

The Milton Cross Country teams continue to have success at the Fulton County Public Schools Cross Country Championships and 2011's meet (at the Webb Bridge Park course in Alpharetta, GA) was no different. The Eagles won 3 of the 4 team races conducted (winning JV Boy's, JV Girls and Varsity Girls) and taking 2nd in the Boy's Varsity race. With these team finishes, Milton was able to defend its Best Overall Program award, it's 3rd in the last 4 years and 5th in the last 8 years of this meet.

Varsity Girls

The 8th-ranked All-Class (9th in AAAAA) Lady Eagles bested & upset the Lady Hornets of Roswell (7th ranked All-Class and 8th in AAAAA) to defend their county title. With 7 runners in the top-18 and all of them finishing ahead of Roswell's #4 finisher, Milton was able to secure their 4th girl's title (37 pts) in the last 8 years! The Hornets were 2nd (62 pts) and Johns Creek was 3rd (82 pts). Leading the Lady Eagles was the front-running of junior Annie Kelly. 4th here a year ago she was in the lead group of three, often leading before settling for a runner-up finish. Allie Buchalski of John's Creek was the individual champion (19:21) with Kelly (19:41) 2nd followed by Roswell's Peyton Thomas (3rd-20:05). Alpharetta's Rachel Thorne, the defending champion was 4th (20:25) followed by Milton junior Maddie Butzer in 5th (20:35). Milton secured its win with their runners all finishing in award-winning positions. The Lady Eagles had junior Blair Gelb (20:48-7th), senior Amanda Lockwood (the 2009 JV Champion) 10th in 21:22, freshman Amy Ruiz (13th-21:32) & Juanita Pardo (14th-21:33) and junior Olivia Koerner (18th-21:46).

Varsity Boys

In the upset of the day, the Riverwood Raiders defended their title with a huge upset over the highly ranked (4th in AAAAA and 7th All-Class) Eagles of Milton. Riverwood matched Milton runner for runner and squeaked out a 45-51 win. Individual champion Kane Davis of Centennial won (16:34) a tight 3-man battle over Drew Kelly of Roswell (2nd-16:36) and Nate Riech of Milton (3rd-16:36). The Raiders are only the 2nd boy's team in meet history (since 2003) to defend their title and pull the major upset. Milton made the race close for the title with smart running from junior Alex Marshall (6th-17:07) who was as far back as 25th place early in the race and senior Kegan Baird (7th-17:11) who both ran all-time personal bests. The Eagles also had a breakout race from sophomore Kevin McGorrey (16th-17:53) who also ran his all-time best and a solid effort from senior co-captain Chris Blauvelt (21st-18-flat) to round out the scorers.

JV Girls

The Lady Eagles continued to have a dominate season winning their 3rd consecutive meet with 5 finishers in the top-10 and also the top-4 finishers in easily defending their title with a record low score of 20 pts to defeat 6 schools! Senior co-captain Heather Harman led Milton with her overall victory in 21:40. Harman led a 1-4 sweep of the top spots for the Lady Eagles with sophomore Rachel Cronin (2nd-21:47), freshman Meagan Thistleton (3rd-22:07) and senior Alyssa Strom (4th-22:21). Rounding out the scoring was senior Sarah Williamson (10th-22:50).

JV Boys

In their closest contest of the season, the Eagles of Milton also won their 3rd consecutive meet of the season with a 23-point win over Centennial (32-55) and 6 other scoring schools. Senior Andy Holben took the lead just after 2 miles but was not able to secure the win and settled for 3rd in an all-time best of 18:09. The Eagles then took spots 7 thru 10 in getting the meet win. Senior Brent Neal (7th-18:24), sophomore Brendan Kemple (8th-18:25), junior Austin Isaac (9th-18:26) and junior Jammer Howell (10th-18:43) were the scorers for the Eagles.

Next for the Milton Cross Country teams is their annual overnite trip where they will travel to Gainesville, FL for the Bobcat Cross Country Classic on Oct 8th, hosted by Bucholtz HS on the Santa Fe Community College campus where they will again tangle with highly ranked Spruce Creek (Port Orange, FL) which the Eagles last ran against at the Volunteer XC Classic in Tennessee last month.