



## Barnesville, Bellaire, St. John's win titles

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The real cross country season has begun.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowned its long-distance running champions Saturday morning in Byesville.

The 2001 version of the OVAC meet proved to be one of the most competitive in a long time.

Barnesville's girls won yet another overall title with an impressive 42 point total. With the overall title came the Lady Shamrocks' seventh consecutive class title. John Marshall won yet another 4-A title and finished second overall.

East Liverpool's boys took the overall male title with 91 points. Bellaire settled for second overall as the Big Reds tallied 128 markers.

The Lady Shamrocks continued their dominance of local teams with the most recent performance.

Coach Mark Brown's Lady 'Rocks placed all five runners into the top 24 of the field, which included the individual overall champion.

"The girls really ran super. Our fifth girl had an off day, but her sister picked it up for her. That is the thing about this team....we have so many

kids who are so strong and they can pick it up for each other," said an elated Brown. "We have a lot of depth and what can you say about the Morgan sisters?"

Though the Lady 'Rocks have won the OVAC banner for several years, the feeling never changes for Brown and company.

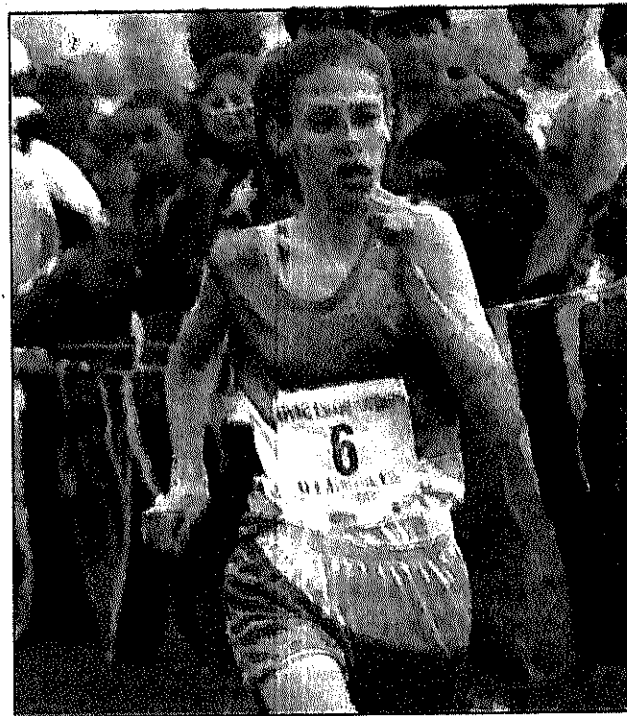
"It never gets old because it is different kids. We tell the kids this is the biggest meet of the regular season. We are now going to get some work in and get ready for the districts," Brown said.

The Lady 'Rocks were once again led by sophomore dandy Molly Morgan who captured her inaugural OVAC title with a 19:38 clocking.

"It feels good. I was tired today running. It was cold out, but that didn't bother me. I really like this course and I thought I ran pretty well," Morgan said.

Senior Ruthie Morgan took the bronze medal with a time of 20:01. Freshman ace Kris Schuerle also performed well as she turned in a 20:50 to gain all-OVAC honors with a 10th place finish.

Junior Angie Kemp finished 14th with a 21:26 and Sarah Anderson was the fifth Lady 'Rock



T-L Photos/MIKE HARVILLA

**TOP PHOTO:** The runners begin the boys portion of the OVAC Cross Country Championships on Saturday morning at Meadowbrook.

**ABOVE:** Barnesville's Molly Morgan heads to the finish line to claim the OVAC Girls' individual title.

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# OVAC

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across the line with a time of 22:09.

Bellaire finished second in 3-A and third overall as the Lady Big Reds accumulated 190 points.

Sophomore dandy Aimee Vavrek led the Lady Big Reds as she gained all-OVAC with a fourth place run and a time of 20:20.

Martins Ferry, which captured the overall title a season ago, was sixth overall and third in Class 3-A as the Lady Riders mustered 208 points.

The Lady Riders were led by sophomore ace Amy Bruney who was fifth overall with a time of 20:23.

Senior standout Katrina Jones finished eighth and gained all conference accolades with a time of 20:44.

**ST. JOHN CENTRAL** also enjoyed a stellar day as the Lady Irish captured the school's first-ever 1-A/2-A girls' title.

Coach Dennis Delbert's charges finished fourth overall with 191 points and that number was seven better than class runner-up Shadyside.

