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SPORTS

Golden Eagles sweep Grant Four, win another pair of titles



Landon Biegel won the boys race as the Golden Eagles won their fifth straight Grant Four championship. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

By Sean Douglas

Heading into the 2020 season, Paige Brunner and the Golden Eagles believed they could be in store for a special fall season, and in the Grant Four cross country meet, Oak Hill accomplished one of their first major goals – winning another pair of county championships.

Oak Hill’s cross-country dominance within the county continued on Tuesday evening as the girls won their eighth straight Grant Four race, while the boys won their fifth straight and their 21st county title in the past 22 seasons. The Oak Hill girls scored 17 points, while the boys scored 16.

Despite dealing with a rash of injuries early in the season, the Oak Hill girls are slowly getting back to full strength, and it showed on the course. Kinzie Robey and Selah Jackson, the Golden Eagles’ No. 1 and 2 runners, led the entire race, while both recording season-best times. Robey finished

as the individual champion in 19:38.71, while Jackson placed second in 19:57.56.

With the New Haven Classic on the horizon, a likely semi-state preview of some of the best teams in the state of Indiana, Brunner was pleased with how both Robey and Jackson performed heading into one of the biggest races of the season.

“I have no complaints whatsoever,” Brunner said of Robey’s and Jackson’s performances. “This meet sets up well for them. Both of them ran season bests tonight, and I think it should carry over.”

Along with Robey and Jackson, the Golden Eagles placed seven runners in the top eight slots. Freshman Leah Highley came on strong in the final leg to finish third (20:47.1), Sadie Wisner placed fifth (21:24.55), Emma Bledsoe sixth (21:33.20), Mallory Cheek seventh (21:58.05), and Kailynn Wisner eighth (22:07.47).

Olivia Howell’s stout season



Kinzie Robey finished as the Grant Four individual champion as the Golden Eagles won their eighth straight Grant Four title. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

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Eastbrook sweeps Mississinewa in soccer

Heading into the final week of the regular season before sectionals begins, both the Eastbrook boys and girls soccer teams are playing at a high level.

Coming into Monday evening, the boys had not lost a game since August 25. Since then, they had won 10 games, eight straight, and six via shutout. The girls, on the other hand, were on a three-game win streak.

Both squads remained red-hot, increasing their respective winnings streaks to four and 11 with a pair of shutout victories over Mississinewa. The girls came away with a 6-0 triumph, while the boys ended the evening with a 3-0 victory.

Early in the contest, the Indians did an excellent job of keeping the Eastbrook offense from gaining much traction, playing in a tight defensive formation. Sarah Foulk scored her first goal of the contest less than 10 minutes in off an assist from Naomi Diller, but for the most part, the Panthers were held in check for the opening 20 minutes.

However, after some adjustments midway through the first half, the Panthers began to assume control, and by halftime, had the match well in hand.

“We had to change. We decided to change our formation because we kept trying to ram it up the middle and it wasn’t working,” Hallis said. “I was very proud that the girls were able to switch the formation in the middle of the game, and I thought they did well.”

Diller added to the Panthers’ lead late in the first half off an excellent feed from Johwen McKim, and despite having a two-goal advantage, the Panthers continued to push offensively, keeping consistent pressure on the

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Kyle Coryea looks to gain possession in the Giants’ battle against No. 2 ranked Hamilton Southeastern. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

Giants battle and fall to Hamilton Southeastern

By Sean Douglas

On Wednesday night, the Marion Giants battled for 80 minutes against an excellent Hamilton Southeastern squad, which came into Dick Lootens Stadium with 10 wins and one loss.

After the first 60 minutes, Marion trailed by one goal after a perfect header from Jeremiah Watts, but an HSE tally just 1:34 later took the wind out of the Giants’ sails.

The Royals took control the rest of the way, ending the evening with three unanswered tallies to hand the Giants a 7-3 loss.

Despite the defeat, Marion Head Coach Jorge Berry was thrilled with how his group played against a talented and well-coached group.

“It was great. As a coach, you cannot be frustrated with the effort that we displayed,” Marion Head Coach Jorge Berry said. “We’ve still got guys who are inexperienced in the back, and that second chance goal with 22 minutes left mentally drained us, without question.”

The Royals struck early, scoring their first goal just 1:28 into the match, but a successful Giant counterattack led to the equalizer, courtesy of Alex Powell, which tied the game at one goal apiece.

Despite a relentless HSE attack, Marion’s young back line, led by Tyson Johnson, stood tall, making the Royals earn every one of their scoring opportunities. While the final score was lopsided, it was not indicative of the group’s progress since the beginning of the season.

“Tyson has been invaluable,” Berry said. “He just does everything we ask. As a coach, that’s all you can ask your players to do.”

With 13:43 remaining the first half, HSE’s Harsahil Gandham broke the tie, before scoring his second goal 10 minutes later, but the Giants kept fighting.

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