

Priddy girls seeking return to state cross country meet

By Mike Lee
Eagle Contributor

The Priddy girls ended a 13-year drought and qualified as a team for the UIL state cross country meet last year. Now, the Lady Pirates are hoping to improve on their 12th-place finish at the 2016 state meet.

Priddy returns four of its top six runners at state from last year in seniors Alex Evans and Cara Ivy, along with sophomores Linda Evans and Trixie Hodges. Alex Evans finished third, individually, at last year's state meet while Linda Evans was 15th.

"Alex and Linda trained all summer, and the other girls made it through our early workouts pretty well," said Jimmie Cain, the Lady Pirates' first-year head coach. "Cara Ivy is an all-around athlete, and Chelsea Hilliard is a pretty good freshman coming in. So we have a chance to have another pretty good team."

Cain, who has coached for 40

years overall, spent the last two years coaching volleyball and basketball at Evant. He also has made stops at Round Rock, Mart, Marble Falls, Iowa Park, Bartlett, Belton, Lampasas, Salado and Burnet. He most recently coached cross country at Lampasas in 2010 and 2011.

"I've learned from coaching cross country that it's your Nos. 3-4-5 runners that win team championships. If you're not the top one or two on your team, it still matters how you finish. When your fourth- and fifth-place runners do well, you usually have a chance to win the meet," Cain said.

"I like the pack mentality where our girls run together at least for the first mile before the faster ones break away. I know that's harder to do in smaller schools, but it's nice if you can set a pace for everyone in the first mile. If not a pack, it's good to run together in pairs or threes."

Alex Evans's top two-mile time

last year was 12:16 while Linda Evans ran 13:26 last year at state. The Lady Pirates won district and finished fourth at regional last year.

Other Lady Pirate runners this year are seniors Lexi Gutierrez and Kasandra Timmerman, sophomores Savannah Schrank and Kristi Mullins, freshman Chelsea Hilliard. Schrank is recovering from a hamstring injury.

Priddy opens the season Saturday, Aug. 26, at Valley Mills. The Priddy meet at Melody Oaks is scheduled for Sept. 20. Priddy also will host the District 19-1A meet Oct. 11.

Priddy competes in District 19-1A with Zephyr, Blanket, Lometa, Gustine and Sidney.

Priddy Boys
Cross Country

The Priddy boys' team has experienced the ultimate high and a painful low over the last two years. The Pirates are working to return to their usual winning form this fall.

Priddy won the Class 1A team state championship in 2015 – their third under veteran coach Curtis Hurst. The Pirates won state by one point and one-tenth of a second over Cumby Miller Grove – a team the Pirates had lost to three times during the 2015 season.

But last year, the Pirates faced unimaginable adversity before

Continued Next Page



Coach Jimmie Cain, Kassandra Timmerman, Alex Evans, Trixie Hodges, Chelsea Hilliard, Linda Evans, and Kristi Mullins

GOOD LUCK LOCAL ATHLETES

PRIDDY STORE

Downtown Priddy

325-966-3547

**HOMEMADE
BURGERS &
DESSERTS**

Follow Us on Facebook
for Daily Specials...



**Cafe • Fuel • Ice • Beer
Tobacco • Groceries**

