

Marmion boys, Batavia girls shine at Leavey XC Invitational

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ST. CHARLES – Saying Marmion’s Andrew Burroughs is comfortable on the cross country course at Leroy Oakes Forest Preserve would be an understatement.

A year after setting his personal best on the St. Charles course, Burroughs ran the three miles in 15:24 to finish second in the boys varsity division of Saturday’s St. Charles East Leavey Invitational while leading Marmion to the event’s team title.

“I came within four seconds of my PR,” Burroughs said. “I am vey happy with how I ran.”

Burroughs said the incline awaiting runners the course’s last 1,200 meters is always a challenge. The weather – 72 degrees with 84 percent humidity at race time – was also a challenge, Burroughs said.

Downers Grove North junior Alec Danner won the race with a time of 15:18.

Helping secure Marmion’s victory was a fourth-place finish by junior Andre Lifka and an eighth-place finish by freshman Christian Surtz. Also scoring for the Cadets were sophomore Michael Ronzone (15th) and senior Daniel Heineman (55th).

It was rewarding for Burroughs and his teammates to capture the team title, averaging 16:00 per runner.

“We have worked a lot to get faster,” Burroughs said. “With the way we are running, we do feel that we are improving.”

The senior from Elburn, who plans to run in college, said right now the focus is a state berth.

“I hope we can make it downstate,” Burroughs said.

St. Charles East took third, with Geneva fourth, Batavia ninth and St. Charles North 13th.

Tyler Dau of Geneva took third individually, finishing in 15:31.

“I felt good out there,” said the Geneva junior, who’s in his 10th year of running.

Other locals finishing in the top 10 were: Shea Barnes of Batavia (sixth) and Michael Gerkin of St. Charles East (ninth).

Batavia finished second in the girls varsity competition with three runners in the top six – sophomore Emma Stephens (second), senior Dakota Roman (fifth) and sophomore Marygrace Golden (sixth).

The Bulldogs finished just six points behind invite winner Barrington. St. Charles East finished fourth, St. Charles North ninth and Geneva 10th.

Other local individual top 10 finishers in the girls varsity competition were: Geneva senior McKenzie Altmayer (third) and St. Charles North senior Audrey Ernst (fourth).

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St. Charles East girls runners had a strong meet, finishing fourth in the varsity completion and third in the open competition.

“We expected to compete,” Saint assistant coach Mike Backer said. “They ran at a brisk pace and they ran together. Our freshmen and sophomores were able to keep the pace up.”

