

# Ed Grant Weekly XC Report

**Week 1 (14 Sep 09)**

All-group defender Tyler Udland of Millburn opened his senior campaign in style last Friday in weather more suited to mid-November than to the actual calendar date of early September.

Battling strong winds, rain and muddy under footing, Udland covered the Freedom Park course in Randolph in 15:59, confirming that he was fully recovered from the leg injury which had sidelined him for all of the indoor season and much of the outdoor campaign last winter and spring. He finished 50 yards ahead of Colts Neck junior Mike O'Dowd in the Div. III meet at the Randolph Invitational.

The meet also saw three other notable victories. Kevin Byrne, Jr., of Red Bank Catholic led his team to victory in the Div. II race in 16:33, Jillian Prentice of Montgomery won the girls' Div. III event in 18:39 and Eastern Christian soph scored in Div. I in 18:50.

There was also one notable team result in the girls' Div. III race as Ridge upset host Randolph, 52-56. The Rams are the pre-season favorite for the AG title, but Ridge put three runners in the top 10, led by veteran Jackie Madden, who finished 6th in 19:54. Red Bank Catholic, another AG contender, had a 1-2 finish from Michelle Capozzi and Molly McNamara in the Div. II race, but lost, 35-37, to visiting Pearl River, which had all five of its girls in the top 10.

The weather was much warmer the next day, though rain continued to fall throughout the state. The Cherokee Challenge, a class meet run at 3200M, drew much the strongest fields of the five races that day, most notably in the senior girls' race where Chelsea Ley of Kingsway, a prohibitive favorite for AG honors this fall, ran away from her rivals to win for the 4th year in a row in 11:12.

Her probably chief AG rival, Marielle Hall of Haddonfield, was absent here after a hectic summer, which included a double at the USATF Junior Olympics this summer and participation in the World Youth Games. It was Chelsea Cox of Southern Ocean, a 400 and 800-meter runner in the winter and spring, who placed 2nd to Ley, ahead of such all-state candidates as Rashmi Singh of Hunterdon Centra, Julie Jablonski of Hopwell Valley, Corrie Gethard of Southern Ocean, Sophia Ginez of South Brunswick and Caitlin Orr of Lenape.

Winner of the junior race in 11:45 was Millville soph Alyssa Harris, who won the intermediate 3K at the AAU Junior Olympics, while Haley Pierce of visiting Tatnall, Del., took the woph event from Cayla DelPiano of South Brunswick, who ran 11:36.

Jon Vitez of Haddonfield matched Ley as a four-0time winner, taking the senior boys' event from Sam Macaluso of West Windsor-Plainsboro South in 9:33. His teammate, Ben Potts, was the junior winner in 9:58, while two other members of the defending Gr. II champs, Matt Nussbaum and Colin Baker, were at 10:00 and 10:04. The Haddons are co-favorites with Christian Brothers for the AG title.

The Colts held their top runners out last weekend, but had an impressive win in the sophomore division at the Roxbury Invitational, led by Conrad Lippert, who won the race by 15 yards from Jack Leahy of Westfield in 16:29. The junior-senior race there went to Mike Kelley of Westfield in 16:15. On the girls' side Mary Migton of Roxbury took the junior-senior event in 19:07 and Sara Quinn of Gill-St. Bernard's the soph race in 19:46. Morris County's premier runner, 2008 Footlocker finalist Laura Vigilante of Mendham, was on a college visit.

The Lancer Invitational on the spacious Livingston HS campus had a small field, but a pair of impressive winners, 9:07 3200-meter runner Jeremy Elkaim of the home team winning the boys' race from Colin Richmond of St. Rose in a meet record 16:05 and Diana D'Achille of Mt. Olive coming back from a year-long injury to win the girls' event in 20:09.

A second meet in Livingston saw Olivia Tarantino of Pingry, another victim of injury last winter and sprint, lead a 1-2-3 finish in the girls' event in 19:33, and Scott Chamberlain of Blair head a victory for his team in 16:42.

The Petty Fun Run Classic, a non-scoring event at Delaware Valley, had a good match in the girls' event with Emma Giantisco of the home team outrunning Colette Whitney of Voorhees by 20 yards in 19:11. The Vikings, AG champs the past two years, had five in the top seven, but will have to close the minute and more-long gap between its first and second girls to be a threat to three peat this fall. Matt McDonald took the boys' event in 16:32.

Liz Shaw of Mater Dei, second to graduated teammate Marie Walsh a year ago, won at the St. Dominic Academy Invitational in Lincoln Park, Jersey City, in 20:45, with soph Darrell Gooding of Franklin taking the boys; race in 16:53.

Class meets will again dominate the New Jersey landscape this weekend, led by the Magee Memorial at Warinanco Park and the Battle of Monmouth at, appropriately, Monmouth Battlefield.