Sports

Higdon, Stone take podium at XC state

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
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Jason Jones | For The JE

Webster County's Paisley Stone paced the Lady Trojans' ninth-place finish at the state cross-country meet in Lexington Saturday. Stone wrapped her season with a 13th-place finish at the Kentucky Horse Park.



Jason Jones | For The JE

Landon Higdon finished in the top 10 for Webster County at the Class 2A state cross-country meet in Lexington on Saturday. Higdon took ninth place to lead the Trojans to 22nd place as a team.

The Webster County Cross Country team closed out their season on Saturday at the KHSAA State Cross-Country Meet at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

With several running their best times in the state race, Saturday highlighted not only a season of success but also personal growth.

The girls' team placed ninth of 31 teams in Class 2A. Freshman standout Paisley Stone was the first in for WCHS, completing the 5,000-meter race in 19:07.34, her personal best time. Stone placed 13th.

Also running for WCHS were:

76. Alli Bell, 21:58.86

106. Emmalein Canterberry, 22:49.47

108. Brylee Benson, 22:52.03

138. Gabby Breedlovem, 23:40.86

168. Elli Littlepage, 24:43.47

232. Adelynne Utley, 29:03.43

Benson and Breedlove's times were also their personal best.

The boys' team was 22nd out of 34 teams in Class 2A. Senior Landon Higdon completed his race in 16:25.49, leading the Trojans in the standings with a ninth place finish.

Also running for WCHS were:

127. Harley Velaquez, 18:50.95

161. Gage Denton, 19:26.53

162. Seth Pirtle, 19:29.00

216. Isaac Canterberry, 20:38.76

235. Luke White, 21:38.14

Velaquez, Denton, Pirtle, and Canterberry all recorded personal best times at the state meet. Seventh grader White missed a new personal best by only four seconds, but ran seven minutes faster than his first race in the year.

This young team gained valuable experience at the state meet and will definitely be back in the years to come. But first, they are looking ahead to track season.

Lady Trojans fall in regional tourney

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
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The Webster County volleyball team continued its postseason run at the Second Region tournament this past week, facing Christian County in the opening round.

The Lady Trojans fell in three sets: 25-27, 13-25, 20-25. A loss in the regional tournament brings Lady Trojans volleyball to a close for the season.

Arely Martinez led a balanced attack from the Lady Trojans. She had four kills on the offensive side of the ball. Martinez's nine digs, combined with the same for Kamryn Edens, led the Lady Trojans' efforts on the defensive side of the ball. Abby Phelps and Jayleigh Hill combined for four blocked shots in the contest as well.

Addyson Ries and Hill had a pair of service aces in the matchup with the Lady Tigers, and Edens added 12 more assists at the setter position.

Christian County would go on to win the tournament, beating Henderson County 3-1 in the final. CCHS advanced to the state tournament where they fell 3-0 to First Region champion McCracken County. MCHS will face Louisville Assumption Saturday at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester.

Trojans celebrate first win of season

BY DAVID R. DRENNAN
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Thursday night was not only a celebration but a culmination. It was senior night and fall athletes were recognized for their contributions to their various programs. It was also the last football game of the season, a season marked by adversity and resilience. All the Trojans needed was a win to cap it all off. They did just that, shutting out the visiting Todd County Central Rebels 56-0 at Trojan Field.

The Rebels had their own tumultuous season, also coming into Thursday night's game winless. However, Webster had played all nine games, whereas Todd Central had only played seven. They had forfeited their contest to Mayfield and Caldwell County earlier in the season.

The Rebels recovered their onside kick to start the game, exposing problems on special teams that had hurt the Trojans all season. But K'Shar Broady and the defense surrounded the visitors before their offense ever really took off, and got the ball back after a turnover on downs.

Christopher Newman moved the ball well upfield to start Webster's first drive, and then Salazar exploded on the third down play and ran it in for the first touchdown of the night. Ty Phillips' 2-point conversion was also good. For the first time all season, the Trojans were leading. They would lead the entire game.

Todd County caught the ball at the 35-yard line and were met by Phillips and Newman. Defensive pressure forced a fumble that the Trojans recovered. That second drive was stalled by a holding penalty. While they did go for it on fourth down, Brendon Dunn was just a tad short. He carried the ball 10 yards over two carries. The Trojans were glad to have him back after his week one injury.

Newman, Broady and Cole Dacy worked together to limit the Rebels offense once again. Newman started the drive after the Rebels punted it away. But it was Salazar again that found room and ran all the way to the 8-yard line for a big gain. He would end up having 172 yards over seven carries on the night. Broady would help get the Trojans where they wanted to be before Salazar finished the job and pushed the score up to 14-0 with 2:30 left in the first quarter. The extra point attempt was no good.