"This is something we have worked towards. The girls had several goals early in the season and this was definitely one of them. It always seemed that we had been snake-bitten with an injury or something had gone wrong, so this is special to these kids to get that redemption," an elated Delbert said.

The Lady Irish were led by their one-two punch of sophomore Brianna Cattran and freshman Andrea Zeno.

Cattran turned in a strong sixth place finish in a time of 20:25. That was good enough to earn the talented tenth grader all-conference honors.

Zeno, meanwhile, crossed the line in 13th place with a time of 21:21. That finish also enabled Zeno to become all-OVAC.

Senior Natalie Kozel was third on the team as she crossed the line as the 31st runner with a time of 22:28.

Mari Kajfez was fourth on the team with a 56th place run and a time of 23:22. Katie Tierney rounded out the top five of the Green.

"We knew Linsly and Shadyside were good, but we thought that if we went out and ran the way we are capable, we shouldn't need any

help and I just really pleased with everyone's effort," Delbert continued.

Linsly produced a pair of all-OVAC performers. Freshman Kallen Weaver continued to impress with an 11th place effort and a time of 20:57.

Erica Lendon also ran well as she was 17th in a time of 21:35.

In 4-A, Cambridge's Ashley Dunigan captured the divisional crown as she placed second overall with a time of 19:46. The Lady Bobcats' Brittany Ullman was ninth in a time of 20:48.

**THE BELLAIRE BOYS'** cross country program has come leaps and bounds in the six years Arno has been at the helm.

Six seasons ago, Arno and company finished 22nd of 24 teams in the conference meet, but this season the Big Reds are champions of the Class 3-A. The title marks the first time in 22 years a Bellaire squad has captured the OVAC cross country banner.

"This is a huge step for our program to win this meet. I am kind of numb right now. I am sure it will sink it, but it is a real credit to the kids and their work ethics.

This is another one of the steps in the ladder to where we want to go and that is to the state meet," an excited Arno said.

Bellaire once again used a fine team effort as the Reds placed three runners into the top 20.

"I told the kids if they just came out and did what they were capable of doing, we would be on top. It was a great performance all the way around," Arno continued.

Bellaire was once again led by its leader, junior Jed Perko, who placed sixth overall in a time of 17:05.

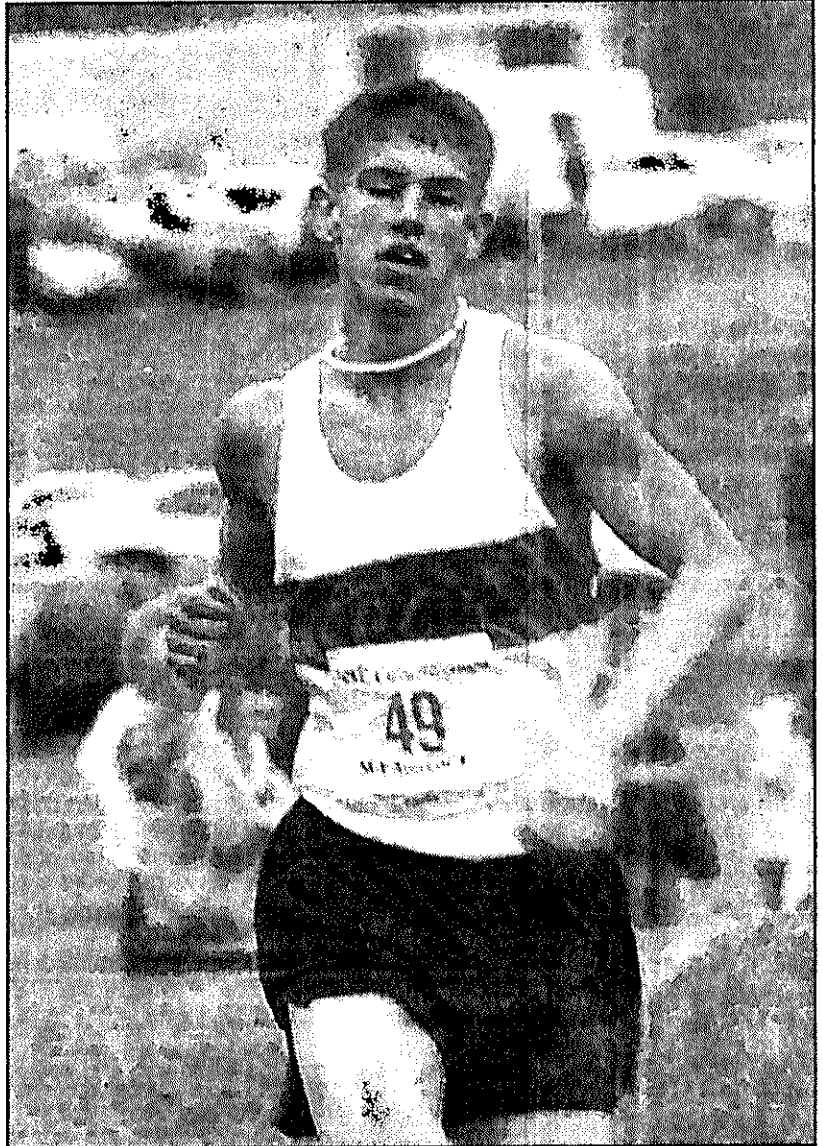
Sophomore ace Mike Carpenter remained a solid number two as he placed eighth in 17:12.

