

## Walton, Harrison start off strong

by Greg Oshust  
goshust@mdjonline.com  
08.28.10 - 11:00 pm



DULUTH - Walton and Harrison got the 2010 cross country season off to good starts Saturday with top-five finishes in the girls team standings of the Walton/Peachtree Ridge Stages Races at the River Green Complex.

Walton scored 33 points to finish fourth among the girls, with Harrison (35) right behind in fifth place. Collins Hill (8) won the girls' title, followed by North Gwinnett (16) and Brookwood (21).

No Cobb teams placed in the top five in the boys team standings. Brookwood (7) was the boys winner, followed by St. Pius X (22), Collins Hill (26), Woodstock (34) and Mill Creek (36).

The Stage Races feature five races, or stages. The top-ranked runners on each team run in the fifth and final stage, while each squad's No. 2 runners compete in the fourth stage, the No. 3s in the third stage, the No. 4s in the second stage

and the No. 5s in the first stage.

Each stage is 2 miles instead of the usual 5K (3.1-mile) distance that is run in most high school cross country races.

Alexa Womack led the Walton girls with a third-place finish in Stage 4, crossing the line in a time of 12 minutes, 27 seconds. Danielle Boyle finished ninth in Stage 5 with a time of 12:41, while Nyna Cutler (12:44, Stage 1), Mara Canning (13:02, Stage 3) and Maddie Seiloff (13:15, Stage 2) were the other top runners for the Lady Raiders.

"I was very pleased. The girls ran very well," Walton coach Travis Gower said. "We had good performances in every stage. It was a good start to the season."

Harrison was led by Maria Boff, who finished seventh among the girls in Stage 5 with a time of 12:24.

Kaylee Isaacs finished third in Stage 2 with a time of 12:32, while Elyse Bray was fourth in Stage 3 with a time of 12:33 for the Lady Hoyas.

"It was a great day for the girls," Harrison co-coach Kent Simmons said. "I'm excited about how we ran. We're excited about running in the Berry Invitational

next week. It will be our first 5K, and it will be interesting to see how we do."

On the boys side, Walton was led by Brian Sullivan, who won Stage 3 with a time of 10:26.

Other top finishers for the Raiders were R.J. Torres (10:38, Stage 4), David Forman (10:55, Stage 5), Michael Warrick (10:59, Stage 2) and Shane Hobbs (11:07, Stage 1).

The Harrison boys were led by Nat Estes (10:27, Stage 5), Austin O'Connell (10:31, Stage 4) and Jeremy McClung (11:07, Stage 2).

McEachern's Nick Washizaki finished eighth in Stage 5.