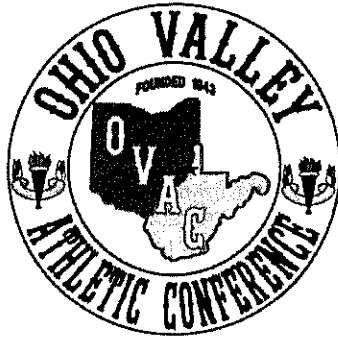


SPORTS

# OVAC cross country set for Saturday in Byesville

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer



The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has been in the mood to pass out championships the past few weeks.

There are some area cross country teams thirsty for some of the hardware.

Those long distance runners will get their thirst quenched Saturday morning when the conference cross country championship is held at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville.

The action will get under way at 10 a.m. with the girls' championship. The boys event will follow immediately there after. The two junior high races will close the day's activities.

All of the defending champions appear prime to make a run toward a possible repeat in their respective classes.

On the boys' side, St. John Central is the defending champions in A/AA and the overall. St. Clairsville won 3-A title, while Buckeye Local pocketed the 4-A title a year ago.

The Barnesville girls will enter the meet as the seven-time defending champions in the A/AA class, while Bellaire is seeking a three-peat in 3-A. Wheeling Park will be trying to defend its title in the 4-A division.

Caldwell's Derek Carter is back in the field to try to defend his title from a year ago.

A new girls' champion is guaranteed seeing that Jenny Morgan who won the crown the past two years for Barnesville moved to Michigan during the summer. She is now running for one of the top-ranked teams in the nation at Clarkston High.

Competing in the A/AA class will be: Mount DeChantal, Cameron, St. John's, Linsly, Shadyside, Wellsville, Caldwell, Fort Frye, River, Steubenville Central, Barnesville and Wheeling Central.

In the 3-A field is: Bellaire, Tyler Consolidated, Magnolia, Martins Ferry, Union Local, Indian Creek, St. Clairsville, Oak Glen, Harrison Central and the host Colts.

The 4-A field consists of: Weir, Steubenville, Cambridge, Buckeye Local, Beaver Local, Edison, East Liverpool, Brooke, Zanesville, John Marshall and Wheeling Park.

Rookie head coach Jeremy Midei appears to have his Irish troops ready to make a run toward their second straight boys title and second girls title in three years.

Midei -- who replaced highly successful mentor Dennis Delbert this summer -- will send a pair of veteran units to the line, but the sickness bug has been bothering the Green.

"We have been hit by illness in the last week, and I really don't know how that will affect us in the race," Midei said. "However, I do know that our kids will give all they can regardless of how they feel."

The Irish boys held off a furious charge from Caldwell to pocket the crown and bring back everyone that lined up at the line a year ago.

"There are several teams that will be in the hunt for the overall title," Midei offered. "We just need to run as well as we are capable of and run our race. We have to run our race and make people try to beat us." The Irish are led by senior Jared Wilson who has pocketed individual titles at the Cal Pokas and the Belmont County Championship.

The Green are by no means top heavy with sophomore Zac Yereb, junior Zac Foster, senior Nick Habursky, sophomore Nick Moscato, senior Michael Totterdale and sophomore Sean Nolan are the consistent Johnnie runners in the top seven. All seven of the Irish varsity competitors hover around the 18-minute mark.

"Our guys are very focused on this race, and I think it will show Saturday," Midei said.

The Redskins will enter a strong bunch once again under the veteran guidance of Dugan Hill.

Carter, Jared Sailing and Shane McLaughlin comprise the Redskins' top three runners.

In the 3-A boys race, it also appears to be a two-horse race with reigning champion St. Clairsville and Bellaire battling for the title.

"We need to show up ready for a tough race," said veteran Devil head coach Tony Cioli. "We know Bellaire is tough, and we hope to be close. We have to get a strong performance from all five guys."

St. Clairsville's top runners include: Joey DePalma, Nick Oberdick, Jeff Huddock, Matt Ebbert, Casey Creamer and Andrew Wilson. All have been in the top five mix for the Devils.

Bellaire, meanwhile, is led to the line by Jaymes Taylor, Jordan Blumling, Matt Antonik and frosh Chase Maffe and Aaron Porter.

"Our boys team is young and we have been up against some tough teams," said Bellaire head coach Chris Arno. "We know that the overall title is going to be tough, but we really hope to be in the hunt for the class 3-A title."

Harrison Central is another team that could be in the mix after the Huskies captured the team title at the Cambridge Invitational last weekend.