Sophomore Eric Wise continued his banner campaign as he ran to an 18th place finish and a time of 17:33.

Chris Marling and Phillip Green, who ran 47th and 51st, respectively, rounded out the top five for Bellaire.

Barnesville finished one slot behind Bellaire both in 3-A and overall as the Shamrocks' boys placed third with 135 points overall.

The Shamrocks were led by senior ace Chris Perun, the defending



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**BELLAIRE** junior Jed Perko heads to the finish line en route to finishing sixth and helping the Big Reds claim the OVAC 3-A title Saturday at Meadowbrook.

champion, who settled for fifth this season with a time of 17:01.

Also gaining all conference for the 'Rocks were sophomore Matt Fiutem and senior Travis Taylor.

Fiutem placed seventh with a time of 17:12, while Taylor settled for 12th in 17:17.

Martins Ferry finished in fourth place overall and third in triple-A as the Purple Riders tallied 198 points.

The Riders were led by senior John Tierney who earned all-conference with a ninth place finish and a time of 17:15.

St. Clairsville, which won the 3-A title a season ago, was led by junior Zac Brown who earned the last all-conference slot as he placed 20th in a time of 17:37.

Harrison Central also produced an all-conference runner. Junior Matt Kidd finished in 15th place with a time of 17:26.

Steubenville Central took home the A/AA title as the Crusaders tallied 292 points, which held off both Caldwell and Shadyside to take the team title.

The Jefferson County school was led by senior standout Jacob Trombetta who finished 11th overall in a time of 17:16.

Shadyside had one runner earn all-conference. Senior Cole Elliot led the Tigers as he placed 17th in a time of 17:33.

River sophomore Pat McGuire continued his fine campaign as he placed 14th overall with a time of 17:21.

# OVAC Results

## OVAC CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS' OVERALL

**TEAM SCORING:** Barnesville, 180; Bellaire, 190; Shadyside, 198; Marietta, 212; Caldwell, 242; Indian Creek, 254; Edison, 311; Wheeling Central, 328; Owbrooke, 381; Steubenville, 456.

## ALL-OV TOP 2

1. Molly Morgan (Barnesville), 19:46; Ruth (Camb.), 20:01; Aimee Vavrek (Bruney) (MF), 20:23; Britt (J) Jones (MF), 20:44; Britta (Ba) Weaver (Lin), 20:50; Jade (Barnes), 21:26; Lakyn (Kim) Schockling (Cald), (Lin), 21:32; Brittany Zui (Mallory) Roadman (Brk), 21:44.

## CLASS RE TOP 1

### A/AA

1. Brianna Cattran (SJC); Andrea Zeno (SJC); Kim Erica Lendon (Wells) (Wells); Shayla Holenk (Brown) (Shady); Heidi (Bethany) Sloane (WCC).

### AAA

1. Molly Morgan (Barnesville); Aimee Vavrek (Bruney); Katrina Jones (Barnes); Jade Tuttle (Barnes); Whitney Jones (Barnes).

### AAA

1. Ashley Dunigan (Cambridge); Brittany Ullman (Cambridge); Rhianna Thompson (Weir); Heather Brick (Zanesville).

## BOYS' OVERALL

**TEAM SCORING:** East L., 128; Barnesville, 135; Meadowbrook, 216; Wells, 224; Wheeling Park, 26; Buckeye Local, 274; S., 292; Caldwell, 304; S. Clairsville, 334; Union L. Central, 360; Harrison Central, 424; Shenandoah, 441; Brooke, 474; A., 499; Wellsville, 717.

