

YOUR GRIT, OUR GLORY

Finding brotherhood in the individual goals of cross country

The 2025 varsity cross country team showed that grit, discipline, and brotherhood creates an empowered team ready to take on any challenge. Intense workouts, early morning mileage, and meets banded the SkyHawks together to run for a purpose.

"I feel like the team was a lot more bonded this season. We did a lot of poker nights, and we would go out and get Juice Stop together, so the whole team's chemistry just felt a lot more close— like a brotherhood," said senior **Lincoln Wolfe**.

The brotherhood created a shared passion within the competitive spirit. "I think doing things together outside of running helps. It helps you to become closer because if you have a general friendship with the person, and you do things that you like to do together, you're going to have better camaraderie. It also helps to know that all the guys are doing the same hard things," said Wolfe.

For miles and miles the Skyhawks chased greatness. Led by Coach **Todd Leutzinger** and the seniors: **Kaiden Goss, Joshua Lehotay, Riley Peters, Lincoln Wolfe, and Lucas Richards**, the team banded together to work toward their goals. Freshmen **Gavin Schonhoff and Noah Lopezrojas** ran with varsity and felt the team's drive as the youngest members. **Leutzinger** has been a part of Skyhawk running programs for years but stepped up as head coach this season.

"Our goal every year is to compete as a team in an individual sport. The athletes strive to push each other to be the best they can be so the team thrives as a whole. This group pushed themselves and those around them for the betterment of the team," said Leutzinger.

In a sport defined by exceeding limits, the cross country team did just that by pushing each other to greatness and pulling each other through the challenges along the way.

"This year was the closest we've ever been. There is always an aspect of competition while running, and we knew that. Trying to beat your teammate in a workout or long run, pushing each other during the race, and giving advice and encouragement in a tough love way helps us all to succeed," said **Cody Rice**.



RICE x3

Succeeding his brothers as the third Rice to take part in the Skutt Catholic Cross Country, Junior **Cody Rice** leaves his own footprints on the program. "My brothers shaped how I run. I started running because all of them ran, and they pushed me to get better. It made me work harder, longer, and faster. This year I became more aware of what helps and what doesn't. My mentality became stronger, and I was able to deal with more setbacks with optimism and confidence," said Rice.



Monday: SPEED

200 meter up to
mile repeats, all
adding to 5k

Wednesday: DISTANCE

up to 6 miles

Friday: RACE DAY

all out 5k

Sunday REST

rest and
recover

By: Meghan Essner