

Special to Leader & Times

The Liberal Redskin cross country teams competed in the KSHSAA State Cross Country Championships on Saturday in Lawrence at Rim Rock Farms where all the top runners in the state gathered to prove how hard they have worked.



The Lady Skins came into the meet unranked. Senior Mercy Perez paced the Redskin girls, finishing her last cross country race as a Liberal Redskin with an All-State performance. Perez was the 19th runner to cross the line finishing the 4K course in 16:30.

Freshman Camryn Slatten, competing in her first state competition, finished in 50th place. Slatten's time of 17:13 was the 11th best for a freshman in the race.

Sophomore Kacie Matthews finished in 63rd place with a time of 17:28. Freshman Yanelly Juardo's time of 17:39 was good enough to place 70th. Freshman Saw Ahmara placed 73rd finishing with a time of 17:47. Junior Vanny Diazdeleon placed 85th in 18:16, and junior Allyson Nondorf placed 93rd with a time of 18:51.

After all the scores were calculated, it was a race for the record books as St Thomas Aquinas completed the first ever perfect score at a Kansas state meet. St Thomas Aquinas won with 15 points, Bishop Carroll was second with 69 points. The Lady Skins finished the day in eighth place with 213 points.

Redskin boys take fifth in state, girls finish eighth

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The Redskin boys were led by junior Obed Quintana, who ran the 5K course in 16:39, which was an All-State performance, improving his placing drastically from a year ago where he placed 69th to place seventh this year.

Senior Sammy Obando placed 21st with a time of 17:12. Junior Luis Medina was the 31st competitor to cross the line, finishing with a time of 17:23. Sophomore Emilio Tovilla placed 38th with a time of 17:34.

Senior Erving Altamirano's time of 17:56 was good enough for 56th place. So Greg McClurg placed 67th completing the race in 18:08, and freshman Edgar Moreno placed 85th with a time of 18:45.

Bishop Carroll claimed their 5th consecutive state championship, winning the race with only 30 points. St Thomas Aquinas was second with 64 points. Mill Valley was third with 104 points, BV Southwest was fourth with 110 points, and the Liberal Redskins finished fifth with 122 points.