

Team first mentality: boys race together at Hayward; season ends for middle school

BY TIM TSCHUMPERLIN,
C-W CROSS-COUNTRY COACH

The Bulldogs cross country teams travelled to the beautiful hills of Hatchery Creek County Park in Hayward on Tuesday Oct. 5. By beautiful, we're talking many challenging and steep hills.

VARSITY GIRLS

On the girls side, C-W was at very low numbers and had only two runners competing at the Hayward Invitational. Freshmen sisters Roci and Angie

Hanson were recuperating from injuries sustained a few weeks back and we decided to hold senior Lana Blumer out to ensure that she would get ample rest prior to Conference and Sectionals. It is a tough decision to hold an athlete out of a competition, especially those that love to compete—Lana is the prime example of this.

There were 73 total finishers in the girls' race. Sophomores Elliana Bayer finished 25th at 26:37 and Zoe Nelson 39th at 28:42. Elliana continued to push

through the race and has proven that she has more than one speed. As the season has progressed, she has been able to find another gear that involves power and acceleration. She has developed a "kick" that has not been on my radar until this race. Zoe was certainly tested on this hilly course. After the race, she noted some frustration but we are confident her grit will prevail next week in Ashland for the Heart O'North Championships. This is one of the many reasons she received

the Owen Knutson Heart of the Bulldog Award this past week.

VARSITY BOYS

The C-W boys finished with the most points at Hayward; but in cross country terms, that is not good. However, in our case it was a team victory.

Last week the boys decided that they would like to run as a group with their teammate Frank Loew. As a coaching standpoint, I had no problem with that decision as this is their team.

From the gun, Will Beckman, Elijah Poppe, Owen and Austin Hamholm and Brayden Cella locked onto Frank and ran together for the entire 5K. They all finished at 30:59, crossing the finish line together as one. The goal was to get Frank's time below 30 minutes, but the hills made it pretty tough.

As they came out of the forest at the halfway point, I heard them encouraging each other, laughing and enjoying the moment. I even saw two young runners from Ashland join the back of their group for a few minutes. What made

this memorable for me was their last 100 meters. There was a sea of purple heading down the hill to the finish line. To hear the applause from the spectators made me very proud to be part of this program.

Following a week of rest and recuperation, the Bulldogs competed in the HON Championships at the Norwood Golf Course in Ashland on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

BY BRIAN CHUCHWAR
C-W CROSS-COUNTRY COACH

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Bulldogs middle school cross country teams completed their season at the Hayward Invitational on Oct. 5.

Noah Nelson brought home a top 10 finish by placing 3rd out of 50 runners with a time of 9:27. As a team the middle school boys placed second out of 14 participating teams.

The middle school girls placed 4th and were led by Skylar Schaaf who placed 17th out of 37 runners with a time of 12:06 on a very challenging 1.5 mile trail. A big part of our team's

success has been the leadership of our eighth graders. Ryder Hackseth showed steady improvement all season and had a top 10 finish at Ladysmith. Ryder is a quiet leader who set the example of moving forward every week.

Elliot Rihnsset set the example of being consistent. He has wonderful running form and is a quiet leader that the coaches could always count on.

Finally, Noah Nelson had a top 10 finish in every race in which he was a competitor. Noah brought a competitive edge that made the boys team finish high in every race and win the Bloomer invitational.

We completed our season at Hatchery Creek Country Park which is a part of the Birkebeiner ski trail and offers some wonderful views and a very hilly terrain.

The coaches appreciated the closeness and commitment of our team this season. We rarely had kids missing practice or kids missing meets because of grades. Starting and finishing are life skills that will always be timeless.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIM TSCHUMPERLIN

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser boys cross-country team chose to run the entire 5K as a team at the Hayward Invitational on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Pictured above is the boys team receiving an ovation from the crowd coming down the home stretch. The middle school cross country teams, pictured below, wrapped up their 2021 racing season last week. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Phillip Josephson, Elias Reed, Aaron Olson, Jasper Grinder, Jacob Marek, Kittra Khan, Paisley Huizenga, Grace Gustom and Ariana Nedland; in back are coach Brian Chuchwar, Chandler Beers, Noah Nelson, Ryder Hakseth, Naudia Sanchez, Layla Whittenberger, Elliot Rihn, coach Gesa Tschumperlin, Skylar Schaaf and Hailey Prouty.



