

# Raiders compete in cross-country

by Bob Statz

The 2025 version of the Mille Lacs Raiders Cross Country program features eight girls and boy runners grades 7-12 with neither gender competing as a team, but each running as individuals — some in the junior high, junior varsity or varsity races.

### Milaca Early Bird Meet

Monday, Aug. 25, the eight members of the Mille Lacs Raiders boys and girls cross country teams grades 7-12 began their season competing in the Milaca Early Bird meet, running against athletes from nine other teams.

In a field of 47 varsity runners for the boys 5K (3.1 miles), Isle junior Hunter Vaught finished in 19:15 for 15th place. Senior Cory Carlson finished in 26:46. In the 7th and 8th grade boys 1.9K (1.18 mile) race, Isle eighth grader Rylan Heise led the way with a debut time of 8:51 for 18th place. Fellow eighth graders Aidan Heise and David Carlson finished in 11:59 and 12:14 respectively.

In the girls varsity 5K, senior and veteran runner Kylie Lorentz was the 38th runner to cross the finish line at 26:32. Isle junior Lily Fitzharris competed in the junior varsity 5K, placing third in 26:37. Kylee Miner, a seventh grader from Isle, finished her first junior high 1.9K race in 10:32, placing 20th.

### Princeton Inviational

On Thursday, Aug. 28, the Mille Lacs Raiders cross-country team traveled to Princeton to run in the Princeton Inviational against eleven teams, including larger schools like Big Lake, Monticello, and Cambridge-Isanti.

In the boys varsity 5K, Hunter Vaught shaved seconds off his Monday time to finish 26th with a time of 18:20. Teammate Cory Carlson improved his time to 25:27.

The junior high boys increased their racing distance to 2K (1.25 miles). Again, Rylan Heise led the way with a time of 9:25, and Aidan Heise was closer behind, crossing the finish line in 9:54. David Carlson completed the race in 12:27.

Lily Fitzharris ran in the girls varsity 5K and finished in 27:15. Kylee Miner finished the girls junior high 2K race in 11:30.

### Pine City Invitaional

The rain didn't stop Pine City's Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 4, as the Raiders competed against runners from 14 other teams.

In the boys varsity 5K, Hunter Vaught kept his time just under 19 minutes (18:57), finishing in 35th place. Teammate Cory Carlson crossed the finish line at 25:40. Rylan Heise and



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

### 2025 Mille Lacs Cross Country

The eight members of the 2025 Mille Lacs Raiders cross country program picture above are: Left to right, back row: David Carlson, Cory Carlson, Hunter Vaught and Lily Fitzharris, Kylie Lorentz. Left to right, front row: Rylan Heise, Kylee Miner and Aidan Heisse.

Aidan Heise cut their times to 9:00 and 9:05 respectively for the boys junior high 2K. David Carlson finished in 12:42.

Lily Fitzharris ran the girls varsity 5K in 25:15, and Kylie Lorentz came in seven runners later at 25:37. Kylee Miner improved her 2K to finish with a time of 11:21 in the junior high race.

### Mora Meet

The damp weather continued into the meet in Mora on Tuesday, Sept. 9 where Mille Lacs ran hard against 22 other teams.

Hunter Vaught finished the boys varsity 5K in 18:58, one

second off from his previous race time. Cory Carlson ran his best time of the early season at 25:19.

In the girls varsity 5K, Kylie Lorentz crossed the finish line at 25:51, and Lily Fitzharris followed with a time of 26:19.

The junior high boys and girls increased their race distance once more to 3.2K (2 miles). Rylan Heise completed the course in 15:57, coming in 64th. His brother Aidan Heise trailed behind in 69th with a time of 16:23. David Carlson ran the course in 22:19. In the girls race, Kylee Miner had a time of 19:17 for 60th place.

The Raiders were scheduled to run in Pierz for the Rey Zimney Stampede on Monday, Sept. 15.



PHOTO BY DAVID BERGER

### Class reunites

Nineteen members of the Onamia High School Class of 1980 met for a 45th class reunion on Sept. 13. The event was staged at Benson's Hometown Bar and Grill in downtown Onamia.