

Saxon Cross Country: Running Into The 2019 Season

Eddy Blinford-Ross / Editor-in-Chief

The Saxon cross country team has started the year off strong. The boys team is currently ranked second in the league and 14th in the state for 6a. The girls are ranked third in the league and 16th in the state.

At their most recent meet, on Oct. 2, the team raced against McNary and West, according to Athletic Net. They won every race and division except for girls varsity. Leading the boys varsity was Evan Gonzalez '21, Justin Saunders '20 and Shayn Carmichael-Kohn '21. They ran the 5000 meters with times of 16:28.82, 16:40.10 and 16:49.35, respectively.

The team's next meet is on Oct. 9, at Sprague. They will be racing McNary. Following a couple weeks after that race will be the Mountain Valley Conference Championships and OSAA State Championships.

"Both the girls and boys varsity teams are hoping to go to state and place well," Mason Obery '20 said. Last year, the boys and girls varsity teams did well at State and are hoping to place even better this season. The boys, led by Gonzalez, placed 16th in Oregon. While the girls team, led by Anna Crau '19 placed 10th.

"My goal for cross-country is to make it to state this year, not only as an individual but also as a team. I know there is plenty left in the tank for all of us and I think this will be our best year yet," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez placed 34th in the state individually at the OSAA championships last year, as a sophomore. He was the highest

ranked Saxon in the boys division. He ran a time of 16:20 and is hoping to place even higher this year.

This year's team is much bigger than last year, with over 60 runners. These new runners come both from the large freshman class of over 650 kids and people from other classes joining the team for the first time.

"I really like the team this year because we have so many people coming out for cross country from the first time," Obery said.

Beyond athletic performance, the cross country team recently gained city wide attention for their sportsmanship. Mihr Joshi '23 helped Jackson Campbell '21 complete his first race. Campbell was born with Arnold Chiari brain malformation, which causes cognitive delays, and had been unable to finish the race at their first meet in Wilsonville. He was struggling to complete this race, at the Saxon Invite, until Joshi slowed his pace to run beside Campbell, helping him cross the finish line. Although Joshi and Campbell placed 132nd and 133rd, that didn't matter to the team, the coaches, Joshi or Campbell.

"Everyone on cross country is very inclusive and always supports one another. The environment of the team is so welcoming and accepting," Ana Boulay '21 said.

The Saxons are proud of their successful season thus far and have their eyes set on the district and state championships in November.

Athlete Spotlight: Victoria Stafford

Claire Graham / News Editor

Victoria Stafford '20 has more than a decade as an athlete and four years representing South under her belt. Stafford has been a forward and center on South's Varsity Girls Basketball team, and a middle blocker on the Girls Varsity Volleyball team. "Victoria is a very dominant presence on the court...she led us in rebounding and charges taken last year," Adrian Lewis, head coach for South's Varsity Girls basketball team said, "The biggest thing I have noticed is the way she handles her emotions and attitude. She doesn't really let things phase her as much as they did when she first played. I think this has been the biggest growth I have seen

and has positively impacted our team. She is a leader and when girls see her under control they feel more relaxed as well."

Despite knee pains and frequent injuries, Stafford was second team all-conference.

"[Challenges] make you stronger," Stafford said, "[Playing sports] has helped me figure out who I am as a person and a player and a leader."

Stafford is planning to play basketball on a college team during the 2020-21 school year and is considering pursuing athletic training or orthopedics as a career.



Saxon Football: We're Back

Becca Ford / Reporter

The Saxon football team at their first game of the season against Sunset High School

South Salem High School takes pride in our football athletes. On Friday nights, students and Saxon families love to come watch and cheer on our Varsity team. The team, headed by Scott DeFaut, trains long hours in the summer to prepare for the season and practices every day throughout the season.

Coach Short often tells players that confidence comes from preparation. The heart of the team works in practice, the stronger they will be in games. The team has worked hard this season and held a 2-2 record going into the Oct. 4 game against Bend.

On Sept. 27th, our team played our rival school, Sprague. After half time, the Saxons fought hard to make a come back. This led the team to a 28-18 victory. Ryan Rickman '20, number 34, scored all four touchdowns. Many players have said they see Rickman as a star player on the team not only because of his skill, but also because of the way he leads and is an example to the team.

Nick Vandehey '21, one of the Saxon's receivers, says one highlight this season was beating McMinnville. He says there were some prominent touchdown passes against both McMinnville and Sunset. Linebacker Dustin Kunze '21, also mentioned

that he was proud of the teams defensive stands against McMinnville.

Kunze also mentioned that the way the game is started can be a defining factor in the teams success.

"the way you begin often shows how the rest of the game will play out," Kunze said.

He says the team should make it a goal to start off strong. The energy at the beginning of the game will carry out the momentum throughout the remainder of the game.

The Saxons are looking to trust each other more on both sides of the ball. Rickman says it's important that the team focuses on their personal jobs on the field so all areas are covered. With five more games to go, the team will push to make the top three in the conference.

On Oct. 4 the Saxons traveled to Bend to challenge Bend High School, who is currently 1-3. The next home game will be against the West Salem Titans, on October 11th at 7:15 p.m.

Saxon students are welcome to come out and support the theme in the student section and adults will pack the stands. Be sure to check @RowdyDowds twitter page for the student sections theme of the night. You can stay updated with the team through social media by following @Clyplian on twitter.

Photo by Jasmine Colwood