Dunn tried for an interception on the next TCCHS drive, but narrowly missed out. The Rebels offense was swarmed each time, and they turned it over again. Salazar capitalized once again, pushing the score to 20-0 with 46 seconds left in the first. The 2-point conversion was blocked, but that didn't seem to phase the Trojans.

While missing an interception earlier, Dunn wasn't denied a second time, scooping away the Rebels' chance at the endzone. He returned the ball 19 yards, and he and Newman and Dunn continued to help move it in the right direction for the Trojans.

Phillips connected with Jamison Haynes on a phenomenal 16-yard pass to extend the lead to 26-0. Phillips, who has had limited success with passing the ball, was 4-for-4 on the night. His 2-point conversion attempt to complete the drive was also good. The Trojans now had a 28-point lead before halftime.

Todd received the kickoff and a flag moved the ball to the 39-yard line. A couple of incomplete passes and a penalty slowed the game down, and then Wes Alexander came back to the sidelines hurting. A scuffle between Ayden Claybrooke and a Rebels player gave him time to catch his breath, and he returned to the game.



Coach Jon Tarrance (center) celebrates with his team after his first career win as the Webster County football head coach.

David R. Drennan | For The JE

No Trojans were ejected from the game for the brief lapse concerning Claybrooke, and Salazar returned to the field to get the Trojans another first down. Phillips scored on the next play, and then set up Haynes for the 2-point conversion pass, which connected flawlessly. With 9:36 to go in the half, the Trojans had forced a running clock with a 36-0 lead.

Senior Kevin Rivas noted, "It is a great way to end my season here at Trojan Field."

Todd County's frustrations boiled over to the point that they were fighting amongst themselves. Webster brought them down hard behind the line of scrimmage on the next offensive drive, smothered them at every chance, and forced them to punt it away. Webster, similar in size and depth to the Todd team, finally found the confidence they had been looking for all season.

Starting the third quarter, Broady looked to have himself a touchdown, too, but it was called back due to a holding call on the Trojans. The powerhouse Broady finished with 28 yards over four carries. Newman then went to work, collecting a couple of first downs and finally got it to the end zone late in the third period. The score was then 42-0.

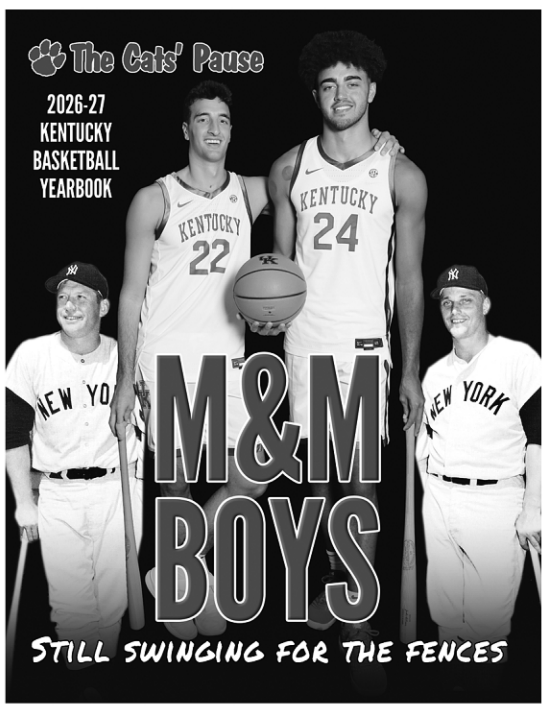
Newman carried the ball nine times for 55 yards.

The Rebels might have made the 50-yard line on their next drive, but their quarterback got tied up by Haynes. Alexander then pulled down an interception of his own to send the possession arrow back in favor of the Trojans. On the first play they gave it to Salazar, who was off to the races again. With 4:30 left, the score was 48-0. Alexander's 2-point conversion was good to extend the lead to 50.

The Rebels were licked, and the Trojans could hardly contain themselves on the field or on the sideline. Phillips got one last flash of Friday night lights as he picked off the Rebels pass and ran it home for a 71-yard "pick-six" touchdown as time expired. That made the final score 56-0. Afterwards, the Trojans doused Tarrance with water to commemorate his first win with the team.

The Trojans travel to Larue County this Friday night to begin the postseason. It was in error that last week's paper reported the Trojans would face the Butler County Bears. Larue County is the number one seed in the region, and is currently undefeated.

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