



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Runners try to navigate through the mud pits during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.

# Challenge: Local running teams shine in the mud

Continued from Page 1A

the people at Camp Rilea ... we had meetings with all those people, and it's gone smoothly. This year has just been smooth as silk."

The Gulls had a pretty smooth showing on the course as well.

In the very first high school race of the day (the boys' Easy Course), Seaside's Jackson Januik placed third (15 minutes, 10 seconds over 4,500 meters) and teammate Rafi Sibony (15:12) was fourth — out of 405 finishers.

"We were about 10 seconds behind the leader, five behind second place," Januik said. "We (he and Sibony) were about the same speed, but we didn't plan on staying together. He caught up to me, and we started picking it up once we were together."

The pace, Januik added, "was hard. There's hills near the end, it sort of flattened out, then went straight back up again. That was tiring."

"Once we get to the trail, you just have to keep a good pace and keep moving up. Try not to let anyone pass you, and just start passing people."

Sibony said, "It's wide enough to pass people. It's spread out quite a bit."

It was a pretty good day in general for the local runners.

Seaside's Hunter Thompson was fifth out of 436 runners on the Moderate Course, and teammate Bradley Rzewnicki placed sixth on the Hard Course out of 432 finishers.

Astoria's Lucas Caruana was sixth behind Thompson on the Easy Course; Astoria sophomore Kaylee Mitchell took sixth (282 runners) in the girls' Moderate Course race; Seaside freshman Katie Zagata was 16th out of 373 runners on the Easy Course; and the Gulls' Josie Smith placed 16th (244 runners) on the Hard Course.

The Astoria Middle School girls' team placed second out of 10 teams, with the AMS boys fourth out of 12 schools.

"Eighteen middle school or youth clubs — I'm sure that's our highest number for youth teams," Branson said.

**Astoria's Kaylee Mitchell, left, runs through the mud pit during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.**



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**ABOVE: Seaside's Jack Whittle slips and slides his way through the mud pits at the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday. RIGHT: Runners from Sam Barlow laugh as they try and get out of the mud during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.**



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**Volunteers load a pile of left behind shoes into a cart during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.**



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**Astoria's Lucas Caruana competes in the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.**



Joshua Bessex  
The Daily Astorian