

Injured O'Brian perseveres to help team finish strong

By Sydney Mathis

One of the top varsity runners, senior **Kayla O'Brian**, is currently out with a knee injury and has been since Moratorium Week.

"I've been told to just end my season because of the way it is going, but just because I'm not where I want to be, doesn't mean I am going to quit," O'Brian says. "I am good enough still to get some points for my team, and I plan on finishing this season to help my team be where they want."

The top girls in the last handful of meets for the varsity team are juniors **Hallie Mills**, **Triniti Spurgeon**, senior **Sarah Jones**, and freshman **Emma Hendrix**.

Almost all of the meets that the girls participate in are 3.1 miles. The girls have run about nine races this season.

Mills has been placing first for Perry Meridian in nearly every race thus far in the season, except for a couple in the beginning. With a personal record of running the course in 20:26, Mills came close with a time of 20:47 at the Brown County Eagle Invitational on Sept. 9.

"It is all about finding your pace," said Mills, "once you keep working at your goal of finding the pace that works for you, then you can start trying to improve in practice."

The girls' cross-country team has been working extremely hard this year, even after the team has lost a few runners due to injuries. Top runners freshman **Madison Dingess** and sophomore **Chyler Van Rhoon** have also been out.

On the JV team, just like the Varsity, the top runners change weekly. However, currently, the three top runners are freshmen **Emmy Michael**, **Jaden Hel-**

terbrand, and **Jessica Guerrini**.

Both varsity and JV practice together, five days a week, Monday through Friday. Most of their meets take place on Saturday, but if they end up having a meet during the week the team will find time to practice on Saturday. Their only day off is on Sunday, and the girls are advised to not run on their own that day. They have to take a break at some point.

"It is all about finding your pace."

- Hallie Mills

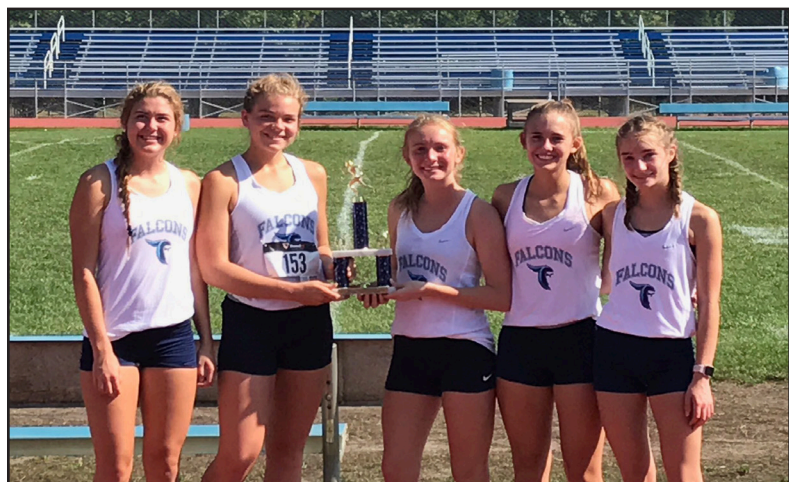
"I love meet days. I love the feeling of taking everything I have worked for during the week and putting it all out on the course at the end. We have all been working so hard this year, and I am so proud of how far we've come," said Mills.

"There are girls out because of injuries, but even then, they are all working as hard as the rest of us. I love the bond and determination we all have; it's what makes us all...us."

The girls traveled to Northwest Indiana to participate in the Highland Invitational. At first they were supposed to run in two separate races, varsity and JV, but since it was so hot, they improvised and mashed the teams into one big race.

Top athletes were Hallie Mills, Triniti Spurgeon and Sarah Jones. The school placed third overall in the race.

"We've had an outstanding season to this point," says coach **Mike Armstrong**.



(From left to right) Varsity runners Sarah Jones, Hallie Mills, Triniti Spurgeon, Selah Campbell and Emma Hendrix place 3rd of 20 schools at the Highland Invitational (Photo provided by Mike Armstrong).



Sophomore Treveon Gilmore dashes past two Bloomington North defenders on his way to score a touchdown for the Falcons. The Falcons fell to the Cougars by a score of 34-24 Friday, Sept. 22 (Photo by Fabian Contreras Rodriguez).

Execution, concentration Compton calls on teammates to unify

By Fabian Contreras

Despite the great excitement for football given the new stadium, the Falcons have lost all of their seven games so far this season.

But the coaches say PM's success isn't just measured on a scoreboard.

Head coach **Matthew Henninger** said his philosophy is to use football as the avenue to positively impact young men's lives.

Through his coaching, Henninger hopes to mold the players to be better people, on and off the field. He wants players to build strong friendships among themselves.

"If we can make our guys concentrate and do their jobs collectively and individually, we will be successful."

- Matthew Henninger

Since they haven't won a game yet, Henninger said he urges players to recognize other signs of success and ask themselves: "How close you are to your potential? Are you doing the right

thing and working hard? Are you doing everything within your power?"

Defensive coordinator Paul Toler praised the team for its work ethic, but acknowledged, "Sometimes we made mistakes that cost us points," adding, "We need to keep practicing and working hard."

"They played their best game of the year. We played our worst game of the year."

- Henninger

Henninger said winning a game comes down to execution and concentration.

"If we can make our guys concentrate and do their jobs collectively and individually, we will be successful," Henninger said.

Senior **Will Compton** said "the team needs to stay united" by working together and having a positive attitude.

And senior **Alex Cadwell** believes a way to improve the team is by "focusing on executing the plays that we should." He said the defense can improve by better reading the plays of the other team.

After their last game Friday night against Columbus North by a large margin of 55-7 Henninger describes what could went wrong that night as he said "They played their best game of the year. We played our worst game of the year," said Henninger

For the rest of the season the team schedule doesn't look easy they receive Terre Haute North which has a pretty good record with four wins and three losses. For the last game of the season the team will visit Bloomington South which is having a few complications, but with only three victories and four lost games.

"The team needs to stay united."

- Will Compton

Comparing PM's football team, the rest of the division's teams have scored more than 30 points in almost every one of their games. While the Falcons have barely scored more than 20 points in two games.

For playoffs, as part of the 2017-18 IHSAA Football State Tournament presented by the Indianapolis Colts Class 6A State Championship, the Falcons will play against the Brownsburg Bulldogs.