

2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships

Cleveland Storm Wins 2017 Boys' 6A Cross Country Title

The Cleveland Storm returned to the victory stand for the first time since 2012 at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships. This marked the Storm's third blue trophy in school history; the first came in 2011.

As a team, Cleveland tallied 35 points with four of their five scoring runners finishing in the top-10. Volcano Vista finished second with 73 points, followed by Eldorado (86), Clovis (116) and La Cueva (124) rounding out the top-5.

Individually, junior Yonas Haile of Cleveland was crowned the 2017 individual champion, crossing the finish line in a time of 16:02.45. Haile finished the race almost 25 seconds ahead of his closest competitor. He finished in the top-5 in 2016.

Volcano Vista's Jericho Cleveland placed second in a time of 16:27.45, followed by David Apodaca of Cleveland, who crossed the finish line in a time of 16:33.50. Patrick Colburn of Hobbs (16:35.45) and Ivan Pienda-Dominguez of Volcano Vista (16:43.40) completed the top-5.

Other medalists included Harrison Smith III (Eldorado), Jon Fuentes (Clovis), Walker Quale (Albuquerque High), Jalen Toya (Cleveland) and Sergio Morales (Rio Rancho).



Chargers Win 5A Boys' Blue Trophy for Third Straight Year

The 2017 Laguna Development Corporation Boys' State Cross Country Championships in Class 5A featured a three-peat champion, as Albuquerque Academy won their third straight blue trophy. The win marked the 13th state title for the Chargers since 1999 under head coach Adam Kedge.

As a team, Academy recorded 37 points, with four runners in the top-10, 24 points ahead of second place finisher Kirtland Central (61). Los Alamos took third place (63), as Miyamura (136) and Aztec (145) rounded out the top-5.

Junior Kashon Harrison of Kirtland Central captured the individual state title, crossing the finish line in a time of 15:54.85, followed by Ty McCray of Miyamura, who placed second in a time of 16:30.60.

A.J. Kedge of Albuquerque Academy placed third, finishing in a time of 16:52.40. Additional medalists included Justin Hickey (Albuquerque Academy), Rafael Sanchez (Los Alamos), Julian Garcia (Albuquerque Academy), Koby Blackwater (Kirtland Central), Andrew Day (Aztec), Tristen George (Kirtland Central) and Chase Keller (Albuquerque Academy).



Navajo Prep Boys' Win Second State Title

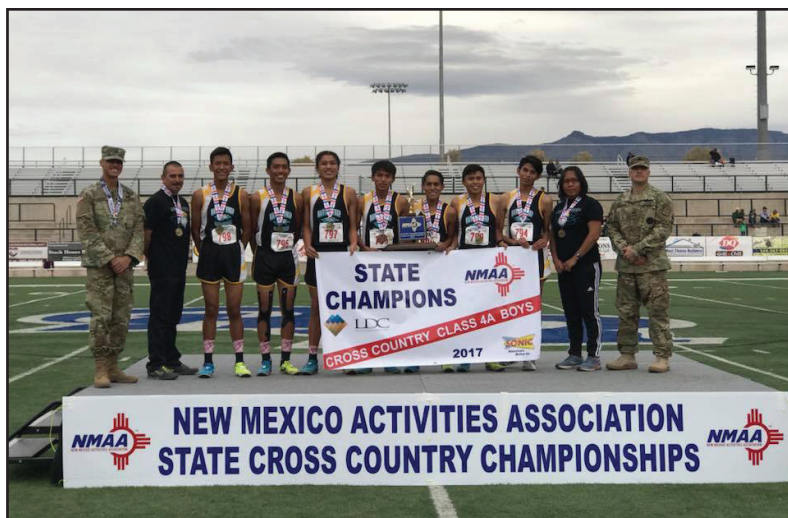
The Navajo Prep Eagles captured the boys' 4A division, winning their second blue trophy in school history at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships.

By race's end, the Eagles had tallied 78 points as a team, winning the title by 11 points over second place finisher Pojoaque Valley (89). West Las Vegas finished third with 101 points, followed by Santa Fe Indian (109) and St. Michael's (119).

