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Several Athletes in Stoddard County Qualify for Cross Country State Championship

OCTOBER 31ST 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Five Dexter athletes qualified for the MSHSAA Class 3 Cross Country Championships on Saturday at Ironton and 22 total from Stoddard County will go on to compete at the MSHSAA Cross Country State Championship.

"I am very proud of these DHS athletes," stated James DeBerry, Dexter High School Cross Country Coach.

Only the top 30 individual athletes and the top four schools in each class could advance to the State Championship.

In Class 2, District 1 the Bloomfield Wildcats finished fourth qualified for the MSHSAA Cross Country State Championship.

Principia won the team championship, Steelville placed second, and Arcadia Valley won third.

In addition to Bloomfield's entire team headed to state, four runners earned medals for finishing in the top 30. Josh Reynolds was eighth, Connor Scott was 23rd, Caleb Upchurch was 24th and Hunter Moore finished 29th.

Logan Robison from Puxico finished 28th and will head to Columbia for the state competition.

From Dexter were Ben Dowdy who placed 16th, Clayton Bell finishing 26th and Cameron Bell placing 27th.

Taven Owens from Bernie finished 15th and Landon Ellsworth placed 30th. Both will compete at state.

Bell City's Kennett Rampley, Advance's Luke Ballin and Richland's Lennon Cook won all-district medals. Rampley took ninth Ballin was 21st, and Cook was 24th.

Richland's Alexia Kemp and Bernie's Mackenzie Hill qualified for the Class 1 girls championship meet. Kemp was eighth in 22:07.27 and Hill was 22nd in 23:47.20.

In girls cross country competition:

Dexter's Gabby Brown placed second in the girls division for Class 3 and Abbie Lloyd placed 20th.

Two Puxico girls qualified for the Class 2 girls championship meet. Lanie Wilkerson finished 11th and Paisley Wilkerson was 17th.

The state championship races will be Saturday at Gans Creek Cross Country Course in Columbia.

The Class 1 boys race will begin at 9 a.m., the Class 1 girls at 9:45 a.m., the Class 2 boys at 11:15 a.m., the Class 2 girls at noon, the Class 3 boys at 1:30 p.m. and the Class 3 girls at 2:15 p.m.

Pictured are: Abbie Lloyd, Ben Dowdy, Clayton Bell, Cameron Bell, and Gabbie Brown of Dexter.

Photo provided by DeBerry.

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