



2019 Laguna Burger State Cross Country Championships

ATC Wins A-2A Girls' Cross Country Title

In 2018, the ATC girls cross country team came up a couple points short of winning the blue trophy. In 2019, it was the Academy for Technology and the Classics finishing first. ATC won the Girls Class A-AA Championship with a total of 24 points. Pecos finished second with 35 and Penasco was third with 116.

Individually, ATC junior Maggie Rittmeyer took first place with a time of 19:41.70, finishing nearly a minute ahead of the second place-finisher, Vannesa Dominguez of Pecos. "I wanted this for so long, so it's kind of overwhelming" said Rittmeyer after the race. ATC placed four of the top five runners. Rittmeyer's sister, Lily, finished third, followed by ATC teammates Kamryn Hoehne and Noelani Van Loon in fourth and fifth places.



Cottonwood Classical wins Second Blue Trophy

The Cottonwood Classical Prep girls cross country team placed five runners in the top 18 and finished in first place at the 2019 Laguna Burger Cross Country Championships. Cottonwood Classical topped the list with 54 points. Zuni finished second with 75 and Laguna Acoma was third with 89 points. It was the second title in three years for Cottonwood Classical.

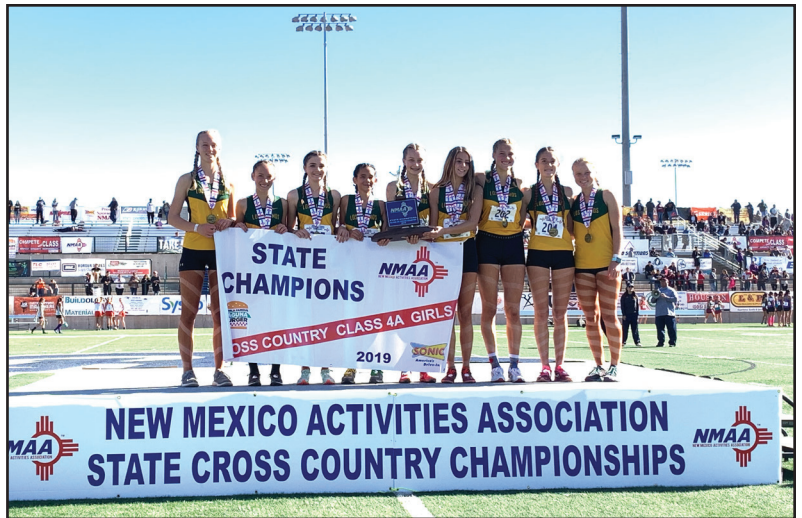
Individually, Jewels Leslie from Fort Wingate crossed the finish line first in a time of 19:34.75. The junior was 15 seconds ahead of runner-up Sidney Cheromiah of Laguna Acoma. "I just tried to be patient the first mile," said Leslie. "I listened to my coach who said wait until after the first mile to start pushing more."



Los Alamos Girls' Back on Top

The Los Alamos girls cross country team dethroned rival Albuquerque Academy to win the 2019 Laguna Burger Class 4A State Cross Country Championship. The Hilltoppers finished first with 30 points, beating second-place Academy by 23 points. Hope Christian was third with 130 points. Los Alamos posted four runners in the top 9 spots.

Individually, Los Alamos sophomore Norissa Valdez came from behind to edge out her teammate Sophie Chadwick at the finish line to earn first-place honors. Valdez clocked in with a time of 18:47, beating her 9th grade teammate by 0.30 seconds. "I kept thinking 'I can do this, I can do this' and then I started sprinting and passed her," described Valdez.



Eldorado Girls' Cross Country Repeats

The Eldorado girls cross country team won Class 5A State Championship for the second year in a row. The Eagles claimed the Laguna Burger State Cross Country team title with an overall score of 48 points. Volcano Vista was second with 77 points and Cleveland finished third with 99.

Cleveland freshman Leah Futey battled defending state champ Jasmine Turtle-Morales at various meets all season long. When it mattered most, Futey was the one who finished on top with the state title. Futey crossed the finish line first in a time of 18:26.45, beating Turtle-Morales by nearly 20 seconds.



Navajo Pine Dominates Boys A-2A Race

For the third year in a row, Navajo Pine posted the fastest runner in their Class and for the third time in as many years the Warriors finished first as a team. Navajo Pine claimed the 2019 Laguna Burger Class A-AA State Cross Country Championships. The Warriors finished with 37 points. Cloudcroft was second with 75 and Pecos third with 110. Navajo Pine had four of the top seven runners in the field.



Individually, Navajo Pine senior Galvin Curley won his second straight state title crossing the finish line first in a time of 16:30.50, 28 seconds ahead of his teammate Michael Marshall who finished second. "It's awesome, no words can explain it," Curley said following his second straight title. "I worked all summer for this and I always imagined myself crossing the line with another state championship."

Zuni Boys' Claim Back-to-Back Titles

The Zuni Thunderbirds made it back-to-back state titles in 2019. Zuni took home top honors at the Laguna Burger Class 3A State Cross Country Championships. Zuni finished first with an impressive 23 points, distancing themselves from the rest of the field. Santa Fe Indian School took second with 92 points and Laguna Acoma was third with 111.

Individually, five of the top seven runners were from Zuni including first place finisher Deshawn Goodwin. The senior posted a winning time of 16:02.80. Goodwin was 15 seconds faster than Justin Howey from Cottonwood Classical who finished second.



Los Alamos Boys' Repeat as Champs

For the second year in a row, the Los Alamos Hilltoppers finished the season on top. Los Alamos won the Laguna Burger Class 4A State Cross Country Championships. The Hilltoppers edged out rival Academy with 40 points. The Chargers finished second with 43 points and Hope Christian and Santa Teresa finished third. Los Alamos had four of the top nine runners in the field. In fact, all 10 of the scoring runners from Los Alamos and Academy placed among the top 16 in the field of 120.



Individually, a pair of teammates finished 1-2. Albuquerque Academy senior Julian Garcia came from behind down the stretch to pass his teammate Justin Hickey and win by a four-second margin. Garcia's winning time was 16:04.75. "I started feeling good with about 800 to go, so I picked it up," described Garcia.

Cleveland Boys' Make it Three in a Row

The Cleveland Storm boys cross country team made it a three-peat in 2019. The Storm finished 1st for the third straight season at the Laguna Burger Class 5A State Cross Country Championships. Cleveland put up a total of 64 points. Volcano Vista finished second with 114 points, edging out third place Piedra Vista by one point. Cleveland had five runners in the top 15 led by Lucas Futey and Lucas Loe who finished seventh and eighth.



Individually, the Class 5A boys race was about as close as you could get. Piedra Vista's Triston Charles came from behind to edge out Jerrick Maldonado at the finish line. The winning time was 16:07.60. It was a .05 second victory for Charles and the 1st state title for the Piedra Vista senior.