West Las Vegas' Miguel Coca was crowned the state individual champion, crossing the finish line 25 seconds before the closest competitor with a time of 16:20.05. Coca finished third in 2016.

J.J. Esquibel (16:45.05) and Isaiah Paiz (16:50.65) of West Las Vegas finished second and third respectively. Justin Angel of St. Michael's finished fourth (17:04.65), followed by John Hall of Pojoaque Valley (17:10.25) and Eli Seward of St. Michael's (17:13.50), rounding out the top-5.

Other medalists included Cameron Becenti (Navajo Prep), Dalton Plummer (Thoreau), Eero Ward (East Mountain), Thomas Lucero (Santa Fe Indian) and Adrian Veruete-Maya (St. Michael's).



Pecos Wins Fourth Boys' State Title in School History

Pecos High School hoisted the blue trophy at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships, winning their third state title in school history. The first three titles came in 1999, 2015 and 2016, making this year's title a three-peat.

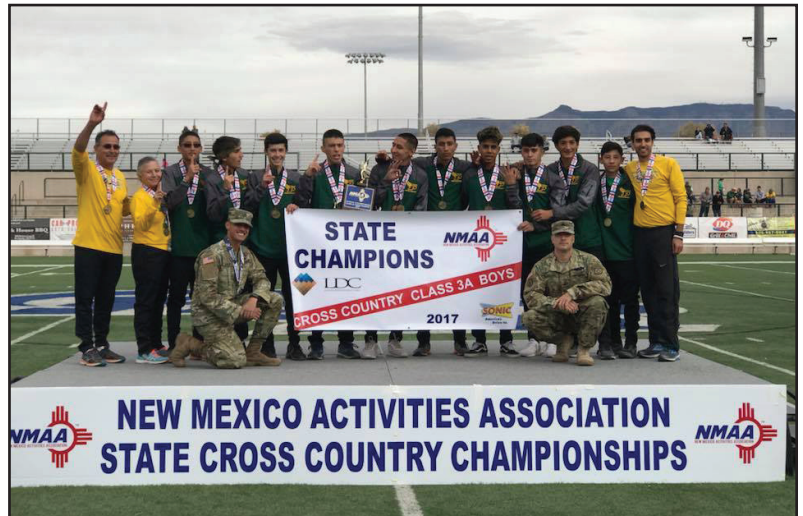
The Panthers recorded the best team score of any classification on the day, scoring 25 points, five scoring runners finishing in the top-10. In fact, Pecos had all six finish in the top-20.

Zuni, who finished third in the 2016 state championships, finished second with a team score of 63.

Laguna Acoma (70), Cuba (107) and Cottonwood Classical (145) rounded out the top-5 in the team competition.

Sophomore Coton Salvador of Laguna Acoma won the individual title in a time of 16:51.70, finishing almost 20 seconds ahead of Joshua Deherrera of Pecos, who crossed the finish line in a time of 17:10.30. Isaiah Armijo of Pecos placed third in a time of 17:12.65, followed Deshawn Goodwin of Zuni (17:18.25) and Michael Montano of Pecos (17:34.50), rounding out the top-5.

Additional medalists included Angel Varela-Gomez (Pecos), Jacy Edaakie (Zuni), Kevin Martin (Laguna Acoma), Devin Gonzales (Pecos) and Tyler Gibson (Cottonwood Classical).



Navajo Pine Boys' Hoist Blue Trophy for Sixth Time

Navajo Pine High School lifted the blue trophy overhead for the sixth time in school history at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships. The Warriors scored 37 points to capture the boys' A-2A state title, 22 points in front of Mesa Vista (69).

The Warriors had four runners in the top-10, capturing their first title since 2014. Mora (96), Alamo Navajo (97) and Cloudcroft (131) rounded out the top-5 teams.

Navajo Pine's Michael Marshall captured the individual crown with a time of 17:11.10, crossing the finish line just over a second ahead of teammate Galvin Curley (17:12.15), who placed second.

Martin Flores of Hagerman placed third overall in a time of 17:26.25, followed by Tyree Monte of Alamo Navajo (17:37.15). Marallus Chee of Navajo Pine (17:43.50) and teammate Dominique Clichee (17:57.75) placed fourth and fifth respectively.