## ALL-OV TOP 20

1. Justin Simpson (Montgomery) (EL), 16:26; David Hesson (Cald), 16:36; Jed Matt Fiutem (Barnes), 17:01; John Tierney (Kinsley) (EL), 17:16; Jake (Travis) Taylor (Ba Tipton) (Meadow), 17:20; Matt Kidd (HC), 17:21; Cole Elliot (Shad) (Bell), 17:33; Josh Simpson (St.C), 17:37.

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# OVAC Results

## OVAC CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS GIRLS

### OVERALL

TEAM SCORING: Barnesville, 42; John Marshall, 180; Bellaire, 191; St. John's, 191; Shadyside, 198; Martins Ferry, 208; Zanesville, 212; Caldwell, 229; Linsly, 238; Magnolia, 242; Indian Creek, 246; Wheeling Park, 254; Edison, 311; East Liverpool, 313; Wheeling Central, 328; Oak Glen, 348; Meadowbrook, 381; Steubenville 401; Tyler, 402; St. Clairsville, 456.

### ALL-OVAC TOP 20

1. Molly Morgan (Barnes), 19:38; Ashley Dunigan (Camb), 19:46; Ruthie Morgan (Barnes), 20:01; Aimee Vavrek (Bell), 20:20; Amy Bruney (MF), 20:23; Brianna Cattran (SJC), 20:25; Stacey Sada (JM), 20:26; Katrina Jones (MF), 20:44; Brittany Ullman (Camb), 20:44; Kris Schuerle (Barnes), 20:48; Kallen Weaver (Lin), 20:50; Jade Tuttle (Bell), 20:57; Andrea Zeno (SJC), 21:21; Angle Kemp (Barnes), 21:26; Lakyn Bendle (Ed), 21:26; Kim Schockling (Cald), 21:28; Erica Lendon (Lin), 21:32; Brittany Zumpatta (Brk), 21:35; Mallory Roadman (Brk), 21:37; Lindsay Mackall (Wells), 21:44.

### CLASS RESULTS

#### TOP 10

##### A/AA

1. Brianna Cattran (SJC); Kallen Weaver (Lin); Andrea Zeno (SJC); Kim Schockling (Cald); Erica Lendon (Wells); Lindsey Mackall (Wells); Shayla Holenka (Shady); Whitney Brown (Shady); Heidi Schoeppner (Cald); Bethany Sloane (WCC).

##### AAA

1. Molly Morgan (Barnes); Ruthie Morgan (Barnes); Aimee Vavrek (Bell); Amy Bruney (MF); Katrina Jones (MF); Kris Schuerle (Barnes); Jade Tuttle (Bell); Angle Kemp (Barnes); Whitney Jones (Mag); Sarah Anderson (Barnes).

##### AAAA

1. Ashley Dunigan (Camb); Stacey Sada (JM); Brittany Ullman (Camb); Lakyn Bendle (Ed); Brittany Zumpatta (Brk); Mallory Roadman (Brk); Rhianna Thompson (Ed); Nicole Lemal (Wells); Heather Brick (EL); Stacey Fineran (Zanes).

### BOYS

#### OVERALL

TEAM SCORING: East Liverpool, 91; Bellaire, 128; Barnesville, 135; Martins Ferry, 198; Meadowbrook, 216; Welton, 217; Oak Glen, 224; Wheeling Park, 267; Cambridge, 267; Buckeye Local, 274; Steubenville Central, 292; Caldwell, 304; Shadyside, 319; St. Clairsville, 334; Union Local, 354; Wheeling Central, 360; Harrison Central, 383; John Marshall, 424; Shenandoah, 428; St. John Central, 441; Brooke, 474; Magnolia, 488; River, 499; Wellsville, 717.

