

## GloHealth Irish Schools Senior Title for Mulcaire



**Kevin Mulcaire, St. Flannan's Ennis** was the standout performer for Munster at the GloHealth Irish Schools Cross Country Championships in Sligo Racecourse on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. **Mulcaire**, ran a superb race in the Senior Boys competition breaking away from the pack at the half way stage to win the title for a second successive year. There were super silver medal wins for **Megan Carr, Loreto Fermoy** in the Minor Girls race, **Ted Collins, Glenstal Abbey School** in the Minor Boys race & **Michael Troy, St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan** in the Junior Boys race with brilliant bronze medals for **Lucy O'Keeffe, St. Mary's Midleton** in the Minor Girls race, **Chris O'Reilly, Douglas Community College** in the Junior Boys race & **Claire Rafter, Ursuline Thurles** in the Intermediate Girls race. Podium finishes also went to **Lucy Holmes, Ard Scoil na nDeise** (5<sup>th</sup> Junior Girls), **Charlie O'Donovan, Col Christ Ri Corcaigh** (6<sup>th</sup> Inter Boys) & **Fiona Everard, MICC Dunmanway** (5<sup>th</sup> Senior Girls).





Other Munster athletes who performed very well to finish in the top 12 were:-

- Grainne Egan, St. Mary's Mallow (7<sup>th</sup> Minor Girls)
- Paul Hartnett, Colaiste an Chraoibhin Fermoy (8<sup>th</sup> Minor Boys)
- Rhona Randles, Pobal Scoil Inbhearsceine, Kenmare (11<sup>th</sup> Junior Girls)
- Finn Looney, St. Anne's Killaloe (7<sup>th</sup> Junior Boys)
- Darragh McElhinney, Colaiste Pobail Bheantraí (9<sup>th</sup> Inter Boys)
- Donal Devane, St. Flannan's Ennis (11<sup>th</sup> Inter Boys)
- David Fox, CBC Cork (10<sup>th</sup> Senior Boys)

In the team competitions, **St. Flannan's Ennis** took Silver in the Senior Boys with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish for **Ard Scoil na nDeise** in the Junior Girls team competition.

### **Report Taken from AAI Website dated Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

#### **Mulcaire a class apart**

Kevin Mulcaire underlined his class defending his senior boys' title at the GloHealth All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships in Sligo Racecourse today.

Mulcaire (St Flannan's Ennis), wearing a white baseball cap back-to-front, pulled away at the halfway stage over 6,500m leaving his rivals firmly in his wake.

The Clare schoolboy bided his time in the opening stages as he sounded out the field and got to grips with the biting cold and the terrain of a truly testing cross country course. Jack O'Leary (Clongowes) attempted to keep close order but paid for his efforts as Peter Lynch (St Kieran's) came through for a strong second with James Edgar (Friends' School) rounding out the top three. St Aidan's CBS, led home by Cathal Doyle in sixth, were jubilant victors of the team title. For full individual results [HERE](#) and team results [HERE](#)

There was nothing the competition could do but admire the strength of Mulcaire in the spectacular backdrop of Benbulbin – his victory, much like the view, was breath taking.

Eimear Fitzpatrick (Our Ladies, Terenure) proved tactically astute in the senior girls' 2,500m having enough strength to hold off Niamh Ni Chiardha (Colaiste Iosagain) and Niamh Corry (Malahide CS). Corry made much of the early running in a tightly bunched pack but it was Fitzpatrick who had the legs in the end with Loreto Mullingar packing well to take team gold.

The day celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the Irish Schools' Athletics Association and former stars Sonia O'Sullivan and Catherina McKiernan were out cheering on the current generation.

Aimee McKenna (St Mac Dara's) judged her race perfectly to win the minor girls' 2,000m race ahead of Meghan Carr (Loreto Fermoy), daughter of Robert Heffernan) in second and Lucy O'Keeffe (St Mary's Midleton) third. Loreto Kilkenny scored the team prize.

The opening races saw the early leaders caught out as they were reeled in by the chasing pack – the testing crosswind and climbs taking their toll. Sean Donoghue (St Declan's, Cabra) replicated McKenna to win the minor boys' 2,500m. Ted Collins (Glenstal Abbey) got up for second with Ard Scoil Ris's Colin Sweeney bagging the bronze. Rice College Westport won the team battle.