Rounding out the top-10 on the podium were Brian Gollas (Mesa Vista), Justin Madalena (Jemez Valley), Max Presler (Cloudcroft) and Jerome Pacheco (Mora).



Cleveland Wins 6A Girls' Cross Country Title

After losing a close race in 2016 to Rio Rancho, the Cleveland Storm edged their in-town rival at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships, winning by five points over second place finisher Rio Rancho.

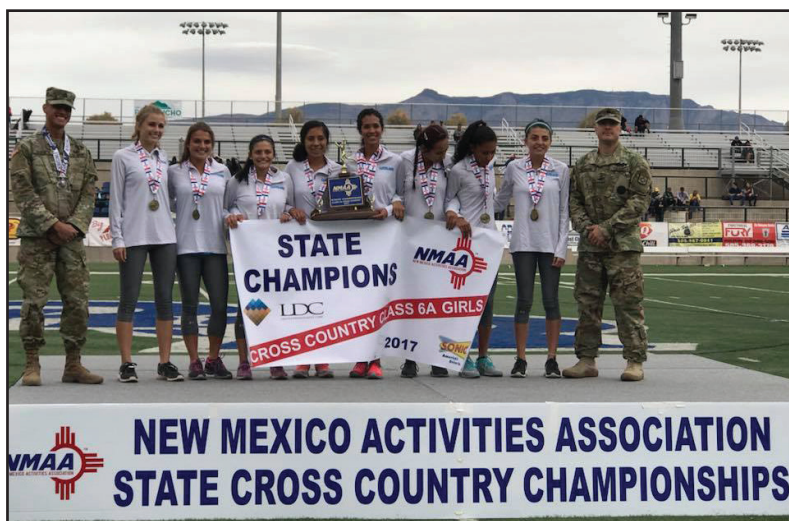
The Storm won the 2017 championship over the Rams, scoring 52 points, compared to Rio Rancho's 57 points. It was the first state title for the Storm since 2008 and the second in school history.

Eldorado (89), Albuquerque High (106) and Sandia (121) rounded out the top-5 teams.

Cleveland's Amanda Mayoral won the individual title for the third straight year, crossing the finish line in a time of 18:23.65, almost 40 seconds in front of the closest competitor. It marked the fifth time in the last seven years a runner from Cleveland has been the state's 6A champion.

Jasmine Turtle-Morale of Eldorado placed second overall with a time of 19:04.90, followed by Alisa Marez-Fishbein of Eldorado (19:17.05). Reina Paredes (Rio Rancho) and Andi Almodovar (Rio Rancho), completing the top-5 runners.

Other medalists included Britney Lovato (Cleveland), Olivia Salter (Sandia), Lila Nezar (Volcano Vista), Savanah Vasquez (Cleveland) and Leney Cheney (Volcano Vista).



Albuquerque Academy Wins Fourth Girls' Cross Country Championship

The Albuquerque Academy Chargers won the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation 5A Girls' State Cross Country Championships, marking their fourth state title with 38 points. It was the second straight title for Albuquerque Academy and the second under head coach Adam Kedge.

The Chargers' 5A rival, Los Alamos, placed second as a team with 69 points, followed by Kirtland Central (134), Alamogordo (135) and Miyamura (165).

Jaque Pinon of St. Pius X was crowned the 2017 individual 5A girls' champion with a time of 18:42.40, followed by the Chargers' Carly Wall (19:26.55). Zoe Hunter of Academy (19:30.35), Jessica Ramirez of Gallup (19:33.40) and Lidia Appell of Los Alamos (19:47.05) rounded out the top-5.

Also standing on the podium were Melena Padilla (Lovington), Ashley Thomas (Miyamura), Norissa Valdez (Los Alamos), Jayleen Guerrero (Santa Teresa) and Celeste Martinez (Albuquerque Academy).



Taos Wins 2017 4A Girls' Cross Country Championship

The Taos Tigers hoisted the girls' 4A blue trophy for the fourth time in five years and the sixth time in school history at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation 5A Girls' State Cross Country Championships.

