



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Released to: Titan E-News, Sentinel-News

Collins High School, Shelbyville, KY

Cross Country 11-2-20

State 3A Meet

Three Collins individual qualifiers traveled to the Bourbon County course in Paris to compete in the State Meet on Oct. 31st. Due to Collins being bumped up in classification from AA to AAA because of its growing size, this is the first time that the boys' team did not make State since 2014. Junior Gabe Vergara was the lone Collins qualifier on the boys' side. He got out fast in the first section, passing the mile in 5:16. The course was known to be fast in the first two kilometers of the 5K race. He held his position at the two mile (11:08) and went on to place 51st in 17:40.



(Photo: T. Kendall)

Collins lone boy qualifier digs in as he nears the finish at the State Cross Country Meet on Oct. 31st.

Collins had two qualifiers in the girls' race, eighth graders Emma Kendall (West M.S.) and Grace Evans (Moorman M.S.). This is the first time the girls' team did not make State since 2012, since they now face much stiffer competition in 3A. Kendall got off to her usual fast start in section one getting to the first mile in 6:20. She finished in 21:05 for 52nd place. Evans got off to a good start in the second section and kicked home in 21:44, passing several runners in the last 100 meters to finish 86th.



(Photo: Coach S.)

Emma Kendall shows an intense focus after the one-mile mark at the State Meet on Oct. 31st.



(Photo: Coach S.)

Grace Evans (1860) starts her kick to the finish at the State Meet with 200 meters to go. When it counted, Evans turned the trick on Sacred Heart senior Katelyn Cornett (1957) by beating her by two seconds (four places). Cornett had beat Evans by two places and seven seconds in the regional meet a week ago.



Head Coach George Sanderlin said, "With the step up to 3A its good that we got our top athletes to State. All three of our athletes did very well on this difficult course. The course is rolling, so the hills keep coming at you. There really is no extended flat area in which runners can relax somewhat and re-focus. Next year, we should be positioned to do well, since we are only losing only two seniors. We will miss the leadership of seniors Shelby Hamm and two-time team captain Lilly Vest."

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