

# Priddy boys return entire team for another run at state

By Mike Lee  
Eagle Contributor

The good news for the Priddy Pirates is that they return all their cross country runners from last year, including six seniors.

The better news is that the Pirates won district and finished fifth at the UIL Class 1A state meet last year.

The even better news is that, in addition to having everyone back, the Pirates will add freshman Jarek Stout. "He may outrun some of our veteran runners. He won our district as a seventh grader and an eighth grader," said veteran Priddy coach Curtis Hurst.

The Pirates' wealth of experience starts with current seniors Chandler Hurst, who finished 13th at last year's state meet, and Trinton Herron, who finished 26th. Joseph Hall finished 32nd at state last year as a freshman. Louis Schimmel, a senior this year, finished 49th at state last year while Chance Hodges was 67th last year as a freshman.

Current senior Dominic Goehmann and current junior Isaac Goehmann both gained the experience of running at state last year. Priddy also returns seniors Carlos Andrade and Cotie Timmerman, along with sophomore Keagan Wood. Other incoming freshmen include Hunter Gutierrez,

Gabriel Del Bosque and Marcos Gutierrez.

"Their goal is to win state," said Coach Hurst, who has guided Priddy to state team championships in 1994, 1995 and 2015. "I realize that's a really high goal. This year's group could be as good as the 2015 team if they work hard and dedicate themselves. You never know what kind of competition will be out there from year to year."

Hurst, who has coached 20 boys' and girls' cross country teams to state in his 28 years as Priddy's coach, knows well one of the teams the Pirates will have to overcome. Miller Cumbly Grove won the Class 1A boys' state team title last year after finishing second for three consecutive years.

"They supposedly took their top eight runners to New Mexico for two weeks in July to train in 8,000-foot altitude in the mountains," Hurst said of Miller Grove. "They go run in meets all over Texas and even some in Arkansas. Their program is top-notch. They could compete in any classification in the state."

When the Priddy boys last won state in 2015, they lost to Miller Grove at regional. But on a rainy, muddy course at state, the Pirates were affected less by the adverse conditions and beat their rivals. It will take a similar effort for Priddy to topple

Miller Grove and win state again this year.

"Our kids talk about winning state, and it's what they want to do," Hurst said. "To do that, you've got to have some talent and work hard, but you've also got to have a little luck. I don't know if we can beat Miller Grove or not, but we should have a good chance to medal (top three finish) at the state meet."

"Cross country is a process like any other sports season. Other teams may beat us early on, but I think later in the season, we'll be in the hunt."

Priddy remained in Region III after the latest UIL realignment, but was moved to District 17-1A with Cherokee, Cranfills Gap, Evant, Gustine, Jonesboro and Lometa.

## Priddy Girls

The Priddy girls' cross country team lists four juniors and three freshmen on its roster. Even with no seniors, the Lady Pirates are hoping to duplicate or im-

prove on last year's team finishes of second place at district and fifth at regional.

The Lady Pirates, state qualifiers in 2016, missed returning to state by one place last year.

"We have a chance to have a solid team. It's one of those years when we won't know for sure until we get out there and run in a few meets. Our chemistry is good among the girls on the team," said second-year Lady Pirates coach Jimmie Cain, who is marking his 40th year overall as a teacher and coach.

"We want to go back to regional. Anything beyond that will depend on how well we develop. We've got some potential."

Among the four junior returnees, Linda Evans posted the fastest two-mile time at the district meet last year of 14 minutes, 16 seconds. The other juniors, with their district times, were Trixie Hodges (16:33),

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Chandler Hurst, Louis Schimmel, Isaac Goehmann, Joseph Hall, Dominic Goehmann, Trinton Herron, Carlos Andrade, Gabe Del Bosque, Jarek Stout, Cotie Timmerman, Hunter Gutierrez, Marcus Gutierrez, Chance Hodges

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