The Huskies are led by Tyler Tenley and Jimmy Beaird.

The 4-A event appears to be a battle between the Buckeye Local Panthers and Michael Jebbia's Wheeling Park Patriots.

"We think it's very feasible for us to win again," said Panther head coach Eric Laughlin. "Our goal is to run as close to St.

John's as we can. Wheeling Park is a team we have to be concerned with and also East Liverpool and Zanesville who we haven't seen much of this year."

The Panthers knocked off the Pats Saturday at the John Marshall Invitational led by senior Evan Mathews who won the individual title at that event.

Other Panthers to watch are Mike Beecher and Kingsley Clark. Other Panthers to watch are freshman Paul Jancura and Mike Diceasare

ON THE GIRLS' SIDE, the A/AA race has always involved the Lady Shamrocks in the past.

With senior Kris Schurele leading the way for Coach Mark Brown's team that could still make noise, but it appears St. John's and Wheeling Central are the favorites.

"Wheeling Central returns almost everyone from last season's team and is probably the favorite," Midei said. "All of our girls ran well on this course at the Meadowbrook Invitational and since we didn't even have a full team at the OVAC last year we are pretty excited to even have a chance."

The Lady Irish have also been hit with sickness. Freshman Natalie Perzanowski -- who has been slowed with an injury through part of the season -- leads the Green. She won the title at the Newcomerstown Invitational.

Senior Katie Tierney's status is unknown seeing she's battling a case of pneumonia. Senior Annie Wiater, sophomore Clair LeMasters, junior Kristen Heilmeier and senior Andrea Zeno are also in the thick of things.

Wheeling Central -- which was the OVAC runner-up a year ago -- is led by Stephanie Caruso, Lauren Bauer, Ashley Wolfe, Kallen Weaver and Caitlin Tuba.

Shadyside will be led into the meet by sophomore Marissa Melanko who was an all-OVAC performer a year ago.

In 3-A, Bellaire appears ready to hoist the trophy once again, but Arno knows his team can't have a let down.

"It's no secret that people are shooting for us, and that's a great feeling," Arno said. "Our girls take a lot of pride in what they have accomplished the past couple of years, and aren't going to lay down at this point of the season."

Junior Katie Antonik has been the Lady Big Reds leader all season. She's won titles at the Cal Pokas, county meet and the Lancaster Invitational.

Classmate Audra Frizzi, senior Jade Tuttle and freshman Alysia Scott, Britani Crosby, Jessi Boston and Kathryn Jones all battle for the remaining scoring spots.

"Our girls are a little banged up right now," Arno explained. "The sidewalks have been taking their toll on us, but these girls are tough and want to continue the tradition we have going."

Harrison Central will be led into the meet by Samantha McIntosh who won the Meadowbrook Invitational.

## Big Reds Rule



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**CAPTURING THE OVAC Class 3-A cross country championship last month was this team from Bellaire. Front row, from left, are Britany Crosby, Jessi Boston, Kathryn Jones and Alysia Scott. Back row, from left, are Alysha Hannan, Katie Antonik, Jade Tuttle and Audra Frizzi.**



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**CAPTURING THE OVAC Class 3-A cross country championship last month was this team from Bellaire. Front row, from left, are Aaron Porter, Richard Heslop, Chase Maffe and Kyle Faykus. Back row, from left, are Joey Fry, Jaymes Taylor, Matt Antonik and Jordan Blumling. The Big Reds are coached by Chris Amo.**

## CC champs



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

WINNING THE OVAC Class 1-A cross country championship last month was this team from St. John Central. Pictured, front row, from left, are Nick Habursky, Jared Wilson and Michael Totterdale. Back row, from left, are Zach Foster, Zach Yereb, Nick Moscato and David Bowman. The Fighting Irish are coached by Jeremy Midei.

## OVAC champions



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

WINNING THE OVAC 4-A Cross Country championship last month was this team from Buckeye Local High School. Pictured, in front, from left, are Mike Beecher, Evan Matthews and Kingsley Clark. In back, from left, are Mike DiCesare, Paul Jancura, Ronnie Balvin and Joe Jancura. The Panthers are coached by Eric Laughlin.

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 17)

Midei, in his first season has head coach after three seasons as an assistant to former mentor Dennis Delbert, has a number of talented veterans returning to the

OVAC course.

Leading the charge for St. John has been the senior trio of Jared Wilson, Nick Habursky and Mike Totterdale.

