

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

SPORTS EDITOR
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CROSS COUNTRY

Rebel Boys and Girls Start Season 3-0

Fellone and Schulkowski win opening XC races

With a young team, several sudden injuries, and a last-minute Home Meet...anything could happen, right? The Rebel Cross Country teams solidly beat their competition on the 5K New Fairfield High School course on opening day.

Two Rebel veterans won their first-ever individual races. Senior Captain Lily Fellone took the girls' race in 22:41 and junior Max Schulkowski won the boys' event in 18:34.

Lily ran mostly by herself as she dominated the field in this opening meet. She enters the season as the top returning runner from the 2025 SWC Championship, and this was a strong indication that she plans to retain that position.

Avery Pardalis, one of four freshmen and six newcomers on the Rebel squad, made the best of her high school debut, finishing second in 24:11. Classmate Rylie Roemer impressed her coaches by holding off the top Notre Dame finisher, to take third place in 25:44.

Final scoring spots were grabbed by sophomore veteran Summer Noszko in fifth (25:51) and classmate Molly Dwy who was two spots back (27:05) in her first cross country race. Seniors Andy Runfola (32:34) and Sarah Ottusch (33:39) paced with each other for much of the race -- Sarah's first -- and finished 10th and 11th overall.

New Fairfield beat Notre Dame 18-39 and shut out both Bassick and Harding. Their hopes of contending for the Patriot Division title this fall will be tested in the next meet as they go head-to-head with the Immaculate Mustangs.



Lily Fellone never relinquished her early lead on her way to the win.



Frosh Rylie Roemer finishes 3rd for the team.



The Boys go 3-0 with the returnees all running faster than last year.

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Aaron Dube and Thomas Penney charge up the Middle School hill.



Pictured at right: Ryan Hearty raced a huge PR.

Rebels Win 4 Medals in 4 Events at Pawling

The Rebel Cross Country teams participated in the Dan Purdy Invitational in Pawling, New York on Saturday and came away with a medal in each of the races they entered.

The Boys' Varsity event came first, and seven Rebels ran in the 5K race. As they did in the season opener, senior Captain Colby Piesco and junior Max Schulkowski set the pace for the Rebels in a very competitive race with nearly 200 runners, mainly from New York schools. Once again, Max outkicked Colby down the final stretch, this time taking the final medal position (30th place) in 18:02... with Colby less than two seconds behind.

Senior Captain Connor Kuczma was the third Rebel runner - his best finish - in 66th place with a time of 18:45 - his best by over a minute. Junior Logan Schramm took the next



Colby Piesco and Max Schulkowski lead all runners to the finish line.

Best Boys' Start in a Dozen Years



Sarah Ottusch and Andy Runfola on the lower field.

The Rebel boys came into 2026 with big aspirations after a strong winning season last year. They really delivered on Day One, by placing the top eight finishers and 11 of the top 13!

Senior Captain Colby Piesco joined Max Schulkowski as pacesetters for the 3.1-mile race. They ran with each other every step until Colby began his finishing kick on the track about 200 meters from the finish. Max used his strong stride to pass Colby in the stretch, as the pair finished 1-2... with Colby just one second behind.

Sophomore Bobby Robles showed signs of a great upcoming season as he raced by himself to third in 19:17; followed by junior Logan Schramm (19:41) and senior Captain Connor Kuczma

(19:53), to close out the scoring.

A pair of newcomers came next as junior Aaron Dube took sixth in 20:46 in his first race, with freshman Thomas Penney close behind in 20:55. Junior veteran, Jack Katkocin, was eighth place in 21:00. Three other cross country "rookies" were next for the Rebels: freshman Luke Courtney (10th in 21:39); junior Connor Peterson (12th in 22:26); and freshman Joe Moran (13th in 22:45).

The team was rounded out by finishes from junior Gavin Carlucci (26th in 27:06) and sophomore Ryan Hearty (28th in 27:30). Hearty improved by 3:45 over last year in running his first sub-30 5K.

The Rebel boys took Notre

tors, in a fine time of 20:33.

The young Rebels squad also had four boys and four girls in their respective Freshman/Sophomore races with some solid finishes.

Sophomore Bobby Robles took the early lead in this 1.5-mile race and stayed close with a third-place finish in 8:34 to earn one of the ten medals awarded in the Froshmore race. Freshmen Thomas Penney and Luke Courtney raced close together over the shortened course. Thomas took 16th in 9:23 and Luke was 18th in 9:26. Sophomore Ryan Hearty was 83rd out of 101 runners in 12:59.

The final competition for the Rebels was the Girls' Froshmore race and once again, a New Fairfield runner took home a medal. This time it was freshman Avery Pardalis, who raced to a strong 4th-place finish in 10:37. Sophomore Summer Noszko was only two spots out of the medals with a finish of 11:08 for 12th place. Freshman Rylie Roemer was right behind in 14th spot (11:13) and sophomore Molly Dwy took 28th in 12:00.



Max Schulkowski, Bobby Robles, Avery Pardalis and Lily Fellone medal at the Dan Purdy Invitational

Upcoming Meets

Boys Varsity

TUE 9/29 5:00 PM
New Fairfield - M
Joel Barlow - M
Masuk - MM
New Milford - L
New Fairfield High School
Track & Field, Cross Country

Girls Varsity

TUE 9/29 4:30 PM
New Fairfield - M
Joel Barlow - M
Masuk - MM
New Milford - MM
New Fairfield High School
Track & Field, Cross Country

FIELD HOCKEY

9/14 vs Newtown 4-0 W

The New Fairfield Rebels earned an impressive 4-0 victory over Newtown on September 14, using strong teamwork, quick transitions, and a balanced offensive attack.

After a scoreless first half, the Rebels broke through late in the second quarter. With 1:57 remaining before halftime, junior Allie Boniello finished a fast-break opportunity off a well-placed distribution from Sara Ciminello to give New Fairfield a 1-0 lead.

The Rebels struck again just before the horn when Lilybella Reilly converted a penalty stroke with only two seconds remaining in the quarter, sending New Fairfield into halftime with a 2-0 advantage. The Rebels continued to apply pressure in the third quarter. At the 13:11 mark, Sara Ciminello found the back of the cage after receiving a pass from Emma Bus-

nel, extending the lead to 3-0.

New Fairfield capped off the scoring in the fourth quarter when Lilybella Reilly tallied her second goal of the game on a penalty corner with 10:30 remaining. The Rebels' defense remained strong throughout the contest, securing the shutout and preserving the 4-0 victory.

It was a complete team effort as New Fairfield controlled possession, created scoring opportunities, and played disciplined defense from start to finish.

9/16 vs New Milford 3-0 W

The New Fairfield Rebels continued their strong season with a hard-fought 3-0 victory over rival New Milford on September 16.

New Fairfield wasted little time getting on the scoreboard. With 5:54 remaining in the first quarter, Caylin Petzold capitalized on a penalty corner op-

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