103, Wichita County 103, Plainville 117, Hill City 122, Mankato 210, Osborne 211.

Girls: (2.37M)	time	pl	Boys: (3.0 M)	time	pl
Paige Wells-so	15:25	2	Joshua Mehl-fr	16:43	5
Nicole Huber-so	16:25	10	Jesus Holguin-sr	18:04	15
Sarah Ridder-jr	16:36	12	Lane Ridder-fr	18:21	19
Makeena Clark-jr	16:58	19	Justin Kiser-jr	19:32	33
Hannah Mehl-sr	17:05	22	Mario Mancillas-sr	19:39	36
Rachel Busch-sr	17:25	29			
Lindsay Schumacher-jr	20:00	51			