### All-OVAC

Top 20 -- 1. Justin Simpson (OG), 15:56; Mark Montgomery (EL), 16:28; Ryan Smith (Brk), 16:36; David Hesson (Cald), 16:43; Chris Perun (Barnes), 17:01; Jed Perko (Bell), 17:05; Matt Fiutem (Barnes), 17:12; Mike Carpenter (Bell), 17:12; John Tierney (MF), 17:15; Jake Kinsey (EL), 17:16; Jake Trombetta (SCC), 17:16; Travis Taylor (Barnes), 17:17; Kohler Tipton (Meadow), 17:20; Pat McGuire (Riv), 17:21; Matt Kidd (HC), 17:26; Joey Price (EL), 17:29; Cole Elliot (Shady), 17:33; Eric Wise (Bell), 17:33; Josh Simpson (OG), 17:34; Zach Brown (St.C), 17:37.

### CLASS RESULTS

#### Top 10

##### A/AA

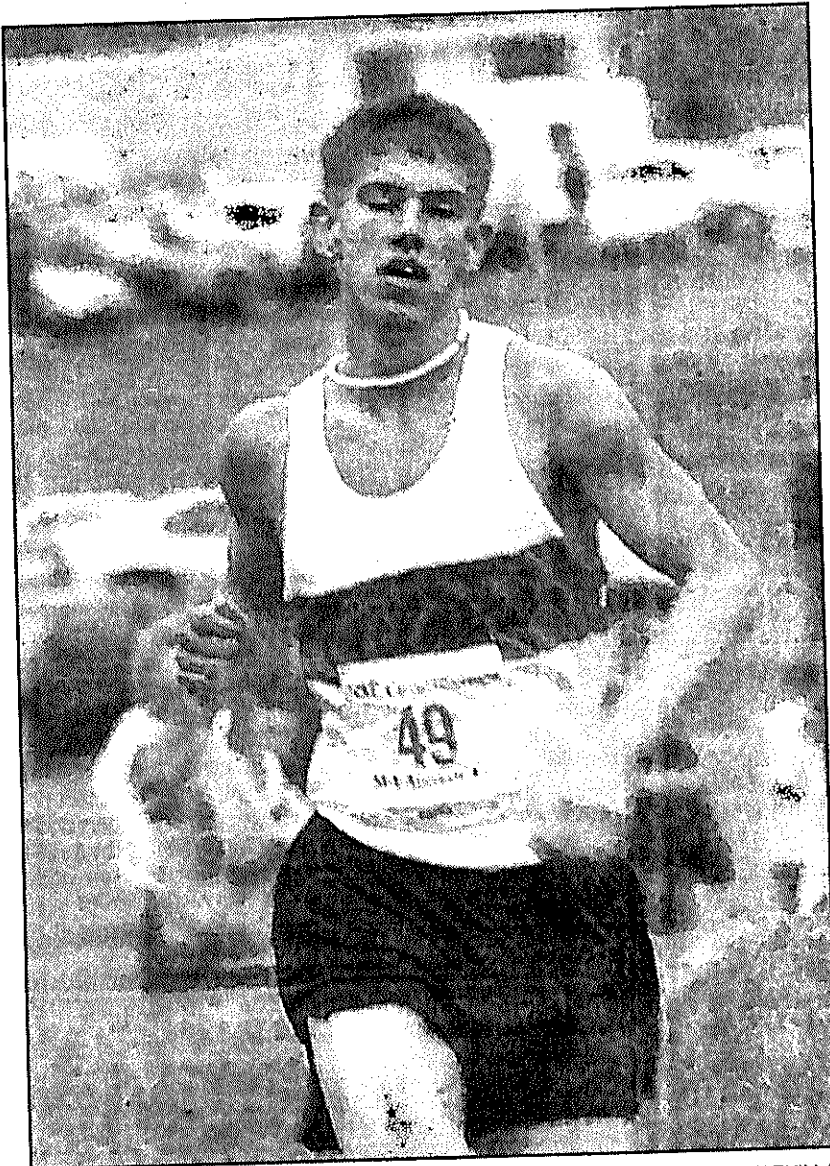
1. David Hesson (Cald); Jake Trombetta (SCC); Pat McGuire (Riv); Cole Elliot (Shady); Chris Stephans (WCC); Rob McConnell (Cald); Marlin Harold (SCC); Kevin Roush (SJC); Mike Beck (Shady); JoJo Morgan (WCC).

##### AAA

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##### AAAA

1. Mark Montgomery (EL); Ryan Smith (Brk); Jake Kinsey (EL); Joey Price (EL); Ben Gotschall (Camb); Chris Spears (WP); Tom Price (EL); Evan Mathews (BL); Stewart Sleime (WP); Jameson Ullman (Camb).