Saoirse O'Brien (SH Westport) bucked the trend of the hare being caught by the hounds as she sped to victory in the junior girls' 2,500m ahead of Rebecca Wallace (Wallace High School) in second and Roisin Treacy (St Gerard's) in third. Skerries CC made it a win for Leinster in the team race.

Louis O'Loughlin (Moyle Park College) was another outstanding winner in the junior boys' 3,500m. Wearing his now customary black beanie decorated with skulls, O'Loughlin powered around the course as Chris O'Reilly (Douglas CC) tried to hang gamely with the Dubliner. His brave effort catching up with him in the closing stages as he was outsprinted to the line for silver by Michael Troy (St Augustine's Dungarvan). St Colman's Newry edged the overall title.

The intermediate 3,500m girls' race was highly anticipated and it didn't fail to disappoint as training partners Sarah Healy (Holy Child Killiney) and Amy Rose Farrell (Mount Anville) duked it out once more. Healy, as in the Leinsters, just had that extra bit of power up the hill at the finish to strike gold. Claire Rafter (Ursuline Thurles) picked up the scraps to pick up the bronze. Dominican College Wicklow had plenty to spare in the team race.

Darragh McElhinney (Colaiste Phobail Bheanntrai) attempted to blow away his rivals in the intermediate boys' 5,000m charging away at the gun. The daring front-runner built up a big lead but he ran out gas finishing 9 with Adam Fitzpatrick (St Kieran's) adding the national title to his Leinster crown. Colaiste Mhuire's Jamie Battle and Ciaran Nolan came through strongly for second and third but amazingly didn't win the team prize. Rice College Westport packed better to deny the Mullingar school the gold.

Michelle Finn led UL to the team title as she won the Universities 5,000m race as part of the programme. David McCarthy (DCU) made a welcome return from injury to win the men's 8,000m where he also led the Dublin university to the top of the pile.

### **GloHealth All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships, Sligo Racecourse**

Minor Girls 2,000m

1. A McKenna (St Mac Dara's), 2. M Carr (Loreto Fermoy), 3. L O'Keeffe (St Mary's, Midleton)

Team

1. Loreto Kilkenny, 2. Victoria College, Belfast, 3. Loreto St Stephen's Green

Minor Boys 2,500m

1. S Donoghue (St Declan's Cabra), 2. T Collins (Glenstal Abbey School), 3. C Sweeney (Ard Scoil Ris)

Team

1. Rice College Westport, 2. Colaiste Eoin, 3. St Michael's Enniskillen

Junior girls 2,500m

1. S O'Brien (SH Westport), 2. R Wallace (Wallace HS Lisburn), 3. R Treacy (St Gerard's)

Team

1. Skerries CC, 2. Ard Scoil na nDeise, 3. Loreto Mullingar

Junior boys 3,500m

1. L O'Loughlin (Moyle Park College), 2. M Troy (St Augustine's Dungarvan), 3. C O'Reilly (Douglas CC)

Team

1. St Colman's Newry, 2. Naas CBS, 3. Belvedere College

Intermediate girls 3,500m

1. S Healy (Hold Child Killiney), 2. AR Farrell (Mount Anville), 3. C Rafter (Ursuline Thurles)

Team

1. Dominican College Wicklow, 2. Loreto Kilkenny, 3. Loreto College Omagh

Intermediate boys 5,000m

1. A Fitzpatrick (St Kieran's College), 2. J Battle (Colaiste Mhuire Mullingar), 3. C Nolan (Colaiste Mhuire Mullingar)

Team

1. Rice College Westport, 2. Colaiste Mhuire Mullingar, 3. St Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Senior girls 2,500m

1. E Fitzpatrick (OLS Terenure) 2. N Carey (Colaiste Iosagain) 3. N Corry (Malahide CS)

Team

1. Loreto Mullingar, 2. Loreto Kilkenny, 3. St Mary's Naas

Senior boys 6,500m

1. K Mulcaire (St Flannan's, Ennis), 2. P Lynch (St Kieran's College, Kilkenny), 3. J Edgar (Friends' School Lisburn)

Team

1. St Aidan's CBS, 2. St Flannan's, Ennis, 3. St Kieran's College, Kilkenny