

## NEWS

### Central girls roundup: HARDIES, DEVILS SHINE IN WINNING WOODRUFF

CROSS COUNTRY: Hinsdale Central freshman Jill Hardies started at the top Saturday. In her first high-school cross country race, the former Hinsdale Middle School runner competed at Peoria's Detweiller Park, the annual course of the state meet.

"I was pretty nervous. It was more excited nervous than anything," Hardies said. "I tried the best that I could and I guess all of the hard work from the summer started to pay off." Hardies and the Red Devils showed they very well could be back for the Class 3A final Nov. 7 as they won Saturday's 36-team Peoria Woodruff Invitational impressively.

The Red Devils (86 points), ranked No. 14 in this week's DyeStat Illinois Web site Class 3A poll, topped second-place and No. 3 Naperville North by 36 points. The Red Devils also beat three other teams ranked ahead of them. Hardies (18 minutes, 8 seconds for 3.0 miles) and senior Hailey Krzyston (18:11) finished ninth and 10th. Seniors Graylin Harrison (13th, 18:22) and Katie Kummerer (18th, 18:34) also finished in the top 20, followed by Grace Hucek (36th, 19:01), Grace Klein (59th, 19:23) and Colleen Leahy (72nd, 19:42). Hardies missed the season-opening Hornet-Red Devil Invite Sept. 5 to rest a knee injury.

"(Saturday) was just my first time, my first race and it was a lot of fun, exciting. The whole process of it I enjoyed," Hardies said. "Ever since I started training with (the upperclassmen) this summer, they've been the biggest motivators and support system. Even with non-running-related things at school, as a freshman, they've helped a lot."

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