

## DHS XC at Lagoon Valley

The DHS XC team opened its 2018 season at the Lagoon Valley Classic in the hills of Vacaville today. The girls won their race with an impressive showing, taking first out of 13 teams with 25 points. They defeated a strong Vacaville team who was second with 49, followed by Elk Grove with 117. The varsity boys, running without one of their top runners, took third overall out of 18 teams with 100 points, behind Jesuit (39) and Bella Vista (88).

The varsity teams had a great opening day, according to Coach Bill Gregg. He noted, "Today's spreads – the time difference between the top five runners, and especially our top four – was very impressive for both girls and boys."

For the girls, the top quartet of Ruthie Mitchell, Ana Fenton, Annie Mitchell, and Sophie Lodigiani all finished in the top six with only 21 seconds separating them. Ruthie Mitchell was second overall in 19:16, with Fenton and Annie Mitchell right behind in third and fourth (19:30 and 19:31). Lodigiani took sixth overall in 19:38. The fifth Blue Devil finisher, Maggie Vazquez, finished tenth in 20:20. Nellie Cox and Shannon Perry finished out the top seven, placing 20<sup>th</sup> (20:56) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (21:06). Mia Di Genova was 24<sup>th</sup> in 21:10, and Madison Barth was 52<sup>nd</sup> in 23:02.

"It was great to see Ruthie lead the team as the top finisher," Gregg said. "Going forward, the key is to tighten the spread between the fourth and fifth runners. It's early in the season, but the girls look to be one of the top section teams, and also one of the leading teams in the state." Coach Gregg also noted that juniors Nellie Cox and Mia di Genova showed some strong first time varsity running today.

For the boys, sophomore Ansel Tucker stepped up big time to lead the team. He and senior Bryce Gregg ran together for most of the race and finished two seconds apart to place 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with times of 16:36 and 16:38. The spread between the top four was 30 seconds, with Dice Ferrick and Kyle Henricson placing 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively in 16:46 and 17:06. Sophomore Diego Perez was the fifth runner, taking 30<sup>th</sup> place in his first ever DHS XC race. The top seven were completed by Tristan Sturm (73<sup>rd</sup>; 18:36) and Hayden Tam (79<sup>th</sup>, 18:58). William Ewens was 106<sup>th</sup> with a 20:05.

"The time spread for the boys, just like the girls, was great for the top four. With the return of Zeno Castiglioni, who didn't race due to some soreness, the top five spread should be one of team's strengths," said Gregg. "The top five ran together as a pack for most of the race, with Ansel and Bryce pulling ahead in the later stages of the race. I'm pleased with the team's efforts."