

The Warsaw Lady Tigers took another positive step forward at the Chuck Schlemmer Elite Race, finishing 3rd as a team and continuing to show that the hard work of the past several weeks is beginning to pay dividends. From the front of the varsity lineup to the final runners in the JV race, the Tigers turned in a tremendous number of personal and season-best performances, providing plenty of evidence that the team is moving in the right direction.

Leading the way once again was Dani Rastrelli, who set the tone for the Tigers with a season-best 18:54.7, good for 2nd overall. Rastrelli's performance gave Warsaw a strong starting point in the team scoring and continues an impressive season of racing at the front of the Tiger lineup.

Senior Matilda Granger delivered one of the biggest breakthroughs of the day, absolutely smashing her previous personal record by 49 seconds to finish 12th overall and second for the Lady Tigers. A performance like that is a tremendous indication of what can happen when consistent training, confidence, and race experience begin to come together.

Freshman Isadora Vega continued her strong season with a 26th-place finish and third spot for Warsaw in 20:46.9. Just behind her was CC Scheetz-Holland, who finished 28th overall and fourth for the Tigers with a new PR of 20:54.9. Senior Savannah Purdy was right on her heels, taking 29th overall and closing out the Tiger scoring with a season-best 20:55.7.

The depth of the varsity squad was also on full display. Eden Gackenhimer finished 46th in 21:34.8, followed by Kyla Transparenti in 54th with a season-best 22:07.8. Estelle Jaumard posted a new PR of 22:43.4 to finish 61st, while Stephanie Malagon placed 63rd in 22:52.3 and Katie Robertson finished 64th in 23:17.8.

The positive performances continued into the JV race, where the Lady Tigers produced even more personal records up and down the lineup.

Greta Loeb paced the Tiger attack with a 7th-place finish and a new PR of 22:33.71. Neko Ewert followed in 12th at 23:02.7, while Reegan Demange ran a new PR of 23:06.8 to finish 13th.

Rilee Rice and Baylee Wieringa continued the strong effort, finishing 24th and 25th in 23:44.6 and 23:46.5, respectively, with Rice recording a new PR. Grace Landon finished 27th in 23:53.0, and Callaway Waldo ran a new PR of 24:21.4 for 37th.

The Tigers continued to pile up personal bests as Zoey Gooch finished 42nd in a PR of 24:41.2, followed by Mya McClain in 45th with another PR at 24:55.6. Anna Sorgi finished 63rd in 26:03.2, and Lorelei Powers capped off the Tiger effort with a new PR of 27:03.3.

### Training Is Starting to Pay Off

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from the Chuck Schlemmer Elite Race wasn't simply the 3rd-place team finish—it was the number of athletes who are beginning to see major results from the work they have put in during training.

A 49-second PR from Matilda Granger, multiple varsity season-best performances, and a long list of JV personal records are exactly the kind of progress the Lady Tigers have been working toward.

These performances demonstrate that the fitness is developing, athletes are gaining confidence, and the training is beginning to translate into faster racing.

The Lady Tigers now have a week away from competition to recover, regroup, and continue preparing for the stretch run of the season. That time will be valuable as Warsaw looks to capitalize on the momentum and experience gained through the first part of the season.

The Tigers return to racing on September 15th, when they host the second installment of the NLC meet series on their home course.

With the championship portion of the season approaching, the Lady Tigers are beginning to find their stride. The work is paying off. The confidence is growing. The times are dropping. Now it's time to keep building.