

Cherokee's Burkholder cruises in N.C.

CARY, N.C. — First-year cross country runner Lisa Burkholder, a Cherokee High School sophomore, raced away from the field over the final 1,000 meters and swept to a 25-second win in the large-school race at yesterday's Great American Cross Country Festival.

"We were going up the last hill and I just felt like it was time to make my move," Burkholder said. "I felt strong at the end. I think I surprised them when I took off going up the hill."

Burkholder, Megan O'Leary, Amy Domowitch and Abby Anderson were all among the top 25 finishers overall, helping Cherokee to a third-place team finish of 19 schools from around the nation.

Burkholder, who won the national freshman mile championship last spring a few miles away, covered the muddy 5,000-meter course in 19:59. Kyle Foley of Harrison (N.Y.) High was second in 20:05. Shenendehowa (N.Y.) won with 53 points, followed by Shaker (N.Y.) with 100 and Cherokee with 110.

"It was really exciting coming down here," Burkholder said. "I looked up at the clock near the end and it said 19:30 so I knew I had to get under 20 minutes. The course was pretty slow — it was really muddy — so I was really happy to go under 20."

O'Leary was 10th overall in 20:56, with Domowitch 20th in 21:25 and Anderson 24th in 21:44. Darcy Colligan scored for the Chiefs, placing 55th.

The Great American Cross Country Festival features 30 high school and college races with more than 400 teams and close to 5,000 runners over two days at SAS Soccer Park just outside Raleigh, N.C.

In the boys seeded race, juniors Tom Yersak and Sean McLaughlin led a tight

LOCAL ROUNDUP

Cherokee pack and the Chiefs placed second to Kings High School of Kings Mills, Ohio.

Cherokee, ranked fifth in New Jersey, placed its five scoring runners within 40 seconds of Yersak.

Kings finished with an 81-103 margin of victory over Cherokee in the 18-team race.

Yersak placed 21st overall in 16:42 and McLaughlin was 28th in 17:03 over 5,000 meters. Also in Cherokee's top five were junior James Maneva (37th in 17:11), sophomore Greg Bredek (45th in 17:18) and senior Nick Freeman (46th in 17:22).

Nonscoring juniors Mike Candy and Paul McFadden finished in under 18 minutes for Cherokee.

There were 150 runners in the seeded race.

Will Andes placed 19th in yesterday's JV race in 18:20 and Matt Dolan was 16 seconds behind. Jessica Fox was Cherokee's top finisher in the girls JV race in 30th place.

On Friday, Duke's Keith Krieger raced former Cherokee teammate Mark Pelerin of Villanova, and although Villanova beat Duke, Krieger beat Pelerin in their first head-to-head race since high school.

Krieger, a true freshman, placed 44th overall in 26:45 and was Duke's second runner. Pelerin was 73rd in 27:24 and was Villanova's sixth runner. Villanova finished sixth and Duke ninth in the Race of Champions, featuring most of the NCAA's top-ranked teams.

Garrett Mountain Invitational: The Moorestown boys finished first in the Paterson event. Kenny Thompson (second place, 16:42) and Brian Holaday (fourth, 16:59) powered the Quakers to 42 points, edging Midd-

letown South (57 points) and Mount Olive (104). Eric Holaday finished seventh (17:41), Matt Reichert placed 12th (18:01) and Ben Leonberg finished 22nd (18:19).

The Quaker girls finished second (47 points) behind Morris Knolls (42).

Devin O'Connell took seventh place (20:56), Kate Laramie placed eighth (21:08), and Corey Sheldon finished 11th (21:20). Elle Garro took 12th (21:22) and Samantha Wilson notched 17th place (21:25).

