



FOUR MEMBERS OF SPX VARSITY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM RUN PERSONAL BEST MEET TIMES AT KINGWOOD INVITATIONAL

D'Eramo Delivers Another 'Top Finisher' Performance for Panthers

KINGWOOD, Texas – It is said that competition brings out the best in an athlete, especially when competing against some of the most accomplished athletes in a chosen field. The annual Kingwood Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, September 8 served as a classic example of the popular claim as St. Pius X senior distance runner Joey D'Eramo went elbow-to-elbow with several of the Greater Houston Area's top-ranked public high school runners.

Prior to the starting gun of the featured event of the day, the varsity boys 'A' run, D'Eramo was introduced by the meet's public address announcer as 'one of the top ranked private school runners in the state', and recognized at the starting line alongside top rated public school runners Zac Flowers from Katy Cinco Ranch, Michael Cook from Magnolia, and Ryan Bennett from meet host Kingwood. In the end, the featured foursome did not disappoint, finishing first-through-fourth (Flowers 15:24.26, Bennett 15:31.62, D'Eramo 15:34.40, Cook 15:53.99) in a race featuring more than 70 runners from 10 local area schools.

"Joey (D'Eramo) not only can run with the best runners in the area, he is one of the best runners in the area," said SPX Cross Country Coach Erin Van Wassenhove. "He loves the challenge of making sure the private schools are heard from week-to-week at the big public school meets."

Three other members of the St. Pius varsity boys team joined the reigning TAPPS 6A cross country state champion in establishing new personal best 5k meet times at the Kingwood

competition. Seniors Ray Garcia (19:04.10) and David Vallejo (21:29.70) came in fifth and eighth respectively for the Panthers, and sophomore Jake D'Eramo (18:40.92) set a new personal best meet record while finishing third for the St. Pius varsity boys team.

In the girls 2-mile competition, junior Linsey Wojtasczyk led a squad of 16 Lady Panther runners with a course time of 15:27.33.

“Let Us Prey”

Combined Individual St. Pius X Performances (in order of finishing time):

Boys Varsity 5K (3.1-mile run) – 1) Joey D'Eramo (15:34.40), 2) Nick Gonzalez (18:35.67), 3) Jake D'Eramo (18:40.92), 4) Josh Vasquez (18:54.05), 5) Raymond Garcia (19:04.10), 6) Joseph Ochoa (19:17.94), 7) Rob DiValerio (20:38.94), 8) David Vallejo (21:29.70), 9) Jeremy Kallus (22:44.84)

Girls JV 2-Mile Run – 1) Linsey Wojtasczyk (15:27.33), 2) Christine Muller (15:46.08), 3) Amanda Heins (16:27.48), 4) Alana Jones (16:36.21) 5) Erika Valladares (16:51.75), 6) Victoria Markantonis (16:56.07), 7) Kaley Carroll (17:45.61), 8) Sarah Jardine (17:47.69), 9) Johnita Goodman (17:57.82), 10) Sarah Baker (19:08.85), 11) Alice Whitten (19:14.60), 12) Stacia Dancsak (19:17.03), 13) Nina Broumand (19:21.99), 14) Katie Carlile (19:43.01), 15) Hill Saffron (23:31.24), 16) Alyssa Rivas (23:32.86)

Boys 2-Mile Freshman Run – 1) Austin Kowalski (14:23.02), 2) David Goldknopf (14:41.51), 3) Julian Sia (16:29.51)

Personal Best 5K CC Performance Times Established:

- Joey D'Eramo, 15:34.40 (previous PB 5K CC mark = 16:06)
- Jake D'Eramo, 18:40.92 (previous PB 5K CC mark = 19:42)
- Raymond Garcia, 19:03 (previous PB 5K CC mark = 19:07)
- David Vallejo, 21:29 (previous PB 5K CC mark = 22:10)

2007 Kingwood Invitational Meet Photos



Senior distance specialist Joey D'Eramo (left) had plenty of kick down the stretch at the Kingwood Invitational, establishing a new personal best 5k meet time and recording another top finish.



Senior David Vallejo (left) was one-of-four St. Pius X 'varsity boys' runners to establish a new personal best 5k meet time at the Kingwood Invitational.



Junior Linsey Wojtasczyk (right) paced the Panther girls team with a time of 15:27.33 in the girls 2-mile competition.

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St. Pius X Background

The Dominican Sisters of Houston founded St. Pius X High School in 1956 to serve the educational and spiritual needs of the young men and women of Houston. Its mission compels the School to provide an affordable quality Catholic education distinguished by a commitment to the individual, to spiritual and moral development, to a love of learning, and to the cultivation of leadership.

For more information regarding St. Pius X High School or for volunteer opportunities, please contact Erika Bowen at (713) 578-7513 or via email at olivarrie@stpiusx.org.