

The Warsaw Tigers opened Northern Lakes Conference competition with a fifth-place finish among the eight conference teams. Northridge led the field with 61 points, followed closely by Wawasee with 63, Mishawaka with 68, and NorthWood with 77. Warsaw finished fifth with 111 points.

Junior Keenan Lyons led the Tigers with a 12th-place finish in 17:41. He was followed by sophomore Eli Swinehart in 16th (17:53), senior Jack Boggs in 23rd (18:15), freshman Jadon Flamm in 28th (18:23), sophomore Luke Vander Bie in 32nd (18:32), senior Jaxon Lehman in 35th (18:36), and sophomore Logan Martin in 41st (18:59).

"I think it's very difficult to gauge performances from tonight because every athlete responds differently to this type of weather. I knew we might take a little bit of a hit with one of our top runners not being able to handle the heat well due to circumstances beyond his control, but you're always hopeful that the next man up will step forward.

"As a whole, I don't think we came into the race with quite the focus or energy that we needed. We just seemed a little flat from the beginning, and at this level, those little things can make a difference. It's early in the season, so we'll learn from it and be better because of it."

"We know we can hang with NorthWood and Mishawaka because we just beat both teams two weeks ago, but they were clearly more focused and locked in tonight. Give them credit. It's early, but I believe Northridge, Wawasee, and Mishawaka are all teams capable of qualifying for the State Finals, and it wouldn't shock me one bit to see them advance. Those are the teams we need to aim to compete with. Racing against that level of competition is only going to make us better and prepare us for the big meets in October."

"The strength of our varsity team this season is going to be our pack. We may not have that one established front-runner right now, but we have a group of guys who can be very competitive when they work together. I also think we have some underclassmen who, over the next year or two, have the potential to be competing near the top of the conference."

"Tonight, we didn't establish our pack as well as I would have liked early in the race, and we became a little too spread out. I really believe we're capable of putting five guys in the top 20 in a meet like this, with that group potentially finishing somewhere between 10th and 20th. Tonight, we had two in the top 20 and four in the top 30, so there's definitely room for us to improve."

"The encouraging part is that these guys have put in a lot of work, and I know what they're capable of. Now we have to continue learning how to race together. That starts at practice. We have the awesome benefit of having Coach Kleber on staff, who is fit enough to run with our top group. We want our varsity guys challenging themselves to stay with that group in practice because that confidence and pack mentality will carry over into races.

Although the junior varsity competition is not officially scored until the NLC Championship, removing each team's top seven runners from Tuesday's results gives Warsaw an encouraging look

at its depth. The Tigers would finish first with 43 points, followed by Mishawaka (48), Goshen (56), Northridge (90), NorthWood (177), Wawasee (221), Concord (246), and Plymouth (413).

Freshman Brady Dewey led Warsaw's JV group with a third-place finish in 19:00, followed by freshman Alek Lantz in fourth, also in 19:00. Senior Nolan Stump placed eighth in 19:25, senior Owen Meerzo was 11th in 19:28, sophomore Clint Douglas finished 17th in 19:54, freshman Henry Schotter was 18th in 19:54, and senior Ben Mort rounded out Warsaw's top seven JV runners with a 21st-place finish in 20:04.

Despite the difficult conditions, four Tigers recorded new personal records: Logan Martin, Henry Schotter, Gavin Mort, and Luke Macke.