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Elementary Cross-Country wraps up in Falconbridge

2011-10-20
by Randy Pascal

For the likes of **Jaclyn Groom** and **Noah Lapierre**, the setting was immaterial.

The talented runners, representing Walden Public and Northeastern respectively, maintained their dominance of their respective age groupings Wednesday in Falconbridge, adding a victory in the **Rainbow Elementary Cross-Country Championships** to first place finishes at Laurentian and Naughton earlier this fall.

Meanwhile, other runners made huge strides, pardon the pun.

Grade four speedster **Dario Beljo** had settled for a pair of second place finishes heading into the grand finale of the elementary cross-country season, but that just wouldn't do on this overcast fall morning.

Beljo captured the Junior Boys race, finishing ahead of teammate **Nathan Stagg** and **Sam Johnston** of R.L. Beattie in picking up his first victory of the fall (though given that he's only in grade four, one can only imagine that this will not be his last).

But the biggest surprise came in the Senior Girls affair as **Ceilidh Muise-McDonald** walked away with divisional bragging rights. After not cracking the top ten at the Voyageur Challenge, the grade 7 student at **R.L. Beattie** emerged as a contender in Naughton, finishing third.

Her ascension continued yesterday as everything came together in the biggest race of the season. "My legs were looser today and this race just felt more competitive, so I pushed myself more," said Muise-McDonald.

"My mom (Melanie) is a runner, so I used to run the kids races when I was younger," she added. In fact, during the summers spent with her mother in Edmonton, Muise-McDonald has become a fairly accomplished diver as well, training at both the springboard and platform level.

"My mom asked me one year what I wanted to do and diving kind of combined my background in gymnastics with something to do with swimming, which I liked," said Muise-McDonald.

"I started this race in something like fourth place, running with my friend Megan (Beauchamp), but she told me to go ahead" continued the well-spoken race champion, who claimed the lead for the first time with less than one kilometre remaining.

In the race for team banners, R.L. Beattie claimed a pair of crowns, winning both the Senior Boys and Senior Girls divisions while **Walden Public** (Junior Girls) and **MacLeod Public** (Junior Boys) split the remaining pair.

Following is a list of the top ten finishers in all four categories that were contested:

Junior Girls

- 1 - Jaclyn Groom (Walden)
- 2 - Marlee Henschel (Walden)
- 3 - Sydney Tarini (Beattie)
- 4 - Paige St Jean (Wanup)
- 5 - Kaitlyn Walker (Redwood Acres)
- 6 - Harmony Martel (Princess Anne)
- 7 - Kaitlynn McGirr (Cyril Varney)
- 8 - Taylor Dixon (Walden)
- 9 - Sheila Eshquib (Cyril Varney)
- 10 - Kamryn Buttler (Walden)



Team Standings: Walden (21), Cyril Varney (76), AB Ellis (86)

Junior Boys

- 1 - Dario Beljo (MacLeod)
- 2 - Nathan Stagg (MacLeod)
- 3 - Sam Johnston (Beattie)
- 4 - Ethan Sheppard (MacLeod)
- 5 - Jason Gough (C.R. Judd)
- 6 - Colton Blay (Valleyview)
- 7 - Aiden Martel (Pinecrest)
- 8 - Josh Tillson (Beattie)
- 9 - Liam Lapierre (Northeastern)
- 10 - Alias Durocher (Algonquin)

Team Standings: MacLeod (38), R.L. Beattie (82), MacLeod (95)

Senior Girls

- 1 - Ceilidh Muise-McDonald (Beattie)
- 2 - Miranda Boudreau (Valleyview)
- 3 - Nicole Conlin (Copper Cliff)
- 4 - Emma McDougall (Lively)
- 5 - Allie Chown (Alexander)
- 6 - Matilda Hick (Beattie)
- 7 - Megan Beauchamp (Beattie)
- 8 - Montana McCulloch (MacLeod)
- 9 - Lexi Ransom (MacLeod)
- 10 - Delaney Johnston (MacLeod)

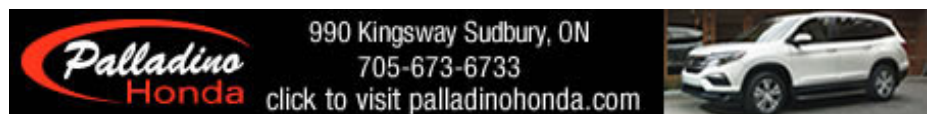
Team Standings: Beattie (31), MacLeod (42), Valleyview (75)

Senior Boys

- 1 - Noah Lapierre (Northeastern)
- 2 - Sean Anderson (Beattie)
- 3 - Stephen Berardi (MacLeod)
- 4 - Brendan Costello (Algonquin)
- 5 - Brandon Moxam (Lively)
- 6 - Kirk Traynor (C.R. Judd)
- 7 - Graham Noble-Poland (Beattie)
- 8 - Philip Barry (Beattie)
- 9 - Jeremy Haw (Valleyview)
- 10 - Rowan McCaffrey (Pinecrest)

Team Standings: Beattie (34), MacLeod (69), Lively (75)

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