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## **2014 Laguna Development Corporation State Cross Country Championships *Presented by Farmers Insurance Group***



### **3A Boys**

Laguna-Acoma had seven runners in the top 16, led by senior runner Justin Chino who finished second overall, as the Hawks scored 29 points, earning the blue trophy. Pecos High School finished with 30 points, followed by Santa Fe Prep, who finished third with 113 points.

Pecos High School freshman runner Joshua DeHerrera was beaming after he finished the race in 16:43.50 putting him 17 seconds ahead of Laguna-Acoma's Justin Chino. "I'm proud of myself. My former teammate, Antonio Varela, pushed me to work hard. He won as a sophomore and I'm glad I earned this accomplishment as a freshman," Joshua said.

Laguna-Acoma and Pecos each had three top eight finishers. Jacob Sanchez, Joshua Garcia and Deion Lukee-Valdo placed third, sixth and eighth for the Hawks, while Pecos runners Jason Henderson, Ryan Sandoval and Julian Garcia placed fourth, fifth and seventh.

### **4A Boys**

Zuni High School took home the blue trophy with a total of 67 points and four runners in the top 20. Taos finished with 103 points, earning them the red trophy closely followed by St. Michael's with 112 points.

Alex Heffelfinger finished the race in 16:06.85, winning the individual crown and helping East Mountain finish fourth overall.

"A key for me during today's race was going into the solar towers. I waited for Roy to make his move. I made mine and that proved to be enough," Heffelfinger stated.

Heffelfinger was referring to Roy Madrid of Taos finished second in a time of 16:21.55. Moises Coca, representing West Las Vegas, finished third overall. St. Michael's placed three of their runners in the top 16.

### **5A Boys**

Los Alamos runner Greg Ahlers helped his team capture the blue trophy, finishing fourth overall, as the Hilltoppers won their fourth straight state title with 43 team points. Albuquerque Academy came in second with 61 points, followed by Miyamura with 147 points.

Cody Bratzler of Albuquerque Academy led his team, finishing the race in 16:41.65. His teammates Jordan Lesensee and Mason Clugston also finished in the top 16.

Miyamura junior Niles Thomas finished the race in 15:33.40, placing first overall. Thomas finished the season undefeated and helped his team earn a third-place trophy. "It was a great season, finishing off with a win at state. Having the ability to finish the race and going undefeated made it special," Thomas said.

His teammate Nicholas Jameson (16:27.85) finished third overall, while Aaron Valenzuela (16:11.55) of Belen earned the silver medal.

### **6A Boys**

Rio Rancho finished with 61 team points on their way to back to back state championships. Devin Paredes, Josh Pyeatt and Michael Goke helped the Rams capture the blue trophy placing second, fifth and tenth respectively. Hobbs finished second with 72 points, followed by Cibola with 110 points.

Chris Harlow (Cibola) finished the race in 16:13.85, capturing the individual title. "I was a little worried when Devin caught up to me and I wasn't sure I could keep up because he'd beaten me in every other race. I wanted to go as hard as I could with this being my last race," Harlow stated. Justin Kerstetter of Manzano finished behind Paredes for third.

Hobbs runner Manuel Porras led his team finishing fourth overall with a time of 16:37.85, while his teammates Carlos Oregon and Andrea Bosquez also placed in the top 16. Taylor Atencio and Harrison Smith III of Cibola finished ninth and 18th.

### **A-2A Boys**

Navajo Pine took home the blue trophy with 37 points overall, led by first-place runner Terrence Lee. Alamo Navajo finished second with 62 points and three runners finishing in the top 16. Mesa Vista followed in third with 101 points.

Lee finished the race in 17:21.70, while teammates Keenan Nez (3) and Wyatt Davis (7) finished in the top 10. Alamo Navajo runner Geronimo Apache finished fourth with a time of 17:50.65. Mesa Vista runner James Espinoza finished second overall.

"It felt good to win the race and help my team to a state title," Lee simply stated.

### **3A Girls**

Estancia High School's Aubri Wrye ran her team to a state title, finishing in first with a time of 19:37.55 and helping the Bears earn 61 total points. Academy for Technology & the Classics followed with 74 points and Cottonwood Classical placed third with 89 points.

"The opportunity to race at the state cross country meet is amazing. I never dreamed of being a long distance runner," Wrye said.

Taylor Bacon of Desert Academy finished second recording a time of 19:37.55, while Alizabeth Williams followed in third place with a time of 20:39.45.

Estancia and Academy for Technology & the Classics finished the race with four runners in the top 20. Cottonwood Classical had three runners in the top 15.

### **4A Girls**

The Taos girls ran a good race with five runners in the top 16, finishing with 37 points and taking the 2014 class 4A title. Shiprock finished in second with 70 points. St. Michael's took home the third place trophy with 136 points.

Cora Cannedy earned the first-place medal with a time of 19:15.00. East Mountain's Addison Rauch closely followed just 3.7 seconds behind, while her teammate Amira Cunningham captured the third-place medal with a race time of 19:37.40.

"I am so proud of my entire team, they are the ones who helped us get here," Cannedy humbly stated after winning the gold medal.

### **5A Girls**

Los Alamos had five runners in the top 16 and was led by Maddy Foley, who finished third overall with a time of 19:06.45, as the Hilltoppers captured the state championship in the girls' 5A classification.

Albuquerque Academy finished second with 58 points beating city rival St. Pius X (76) who placed third.

"It's amazing, it's indescribable, so surreal – I'm just so glad it happened today," first place winner Carisma Lovato of Valencia said about her win. Lovato crossed the finish line in a time of 18:40.60.

Jordyn Dilozenzo of St. Pius X finished second with a time of 18:57.65. All three teams had three finishers in the top 16.

### **6A Girls**

La Cueva (53) claimed the blue trophy in the girls 6A classification with Rio Rancho (72) finishing second and Volcano Vista (85) in third.

La Cueva runner Natasha Bernal finished her season undefeated running a 18:50.85 race. "It feels good. I know I worked really hard all season," she stated. Teammates spoke about Bernal and said she pushed them to work harder in practice. La Cueva had five runners in the top 25.

Amanda Mayoral of Cleveland High School finished second with a time of 18:56.50. Mason Swanson of La Cueva followed, placing third with a time of 19:02.75. Rio Rancho and Volcano Vista finished with four top 16 runners apiece.

### **A-2A Girls**

Jemez Valley earned a blue trophy finishing with a team score of 64 points. Cimarron (75) and Ramah (91) placed second and third respectively.

Valene Madalena led the Warriors finishing second overall and her teammate, Jade Altheide, finished fourth to help their team capture the title. Cimarron's Abby Kepfer finished the race in 21:07.35, giving her the third place medal. Ramah had three top 20 finishers.

Annoesika Laughlin of Navajo Pine took home the gold medal with a time of 19:25.60, making her the first girl to win an individual state cross-country championship for her school. "I knew I had to train really hard for this meet, I trained with the boys. I worked very hard for this," Laughlin stated.