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

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## OVAC Champs



T-L Photo/JEREMY MIDEI

**POCKETING** its sixth straight OVAC cross country championship recently was this team from Barnesville. In front, from left, are Christy Van Dyne, Jenny Jefferis and Sarah Anderson. Back row, from left, are Trinity Pickens, Kris Schuerle, Ruthie Morgan, Angie Kemp, Molly Morgan and Liza Anderson. The Lady Shamrocks are coached by Mark Brown.

## OVAC Champs



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**CAPTURING** the school's first ever OVAC A/AA girls' team title at the 2001 OVAC Cross Country Championship is this team from St. John Central. Bottom row, from left, are Marri Kajtez, Brianne Cattran and Natalie Kozel. Back row, from left, are head coach Dennis Delbert, Laura Chesonis, Andrea Zeno, Katie Tierney, assistant coach Ed Anderson and assistant coach Jeremy Midei.

# Six Cross Country Champs Crowned

Six team champions were crowned at the OVAC's annual cross-country championships in Byesville Saturday but two of the squads didn't need maps to the winners circle.

The Barnesville girls' cross-country team had won three straight Class AA titles before moving up to Class AAA status this season but nothing changed when the trophies were handed out as the Lady Shamrocks claimed five of the top 10 individual spots to run away with their first triple-A crown at the Meadowbrook High course.

The John Marshall girls won their third straight Class AAAA championship in convincing fashion over Zanesville while Bellaire St. John's edged Shadyside for small-school honors.

East Liverpool dominated the boys' Class AAAA meet with Weir a distant second.

The boys' Class AAA championship went to Bellaire in a mild surprise over the Barnesville boys — who had also claimed Class AA honors a year ago — while Class A-AA honors went to Steubenville Central.

Oak Glen's Justin Simpson ran away with top individual honors as he blistered the 3.1-mile layout in 15:56.75. East Liverpool's Mark Montgomery was second overall and led the Class AAAA finishers at 16:28.92 while Caldwell's Dave Hesson was the top small-school harrier with a time of 16:43.50.

Barnesville phenom Molly



Morgan won the girls' overall championship in 19:38.57 to key the Shamrocks' Class AAA team victory.

Ashley Dunnigan of Cambridge was the first Class AAAA girl across the line in a time of 19:46.74 while Bellaire St. John sophomore Brianna Catran led the small-school girls pack with a clocking of 20:25.94.

The top 10 finishers in each classification received awards from the conference.

## OVAC Cross Country Championships (At Byesville)

### BOYS

#### Team Scoring

#### Class AAAA

1. East Liverpool 91; 2. Weir 217; 3. Wheeling Park 267; 4. Cambridge 287; 5. Buckeye Local 274; 6. John Marshall 424; 7. Brooks 474.

#### Class AAA

1. Bellaire 128; 2. Barnesville 135; 3. Martins Ferry 198; 4. Meadowbrook 216; 5. Oak Glen 224; 6. St. Clairsville 334; 7. Union Local 354; 8. Harrison Central 383; 9. Shenandoah 426; 10. Magnolia 488.

#### Class AA-A

1. Steubenville Central 292; 2. Caldwell 304; 3. Shadyside 319; 4. Wheeling Central 360; 5. Bellaire St. John 441; 6. River 499; 7.

Wellsville 717.

### All-OVAC Teams

#### Class AAAA

Mark Montgomery (EL) 16:28.92; Smith (Br) 18:36.67; Kinsey (EL) 17:18.21; J.Price (EL) 17:29.19; Gotschall (Cam) 17:47.18; Spears (WP) 17:51.00; T.Price (EL) 17:51.35; Matthews (BuL) 17:53.61; Snelme (WP) 18:01.39; Ullman (Cam) 18:07.08.

#### Class AAA

Justin Simpson (OG) 15:56.75; Perun (Bar) 17:01.42; Perko (Bel) 17:05.84; Fiutem (Bar) 17:12.22; Carpenter (Bel) 17:12.57; Tierney (MF) 17:15.25; Taylor (Bar) 17:17.64; Tipton (Me) 17:20.44; Kidd (HC) 17:26.77; Wise (Bel) 17:33.45.

#### Class AA-A

Dave Hesson (Cal) 16:43.50; Trombetta (SC) 17:16.73; McGuire (R) 17:21.26; Elliott (Sha) 17:33.00; Stephens (WC) 17:50.23; McConnell (Cal) 18:07.64; Harold (SC) 18:27.37; Roush (BSJ) 18:31.88; Beck (Sha) 18:49.33; Morgan (WC) 18:49.94.

