

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Two Wildcats earn podium spots at state XC

The miles that the cross country team put in paid off with solid finishes at the state cross country meet Saturday.

Audra Burbridge and Matthew Schaul both earned top 15 honors. Burbridge finished 12th out of 155 runners with a time of 19:27.4.

Burbridge stated she was happy with how the meet went: "I was hoping to get top 15 finish and I got 12th so that was really great! I think the team ran really well and I am really glad all of those seniors went out for cross country. I think it was great to go to state as a freshman and compete."

Four-year cross country team member McKenna Bush said she was pleased with the day: "I am so proud of everyone. I am so glad to have had this experience and even more grateful for the incredible team I got to do it with!"

Senior Alexis Halverson agreed with Bush: "Going in we all were a bit nervous but that didn't stop us from accomplishing our goals. The whole team ran great and even though there were some tough schools there we didn't let it scare us. I'm really proud of the whole team throughout the season because we left it all on the course at each meet and tried our best. It was a great way to end the season at the state meet, and it couldn't have gone better, especially for it being many of our first times out for the sport."

The girls team finished 12th out of 16 teams.

Schaul hung with the leaders pack the entire race and finished third with a time of 16:06.2, only nine seconds behind the winner.

Other times and places:

Taryn Burbridge: 20:41, 50

Alexis Halverson: 22:02, 98

Breanna Bush: 22:43, 116

Bianka Ronnebaum: 23:39, 133

Jada Knipper: 25:23, 146

McKenna Bush: 26:18, 150

Kenyon Baker: 17:46, 76

Baker said the meet didn't go quite as he had planned. "I put myself into a situation I thought I would be able to handle but it didn't turn out the way I wanted it to go. I'm facing the best of the best so I'm thankful for the opportunity I got to be part of it."



Alexis



Bianka



Taryn



Breanna



Audra



McKenna



Jada



Kenyon



Matthew

Wildcats take down Nashua-Plainfield, prepare for St. Ansgar

And then there were eight.

MV's win over Nashua-Plainfield Friday night put the Wildcats in the elite field of eight A teams left.

The Wildcats took an early 7-0 lead after the first quarter, but Nashua-Plainfield answered back twice to temporarily take the lead in the second quarter and the two teams went into half-time tied at 13. MV played on N-P's errors in the second half and surged to a 38-13 victory.

"It is always great to get a win in the playoffs," stated Coach Christensen. "I thought that this was the type of game that we needed, where we faced some adversity and trailed in a game, and found a way to fight back and win. NP had a good game plan defensively to slow us down and it took us a while to figure things out both in the running and passing game. Once we did we were very successful in moving the ball. Defensively I thought overall we did a good job of shutting down their running game, which is what they had leaned on all year. They did get a couple of pass plays on us, but they weren't able to do it consistently, especially when we knew that they had to pass. I also thought that we did a good job of stopping them a couple of times when they had a short field. Special teams did have a few errors, but overall I thought we didn't allow them to get a big play in the return game and caused a few turnovers."

MV had four sacks total with Dylan Knipper, Lucas Chesnut, Kyle Engelken and Dalton Africa getting in on the action. The Wildcats also had three fumble recoveries by Dashawn Strickland, Knipper and Chesnut. To add to N-P's pain, Anderson Holtz and Tate Intorf each had an interception, gaining 40 and 23 yards, respectively.

Junior quarterback Brady Wall completed 11 of his 19 passes for 196 yards. He found Intorf four times for a gain of 59 yards, Rogan Heidt twice for 13 yards, Knipper for two for 23 yards and one touchdown, Holtz twice for 87 yards and Eli Dougherty once for 14 yards.

Wall stated that the game wasn't all perfect: "We started a little slow, but we battled back in the second half and found a way."

MV's rushing game once again was too much for their opponents. Wall scored twice on the run, and Heidt had a total of 108 rushing yards on 16 carries for three touchdowns.



The team rings the victory bell after defeating Nashua-Plainfield Friday night.

Nathan Beitz led in tackles with eight, Knipper had six, and Chesnut and Engelken each had five.

The Wildcats will travel to St. Ansgar Friday night with a 7:00pm kick-off.

Coach Christensen stated that the Wildcats will work hard this week to prepare for the game: "Again, we will need to continue to improve as we move forward. It's exciting to be in the quarterfinals and hopefully we have a big following to Saint Ansgar on Friday. To win on Friday, we are going to first of all match their physicality. They are a team that is usually able to bully teams into submission. We can not allow them to push us around.

"Secondly, we are going to have to be able to effectively throw the ball, while still running the ball. Teams who have beaten them in the past have done both things well.

"Finally, we are going to have to tackle well, and as always it is everyone doing their jobs and doing it together."

Brady echoed Coach's thoughts: "We have to treat them like they are the best team in the state, and we all have to execute and do our jobs."

"As always it is everyone doing their jobs and doing it together."

—Coach Christensen on what the Wildcats need to do Friday night

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

In honor of the big football game this week, I've assembled some football jokes.

Why did the football coach go to the bank?
To get his quarterback.

What kind of tea do football players drink?
Penaltea.

Why didn't the skeleton play football? His heart wasn't in it

What did the football coach say to the broken candy machine? Give me my quarterback!

Which state should the Tampa Bay Buccaneers move to? Arrrrrrrrrkansas.