

## ARDREY KELL RUNNERS SUPPORT SUSAN G. KOMEN FOUNDATION



Ballantyne Country Club Rally week launched on Sunday September 20th with over 600 neighbors enjoying a day of running, walking, golfing and playing carnival games, to raise funds for Susan G Komen and to raise breast cancer awareness in the Charlotte community ([www.bccrally.com](http://www.bccrally.com)).

This year, a cross country run was added to BCC Rally's Family Day activities, to encourage a new group of neighbors to participate in Rally, now in its sixth year. Despite the torrential rain of the night before, about 45 runners gathered on the rather soggy start line positioned on the 18th hole of the Ballantyne Country Club golf course. Family Day was promoted as a fun day out with a run, family walk and golf event, however, as several of Ardrey Kell High Schools top runners live in the neighborhood, it was clear from the start that this event was going to be competitive.

Interestingly, the design of golf courses, which typically incorporates many picturesque hills, lakes and sand traps, may not be such an ideal course for cross country runners. With a wide age range of participants from 8 years old to several over 50, the first long incline up the 18th fairway showed that this was going to be a grueling race.

As the runners battled along the beautiful, but hilly back nine of the course, the AK runners soon broke away. Having raced in a school competition in Cary the day before, the high schoolers were under coaches orders to take it easy. But boys will be boys, and although no one recorded any personal records, there was a lot of effort to turn in a decent time over this unusual course. So it was no surprise that the first seven runners over the line were all from the top ranked Ardrey Kell Cross Country Team. The first four runners Noah Brown, Nick Kapur, Madden Souder and Josh Fisher joined hands as they crossed the line at 18.50 minutes, perhaps unwittingly reinforcing the goal of the event to encourage friends to help friends in the battle against cancer. Max Nagle who had powered down the 18th fairway at the beginning of the race was second and Matthew Dockstader a close third. Try Sports of Blakeney generously donated prizes and Pepsi supplied beverages and pink water bottles to all the participants.

After the race, most of the runners attended the carnival and found sufficient energy to throw the ball at the dunk tank and soak a very sporting Brian Zelk, Ardrey Kell Cross Country Coach, repeatedly tipping him into the tanks murky waters!

The Cross Country Race was a great way to launch Rally week. It brought some new faces to this phenomenal community effort and fulfilled the event's goal to help save lives by raising awareness and supporting Susan G Komen in its promise to help end breast cancer forever.

# ATHLETES ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON

**THEY CAN PRETTY MUCH EAT LIKE HORSES.**

Okay, so maybe they have more than one thing in common—like a drive for excellence, to deliver their best, all the time. Hey, looks like we have a lot in common with them! And we understand that appeasing big appetites should be done with big, family style portions made with delicious recipes, served up in a place that can accommodate and entertain just about any group or function.

## TEAM OF THE WEEK PARK SHARON DIRT DAWGS BASEBALL TEAM



Coach Shane Black and his Park Sharon Dirt Dawgs have been selected as The Buca Di Beppo Team of the Week. The team of baseball players are a hard working group of kids that simply love the game of baseball.

"At the very first practice I asked for teamwork, and the Dirt Dawgs gave it to me," said Coach Black. "These players worked harder as teammates than just about any group of players I have ever coached....and that makes the difference in winning and losing. Good or bad, these players always encourage and look out for one another. They are a fine group of young men."

Congratulations Dirt Dawgs on winning the Buca Di Beppo Team of the Week Award!

### DIRT DAWGS ROSTER

Isaac Black	Chase Griffin	Matthew Saunders
Jacob Thompson	Christian Medina	Coach Shane Black
Brendan Burke	Kory Oliver	Coach Drew Sharpe
Devin Parks	Conor Schmidt	Coach Michael Young
Chris Shipley	Kenny Reed	

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