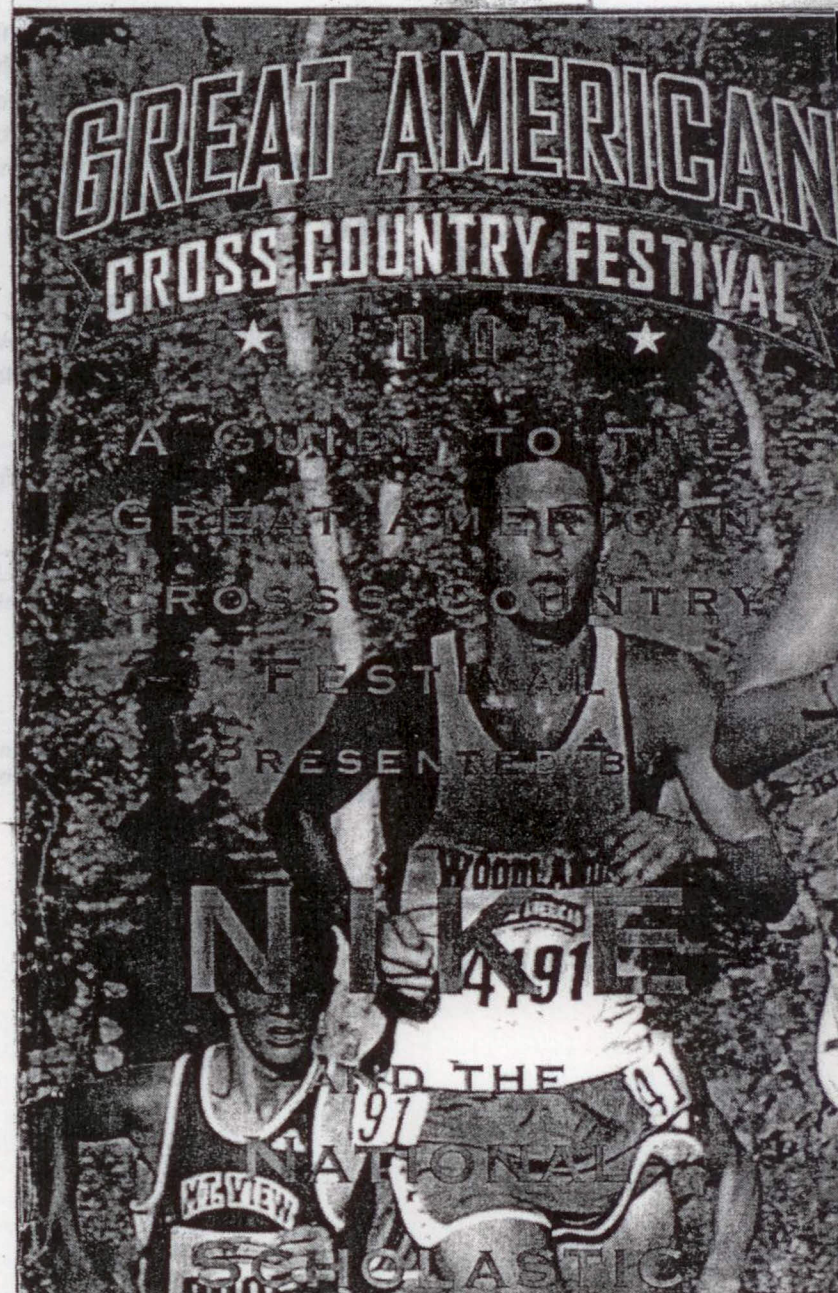
GIRLS SOCCER

Holy Cross 3, Kingsway 1: Laura Konopka scored a pair of goals for Holy Cross. Casey Riley added a goal for the Lancers (3-2).

R.V. 4, Burl. Twp. 1: Carly D'Errico, Dana Bieniek, Bria Wenzel and Melissa McMullen all scored goals for the winners. Nicole Papp scored for Township.

BOYS SOCCER

Kingsway 6, Holy Cross 2: J.T. Maahs and Dominic Crucitti scored for Holy Cross.



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| Average | 25:16.56 |
| Male Mary High School-1997 | 20:10.34 |
| Total Time: | 2:04:10.34 |
| Average: | 24:50 |
| Shenendehowa High School-93 | 23:17.31 |
| Total Time: | 2:06:17.31 |
| Average: | 25:19.47 |

Great American Results Index

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■ **Great American Cross Country Festival:** In Carey, N.C., Cherokee's Lisa Burkholder won the Red Invitational, considered the third best race at the event, in 20 minutes. Burkholder, a sophomore, ran with the leaders for just over the first two miles of the 3.1-mile race, then used a surge going up a 400-meter hill to take the lead for good.

"Last week she won (at the Cherokee Challenge) but that was just a two-mile race, so it was nice to see her continue that

momentum over a full 5K," Cherokee coach Chris Tarello said. "It was blazing hot down here, too."

Cherokee, which also had Megan O'Leary finish 10th in 20:56, finished third in the team scoring with 110 points. Shenendehowa (N.Y.) won with 53 points and Shaker (N.Y.) was second with 100.

In the boys' event, Cherokee finished second in the Seeded Invitational, considered the second best division there. The Chiefs were led by Tom Yersak in 21st

in 16:42.90, Sean McLaughlin in 28th at 17:03.39 and James Maneval in 37th at 17:11.73.

"James Maneval was our third man today, and normally he is our fifth or sixth man for us, so that was a big jump for him," Cherokee coach Steve Shaklee said of Maneval. "He came through nicely. We can run better, but overall we are happy with the results."

Kings High School (Ohio) won with 83 points, while Cherokee had 103.

where she left off