Bulldogs blanked by Rails 42-0

BY TYLER FLORCZAK

The Bulldogs football team played well in the first quarter, but the wheels came off the wagon after that as the Spooner Rails thumped Chetek-Weyerhaeuser 42-0 on Friday, Oct. 8.

It was a game where the Bulldogs (0-8 overall, 0-6 in conference) had nine first downs compared to 13 by the hometown Rails (4-4, 3-3), but once again,

big plays aided C-W's opponent despite the 'Dogs

nearly taking a 7-0 lead early in the game.

"We got off to a great start and had about a 10 minute drive to open the game. Our guys were getting off the ball and we were running downhill. After failing to capitalize on that first drive, it really felt like the air was let out of the balloon. From that point on, our effort was pretty inconsistent." C-W head coach Bill Knickerbocker Jr. said. "We need to do a better job of being resilient and moving forward when things don't go as expected."

The Bulldogs received the opening kickoff and began at their own 31-yard line. From there, they engineered a 17-play drive inside the Rails' 10-yard line. Unfortunately the nearly 11-minute drive

stalled and the Bulldogs walked away empty handed.

On the ensuing possession Spooner answered with a long drive of their own and capped the 12-play drive off with a 41-yard touchdown run by Isaac Hopke.

On its second possession, C-W lost three yards and was forced to punt.

Runs of 3, 12, 3 and 47 yards put the Rails in scoring position and Nauertz plunged into the end zone for a 5-yard score by Brandon Meister to put Spooner ahead 14-0.

C-W's offense remained stagnant the rest of the half, turning the ball on downs on their third possession. Three plays later Spooner's Hopke fooled the Bulldog defense on a counter play and ran 23 yards untouched for his second touchdown of the game. Meister added another 4-yard score late in the first half to extend the Rails' lead to 28-0 heading into halftime.

Spooner controlled the momentum for the remainder of the game, keeping the C-W offense in check in the final 24 minutes. The Rails tacked on 14 more points in the third quarter, scoring on a 58 yard pass and a 25-yard touchdown run.

It was a rough outing overall for the 'Dogs besides their promising drive on the game's opening possession.

"We did have one of the most touching moments that I have ever seen in sports occur late in the game. One of the Spooner players, who was in a wheelchair, got a carry the ball in the fourth quarter. It was an amazing thing to see and our guys were very gracious and classy in supporting him. We are all better people for having been a part of it," coach Knickerbocker said.

Spooner's individual statistics were not available as of press time. However, the Rails finished with 322 total yards, including 264 rushing yards. Hopke and Meister each had two touchdowns.

C-W rushed for a season-high 113 as sophomore Wylee Huset led the Bulldogs with 58 yards on 12 carries. Senior Han Johnson added 29 yards on eight attempts while senior Ashton Kummet rushed for 12 yards on five carries.

Junior Cade Johnson completed 3-9 passes for 30 yards—Kummet had all three receptions.

"We end the season this Thursday against a very athletic football team. If we can put it all together, it should be a fun game to watch," Knickerbocker stated.

The Bulldogs will host the Barron Golden Bears (2-6, 1-5) in the final game of C-W's 2021 on Thursday, Oct. 15.

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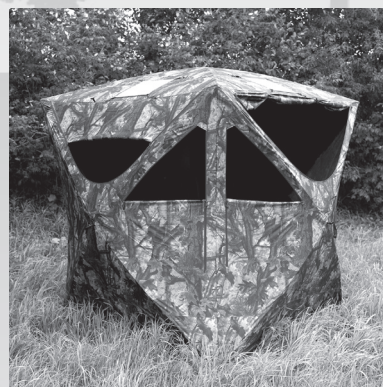
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