

There is strength in numbers in cross country, and the Harlan County Black Bears used that gameplan Tuesday to win the Bobcat Invitational by taking seven of the top 13 spots.

Harlan County finished with 30 points to top Bell County by five points. Knox Central was third with 65 points and Red Bird was fourth with 120.

Bell County senior James Brown won the race with a time of 16:33.53. Harlan County senior David Lee was second at 18:04.30 and teammate Hunter Middleton, also a senior, was fourth at 19:06.29. Sophomore Corey Hornsby was seventh at 20:06.35 and senior Jacob Carroll was ninth at 20:07.92.

Sophomore Caleb Hensley was 11th, followed by junior Josh Wynn (12th) and senior Josh Hamlin (13th). Other Harlan County runners included Caleb Justen (21st), Donovan Johnson (22nd), Noah Hughes (24th), Steven Engle (25th) and Tyler Turner (30th).

Freshman Ben Jones led Harlan as he placed 14th. Cody Shoope was 34th and Jacob Chen was 37th.

Knox Central won the girls race with 36 points, followed by Bell County with 40 and Harlan County with 44.

Bell County sophomore Kelly Brown was first at 21:17.81. Harlan County senior Kim Miller was second at 22:49.89. Miranda Epperson was 10th, followed by Jade Goodwin (11th), Kassie Rouse (12th), Jennifer Graham (13th), Cassidy Ball (17th), Cellina Hatmaker (18th), Jessica Cottrell (21st) and Gabrielle Collier (24th).

Emily Nantz, a senior, led Harlan by finishing 19th. Heather Padilla, a sophomore, was 23rd.

Harlan's LaLa Zheng, a seventh-grader, was third in the girls middle school race with a time of 15:48.12. Harlan County's Allison Cornett, a seventh-grader, was fourth. Taylor McHargue and Caylin McHargue, both seventh-graders at Harlan, placed fifth and eighth, respectively.

Harlan County sixth-grader Breanna Epperson was first in the girls elementary school division with a time of 6:14.43. Harlan fifth-grader Jimmy Zheng was second in the boys division at 6:17.98. Harlan County's Alex Lewis, a sixth-grader, was third. Drake Ward, a Harlan County sixth-grader, was sixth.