### GIRLS

#### Team Scoring

#### Class AAAA

1. John Marshall 180; 2. Zanesville 212; 3. Wheeling Park 254; 4. Edson 311; 5. East Liverpool 313; 6. Steubenville 401.

#### Class AAA

1. Barnesville 42; 2. Bellaire 190; 3. Martins Ferry 208; 4. Magnolia 242; 5. Indian Creek 246; 6. Oak Glen 348; 7. Meadowbrook 381; 8. Tyler Consolidated 402; 9. St. Clairsville 456.

#### Class AA-A

1. Bellaire St. John 191; 2. Shadyside 198; 3. Caldwell 229; 4. Linsly 238; 5. Wheeling Central 328.

#### Individual Scoring

#### Class AAAA

Ashley Dunnigan (Cam) 19:46.74; Sada (JM) 20:28.14; Ullman (Cam) 20:48.18; Bendle (Ed) 21:26.78; Zumpatta (Brk) 21:37.76; Roadman (Brk) 21:44.14; Thompson (Ed) 22:11.24; Lemal (Weir) 22:28.60; Brick (EL) 22:31.08; Finneran (Z) 22:35.39.

#### Class AAA

Molly Morgan (Bar) 19:38.57; R.Morgan (Bar) 20:01.30; Vavrek (Bel) 20:20.19; Bruney (MF) 20:23.94; Jones (MF) 20:44.67; Schuerle (Bar) 20:50.89; Tuttle (Bel) 21:11.85; Kemp (Bar) 21:26.58; Jones (Mag) 21:46.41; Anderson (Bar) 22:09.72.

#### Class AA-A

Brianna Catran (BSJ) 20:25.94; Weaver (Lin) 20:57.73; Zeno (BSJ) 21:21.21; Shockling (Cal) 21:32.27; Lendon (Lin) 21:35.17; Mackall (Wel) 21:46.23; Holenka (Sha) 21:49.34; Brown (Sha) 21:58.67; Schoepner (Cal) 22:13.22; Sloane (WC) 22:18.57.

## OVAC Champs



T-L Photo/JEREMY MIDEI

**CAPTURING** its first OVAC Class 3-A championship in 22 years was this team from Bellaire. Pictured, in front, is Chris Marling. Second row, from left, are Chris Jones, Eric Wise, Dave Holden, Travis Southall and Phillip Green. Back row, from left, are Jed Perko, Brice Antonik, Jordan Blumling, Brandon McCort, Mike Carpenter and Matt Chacolas. Back left is head coach Chris Arno.



# OVAC C-C championships Saturday at Meadowbrook

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

With October, comes the beginning of what many cross country coaches and enthusiasts view as the real season.

When the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference hosts its cross country championship Saturday morning at Meadowbrook High School, the real season will definitely be under way.

The OVAC has found a new home on the schedule. After coming during week four of the season, the cross country board and coaches opted to move the meet to the first weekend in October.

Though the date is different, the goal is still the same.

Action will begin in Byesville at 9 a.m. with the high school open races. At 10 a.m., the varsity races will hear the sounding of the gun.

When the race begins, there will be runners from 33 schools competing in three classes. The single- and double-A field will be combined.

Of the three classes, the 3-A event appears to be the most wide open.

Leading the list of contenders in the boys' race will be Bellaire, under the guidance of Coach Chris Arno.

Arno's army has enjoyed a stellar season thus far, gaining titles at Newcomerstown, the Cal Pokas Memorial, Cambridge and the OVCLL this past weekend.

The Big Reds are led by junior Jed



Perko and sophomores Mike Carpenter and Eric Wise.

"We need to build on what we did this past weekend, but can't dwell on our accomplishments. I really think Barnesville and Martins Ferry — along with us — all have good chances. We have to have a complete team effort to hold off those other two schools," Arno said.

The Shamrocks do have title aspirations as they captured the A-AA title a season ago, but have bumped up a class for this season.

Coach Mark Brown's Shamrocks are led by senior standout Chris Perun who is seeking to defend his overall title from a season ago.

Perun is joined in the leadership reigns by classmate Travis Taylor and sophomore Matt Fiutem.

"I really feel we will be right in the mix for both our class and the overall title. Three of the best teams in the OVAC are all in triple-A. I think it is going to be an exciting meet," Brown offered.