Taos earned 31 points, followed by Hope Christian (76). The rest of the top-5 teams included Shiprock (98), Robertson (129) and Navajo Prep (136).

The Tigers took the top-3 spots in the race as Ella Katz earned the 2017 individual title, crossing the finish line in a time of 20:18.80. Teammates Cora Cannedy (20:26.45) and Alyx Mastor (20:27.05) finished second and third respectively. Makayla Quintana of Robertson placed fourth in a time of 20:29.05, while Kylie Poole of Hope Christian rounded out the top-5, crossing the finish line in 20:35.20.

Other medalists included Elena Hardy (Shiprock), Khadija Lapahie (Shiprock), Rubie Trotter (East Mountain), Latisha Lopez (Wingate) and Erin Manchester-Jones (Taos).



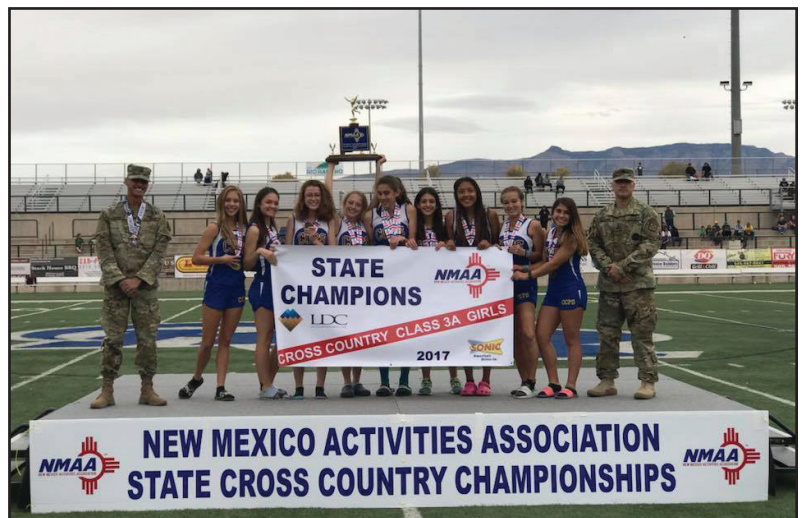
Cottonwood Classical Earns Girls' 3A Title

The Cottonwood Classical Coyotes captured their first blue trophy in girls' cross country and the first ever state championship in any sport at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships.

The Coyotes tallied 48 points in the win, 10 points more than second place finisher Pecos (58). Academy for Technology and the Classics (ATC) finished third with 77 points, while Zuni (105) and Rehoboth Christian (119) rounded out the top-5.

Rhylyn Jones of Cottonwood Classical, who placed fifth in 2016, earned the individual title in a time of 20:31.60, followed by teammates Ariel Pena (20:37.05) and Jordyn Tatum (20:46.20). Vanessa Dominguez (Pecos) and Ana Huizinga (Rehoboth Christian) placed fourth and fifth respectively.

Faith Flores (Pecos), Maggie Rittmeyer (ATC), Savannah Ortiz (Pecos), Aubree Francis (Laguna Acoma) and Kate Ferguson (ATC) finished off the top-10, earning individual medals.



Peñasco Wins Girls' A-2A Cross Country Championships

The Peñasco Panthers placed three runners in the top-10 on their way to the school's second straight girls' cross country state title at the 2017 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships, scoring 32 points.

Cloudcroft finished second with a team score of 86 points, followed by Hagerman (88), Ramah (105) and Navajo Pine (116) rounding out the top-5.

After finishing second in 2016, Carly Gonzales of Peñasco was the individual state champion, crossing the finish line in a time of 20:36.55.

Kennette Eriach of Alamo Navajo placed second with a time of 21:03.55, followed by Cerria Lucero (Hagerman), Maricela MacAuley (Peñasco) and Ki-ana Chavez (Ramah).

Also stepping onto the podium that day were: Adrianna Tafoya (Peñasco), Ella Strickland (Cloudcroft), Mia Sando (Jemez Valley) and Destiny Allen and Jordan Louis of Navajo Pine.

