

CROSS COUNTRY

PCM's Teeter punches ticket to state meet

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PELLA — PCM head cross country coach Eric Karr's spreadsheet told him freshman Abi Teeter would finish anywhere from 12th to 18th in the girls' 5K race in the Class 2A state qualifier at the Pella Sports Park on Oct. 20.

"We came in with the idea that we had a chance there and we needed to get up into the top 10 and compete," Karr said. "I don't look at times all that much. Abi has been top 15 in literally every meet this year though."

She stayed in the top 15 once again and her 14th-place finish clinched a spot in this week's state cross country meet.

Teeter needed a personal-best time to make it, and she came through with the best run of her young career.

"It feels really good. It's one of those things where you say to yourself, 'I did it,'" Teeter said. "We really thought a low 21 would get me to state. So that's what we worked on in practice. We worked on speed stuff and that helped."

Teeter's official time was clocked in a personal-best 21 minutes, 2.95 seconds. Running 21:06 earlier this season at Pleasantville gave Teeter hope she could be a state qualifier in her first prep season.

"I told her a low 21 should get her in. I think she came around at mile one at 7 minutes and was at 12 minutes at mile two," Karr said. "She had about a half mile to go, and I



PCM freshman Abi Teeter hugs teammate Raegan Vannoy after qualifying for the state cross country meet on Oct. 20. Teeter placed 14th in the Class 2A girls' 5K race at Pella Sports Park. Photo by Amber Wallace

told her to stay with the pack she was in and we'd get it. That's what she did."

Teeter was the only state cross country qualifier from PCM. The Mustang girls' squad placed seventh in the 11-team

field and the boys were 12th in the 12-team field.

The top three teams and top 15 individuals clinched berths into the state meet. PCM's next best finishes after Teeter were Raegan Vannoy in 30th,

Makayla True in 31st and Coby DeRaad in 34th.

Class 2A No. 2 Mid-Prairie won the girls' district title with 49 points. Sixth-ranked Albia (54) was second and No. 11 Pella Christian (84) was the

final qualifying team in third.

The rest of the 11-team field included No. 14 Union Community (107), GCGR (130), Davis County (143), PCM (190), West Marshall (196), Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont (233), Cardinal (282) and Interstate 35 (288).

Top-ranked Danielle Hostetler of Mid-Prairie won the girls' 5K race in 19:08.13. No. 19 McKenna Montgomery of Albia placed second in 20:11.67 and No. 9 Abby Fleming of Mid-Prairie took third in 20:21.6.

The difference between ninth place and the 15th and final qualifying spot was around just 5 seconds. There were five ranked runners in the girls' race.

Teeter hit the finish line in a pack of three or four runners separated by around a second. The only strategy she had for the race was to mark up a runner from Albia and stay as close to her as possible.

"I tried to stay with the Albia girl in front of me," Teeter said. "I have raced her three times and she's almost always one place ahead of me every time. I knew we were close."

"I have worked all season for this and I didn't want it to slip away from me. Staying with that Albia girl really helped."

Karr had his top female runner 15th at the finish line. It was tough to figure out just who hit the line first between that pack of three or four runners.

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FOOTBALL

Fast start not enough for PCM in playoff loss to Clear Lake

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MONROE — PCM's football team couldn't have started its Oct. 21 Class 2A playoff game against Clear Lake any better.

But the opening few minutes of the third quarter couldn't have gone much worse for the Mustangs.

The Lions rallied from two separate double-digit deficits with a big second half and eliminated PCM with a 28-27 road victory.

The Mustangs led 13-0 and 27-14 in the game but were held scoreless in the second half.

"I really don't know. I will have to talk to the coaches and evaluate things," PCM head football coach Greg Bonnett said about the second half. "We gave up a big play and that rattled us to the point where we couldn't recover from it."

"It wasn't our night. It was bad luck. We were just an unlucky team tonight I think."

The big play Bonnett is referencing was a pick-six by Clear Lake's Ezekiel Nelson.

The Mustangs got put into third and long after a negative running play and a false start. The interception return by Nelson covered 25 yards and it trimmed PCM's lead to 27-21 with 9:54 left in the third.

"It was huge. I knew at that point it was big because we were up 13 and not 14," Bonnett said. "I would have felt much better about it if we were up by two touchdowns. The extra point that was blocked was in the back of my mind and it manifested itself."

The Mustangs forced Clear Lake (5-4) into a three-and-out on its opening possession.

PCM's offense then marched 57 yards in six plays. A 33-yard pass from August Stock to Gavin Fenton set up Stock's 12-yard touchdown run. That put the Mustangs on the board, but the Lions blocked the extra point to keep it at 6-0.

Clear Lake turned the ball over on downs on its side of the field after a fake punt on fourth and four resulted in an incomplete pass.

The Mustangs started their second drive in Lions' territory and they drove 43 yards in nine plays. All nine plays came on the ground and Gavin Van Gorp capped the possession with an 11-yard TD run.

The Lions cut into the deficit on their next drive. The possession started at the Clear Lake 24-yard line. A 45-yard pass from Cael Stephany to Ben Loge set up a 13-yard touchdown run by Titan Schmitt.



PCM senior William Vanderpool (36) looks for running room in the middle of the Mustangs' line during the team's 28-27 playoff loss to Clear Lake on Oct. 21. Vanderpool gained 39 yards on his seven carries. Troy Hyde/PCM Explorer

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