

2002 PANTHER CROSS COUNTRY

The 2002 Cross Country season saw no change in the total number of participants, with both the boys and girls fielding full teams. Seventeen athletes in grades 7-12 participated. The breakdown was 5 girls (decrease of 1 from 2001) and 12 boys (increase of 1 from 2001). There was 1 senior girl (Sarah Baustad) and 2 senior boys (Duane Broe and Geoffrey Childress).

The teams participated in 14 meets. The varsity girls finished in the top five as a team 8 times. They were Region Runners-Up and 5th at State. The varsity boys finished in the top five as a team 10 times, winning the first ever Anamoose/Drake Invitational. They were 3rd at Region and 8th at State.

The girls placed three people on the All-Region team (Sarah Skipper - 4th - 2nd year, Kellie Pieterick - 13th - 4th year, Sarah Baustad - 19th - 3rd year). The boys had two All-Region runners (Duane Broe - 15th - first year, Geoffrey Childress - 18th - 3rd year). Sarah Baustad, Duane Broe, and Geoffrey Childress were all chosen as East Region nominees for the State Outstanding Senior Cross Country Athlete of the Year award. Sarah Skipper earned All-State honors for the first time by finishing 11th at the state meet in Jamestown. Geoffrey Childress earned All-State honors for the second consecutive year by finishing 18th at the state meet in Jamestown. Sarah Skipper is the first girl to earn All-State honors since Stephanie Vangsnes - 6th, Cassie Hagel - 9th, and Channa Pieterick - 16th in 1997.

An elementary race was run at the 9th Annual Rugby Booster Invitational for the 4th straight year. 6 girls and 16 boys from Rugby participated in the elementary race of 1600 meters which was open to all the schools that attended the meet. A total of 25 girls and 41 boys ran in the races. Hannah Cooper was the top Rugby elementary girl finishing in 15th place. Dylan Yoder was the top Rugby elementary boy finishing in 7th place.

I would like to congratulate all those who participated in 2002 for a banner season. I would like to thank the seniors for their leadership throughout the season and would like to encourage our underclassmen to learn from their examples. This was the first season that we did not have an athletes name appear on the weekly ineligibility sheet for any reason. I feel that we took another step forward, mostly on the leadership side, this year and I hope that we continue to build on it in the upcoming years. We have a young core of runners that should be exciting to watch in the future if they learn that the bulk of the training for cross country is done outside the season. We need to continue promoting cross country to anyone that will listen in order to build solid teams for the future. This was my most enjoyable season since arriving in Rugby and I am looking forward to seeing all the returning runners build towards an even better 2003 season.

Coach *Bill Jansen*

AWARDS

	Girls	Boys
Most Valuable	Sarah Skipper (8th Grade)	Geoffrey Childress (Senior) Duane Broe (Senior)
Most Improved	Sarah Baustad (Senior)	Chad Haugen (Freshman)
Most Dedicated	Kellie Pieterick (Junior)	Brandon Anderson (Junior)

LETTER WINNERS

Girls	Boys
Sarah Baustad - Senior (3 years)	Duane Broe - Senior (4 years)
Kellie Pieterick - Junior (5 years)	Geoffrey Childress - Senior (5 years)
Sarah Skipper - 8th Grade (2 years)	Brandon Anderson - Junior (4 years)
Danielle Wangler - 7th Grade (1 year)	Tony Mack - Junior (2 years)
Kirsten Welk - 7th Grade (1 year)	Kelepi Rakabikabi - Junior (1 year)
	James Degenstein - Sophomore (1 year)
	Gary Brossart - Freshman (1 year)
	Mike Montonye - Freshman (3 years)
	Chad Haugen - Freshman (2 years)
	Matthew Wangler - Freshman (2 years)
	Ryan Wissink - Freshman (1 year)

Non-Lettering Boys Participant - Tyler Fayant - 7th Grade