Martins Ferry, which has been a strong second in several events so far this season, is hoping to have a bust-out meet.

Coach Joe Ellis' Riders are quite capable behind the strong legs of senior John Tierney, junior Mark Foster and junior Chad Becca. All three have been solid this season.

"This may be one of the most competitive races in years. I think Bellaire is the favorite along with Barnesville, but not many people have been mentioning the Purple Riders. I think if our first three run well and our fourth and fifth

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## OVAC

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make a move, we could be in the hunt with Bellaire and Barnesville," Ellis remarked.

St. Clairsville is another school that has been up and down thus far this fall. The Red Devils are seeking to defend their OVAC title from a year ago.

The Devils will be led into battle by a trio of juniors in Bobby Fink, Zac Brown and Allen Ward.

Oak Glen may not be a true threat to the team title, but the Golden Bears do possess one of Perun's biggest challengers for the individual title. Junior Justin Simpson, who has been running very well this season, poses one of the biggest challenges to Perun's reign.

The girls' side of the triple-A field should also be competitive with Barnesville, defending overall champion Martins Ferry, and Bellaire all in contention.

Based on the regular season thus far, the Lady Shamrocks appear to be the favorite.

The Lady 'Rocks have prevailed at Watkins Memorial and the Belmont County meet as well as Meadowbrook.

The western Belmont Countians are led by sophomore Molly Morgan, senior Ruthie Morgan and freshman Kris Schuerle.

"Based on how we have run so far this season, I feel we are one of the favorites. We have not seen every team yet, so there could be a decent team up north or in West Virginia. We have had a lot of illness and that could always factor into things," Brown said.

Martins Ferry, which won the overall crown a season ago, will enter as another team to watch, but the Lady Purple Riders need strong performances from their leaders.

Senior Katrina Jones and sophomore Amy Bruney lead the Lady Riders and both figure to be in the hunt for the individual title.

"I believe our girls' team could challenge for the runner-up spot in 3-A. If Katrina and Amy have a good day, they should be challenging for the top three or four runners in the race," Ellis said.

Also leading the Lady Reds will be freshman Jade Tuttle and Chelsey Taylor.

Bellaire will be led into the meet by sophomore ace Aimee Vavrek who has been running well.

The Lady Big Reds will be without a couple of runners due to Homecoming festivities Saturday in Bellaire.

"I think our girls team has an outside chance at runner-up in triple-A. We need our fourth and fifth runners to step up," Arno said.

The smaller schools will be just as competitive as the 3-A division with several teams holding strong title aspirations.

The girls' race appears to be one of the most interesting with both St. John Central and Shadyside running well this season.

The Lady Irish of Coach Dennis Delbert are led by sophomore Brianna Cattran and freshman Andrea Zeno. The Lady Irish top four are solid, but need a strong performance from their number five performer.

"Our girls have been coming on lately. We will be up against a good Shadyside and Linsly team and it will all come down to who has the best day. If we run how we are capable of running, we have a good chance," Delbert said.

Shadyside, meanwhile, is led by junior Whitney Brown and freshmen Shayla Holenka and Whitney Sketel.

The Lady Tigers have been solid all season and could be primed for a bust-out performance.

"Caldwell, St. John's and Linsly all appear to be strong. St. John's one and two runners are strong and trying to break them up is a big key for us. (You) can never count Caldwell out because they are very well coached," said Joseph.

Linsly will also be strong as the Lady Cadets are led by freshman ace Kallen Weaver who could be among the top 10 overall.

Wheeling Central, Caldwell and Wellsville also all appear to be formidable.

The small school boys should also be a battle with no clear-cut favorite.

Shadyside, Caldwell, St. John's and Steubenville Central could all be in the hunt when the dust settles Saturday.

The Tigers are led by seniors Cole Elliot and Mike Beck.

"Caldwell, Wheeling Central and Steubenville Central are going to be tough. We have to have a good effort one through five," Joseph said.

The Irish are led by seniors Kevin Roush and Chad Ollom.

"We are looking to be respectable and try to pull out an upset in our class," Delbert offered.

Steubenville Central, which was strong at some early season meets, is led by senior standout Jacob Trombetta.

The 4-A class also appears to be wide open. Buckeye Local could be listed as one of the teams to watch with freshman ace Evan Mathews.

Cambridge's girls will be well-represented with senior standout Ashley Dunigan who seeks another OVAC individual title.