

Black River HS Cross Country

Black River High School and Varsity Coach Elizabeth McBain are pleased to welcome three new runners to the 2011 Varsity Cross Country Team. Senior Captain and third-year runner Amanda Bortlein is joined by sophomores Cassy Gates and Matt Devereaux, as well as freshman Katie Cloutier. Additionally, alumna Tiffany Roundy-Lane supports the Presidents as Assistant Coach this fall.

The Presidents had a great start to the 2011 season on September 20th at their first meet at the College of Saint Joseph. At the start of the race, it was about 60 degrees and overcast as 50 male runners took off on the first loop of two on the 5K course with the official's firing of the gun. The course began on the soccer fields and runners vied for a leading position as the pack made their ascent up a rocky dirt path going into the woods behind CSJ. The course crossed a bridge, turned into a prayer garden, and finished with a long trek of grass. MSJ provided two bicyclists and several parent volunteers to ensure the safety of all runners on the course.

Black River sophomore Matt Devereaux beat a shoulder injury and placed 20th of 50 runners in his debut race with a time of 23:42. On the women's side, Cassy Gates finished 22nd with a time of 32:03, with Katie Cloutier on her heels at 33:00 and Bortlein finishing just a couple minutes later. McBain said of her team, "I am so happy with the positive energy of our team this year. I know as we continue to practice that we will shave minutes off our times, but for now we are just having fun. The runners are so supportive of one another."

MSJ hosted 80+ runners from MSJ, Black River, Long Trail, Fair Haven, Burr & Burton, Miller River, Green Mountain, Arlington, and Otter Valley. Mill River made a valiant attempt to steal the lead from Burr & Burton's men and women, but the Bulldogs took both competitions with a strong showing. The Presidents' next race will take place in Woodstock on September 27th and will be another large meet. This competition comes just two days after freshman Katie Cloutier's participation in the Adirondack Half Marathon in Schroon Lake, NY.