

CROSS-COUNTRY RESURGENCE

By Mr. Andrew Parker, Social Studies Teacher and Cross-Country Coach

The cross-country season started off slowly for both the male and female warrior-runners. The team diligently worked and practiced hard beginning the third week of August. First, both male and female teams lost a close race to Milford Mill Academy and Western Technical Institute. The team's next race proved another challenge with once again only four girls and four guys racing. In cross-country a team needs five members to score or the people who do not race will automatically be scored in last place.

The team was defeated by Catonsville and Franklin, but managed to defeat Kenwood. Thanks to the excellent recruiting work of Coach Gerald Russell, the team boosted numbers and became ready to take on some serious competition. The next race was a sweeping victory for both the boys and the girls as they defeated Kenwood, Patapsco and Dundalk. The next race, however, was a setback for both the boys and the girls. They managed only to defeat Dundalk, while being defeated by Franklin, Parkville, and Loch Raven.

The male runners consisted of Calvin Booker, Antonio Franklin, Jonathan Johnson, Jedan Philips, Anthony Hughes, Brandon Jones, Darrell Williams, Mobeian Sahead, Devin McKay, and Shane Jordan. The female runners consisted of Brittany Philips, Sharrell Williams, Jasmine Johnson, Bernice Nyarko, Shannon Davis, and Mariam Diabo. All runners worked hard and ran consistently.

The cross-country team had one more race left in the season, and this race was at home. The boys did well defeating Kenwood and Patapsco but fell to Hereford. The girls beat Kenwood but fell to Hereford and Patapsco. There were two championship meets left—the County Championship and the Regional Championship.

At the county championship the boys and girls' teams finished better than they had in years. The boys placed in the top ten out of twenty three competing schools and the girls placed eighteenth. After the big moral victory at the County Championship, both teams faced a challenge as they had to compete against the best schools in the state in the 4 A Regional Championship meet. Both teams placed eighth which was not high enough to qualify them for the State Championship.

Cross-country running serves as an excellent stepping stone to a successful indoor and eventually outdoor track season. Best wishes and thanks to our runners and all who supported the cross-country team this season. Look for these warrior-runners in the indoor season. These runners, along with others, will continue to add to Woodlawn High School's rich history of proud and successful running.

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