Wilson, the team's top runner

this season, was also the squad's top finishers at last year's OVAC encounter. He placed seventh.

St. Clairsville is led by junior Joey DePalma who recorded an 11th place finish at the OVAC meet last year. He also turned in a second-place effort at the district meet in Cambridge in 2003.

Buckeye Local is paced by Evan Matthews, who clocked a fifth-place finish in last year's race. He enters this week's event having captured the overall crown at last week's John Marshall Invite.

Sean Flanagan and Shawn Hoard are the top threats for Wheeling Park, who run under the tutelage of coach Michael Jebbia.

# OVAC Ready To Run

## Conference's cross-country meet Saturday

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

A new girls' individual champion will be crowned Saturday when the 2004 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships step off at Meadowbrook High School.

The girls' event will begin at 10 a.m., with the boy's race immediately following.



OVAC  
Cross  
Country

■ Saturday at  
Meadowbrook  
High School.

Jenny Morgan, who won the girl's title in 2003 and helped Barnesville to the Class A-AA crown, moved to Michigan over the summer to continue her stellar career after her father took a job there.

In addition to the Shamrocks, other schools eyeing repeats on the girl's side include Bellaire in Class AAA and Wheeling Park in Class AAAA.

Despite the departure of Morgan, and her sister, Molly, coach Mark Brown's team is still quite solid.

The Shamrocks, who have captured seven straight OVAC crowns, returned four runners this season, led by Kris Schuerle. The senior finished second overall to Jenny Morgan last year in Byesville.

One team that might give Barnesville a run for the Class A-AA title is Wheeling Central.

Coach Wayne Rutter's Maroon Knights are coming off a solid performance at last weekend's John Marshall Invitational in Moundsville, where they finished third behind bigger schools Parkersburg and North Marion.

Kallen Weaver recorded the highest finish for Wheeling Central in last year's race, with a sixth-place effort. Lauren Bauer and Stephanie Caruso, who took 14th and 15th place in last year's race, respectively, are also having strong campaigns.

Coach Chris Arno's Big Reds captured the Class AAA title a year ago behind the solid running of Aimee Vavrek. Vavrek has since moved on to the collegiate level, but that doesn't mean Bellaire has slowed down.

The Big Reds were ranked 10th in the Ohio cross country poll last week and have been led recently by juniors Katie Antonik and Audra Frizzi.

Antonik captured the Division III individual title at the Lancaster Invitational back on Sept. 25, while Frizzi was 14th overall. Bellaire finished second to Fort Loramie as a team.

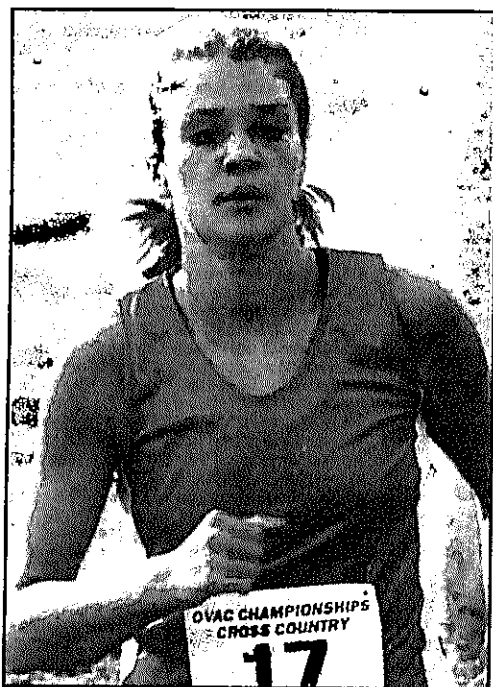
Lindsay Dunaway is the top threat for Wheeling Park. Dunaway, who crossed the finish line 12th overall at last week's JM Invite, turned in a 26th-place finish at last year's OVAC's.

Defending champions on the boy's ledger are Bellaire St. John's in Class A-AA, St. Clairsville in Class AAA and Buckeye Local in Class AAAA.

Caldwell's Derek Carter is back to defend his individual crown. Carter was second overall in the Division III race at the recent Cambridge Invitational.

Coach Jeremy Midei's Fighting Irish are ranked eighth in Ohio in Division III in the most recent poll compiled by the Ohio Association of Cross Country Coaches.

Please See OVAC, Page 20



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

**BELLAIRE** junior Katie Antonik heads to the finish line to claim the overall girls championship in the OVAC Cross Country meet Saturday at Byesville.

## Bellaire, SJC, BL win OVAC CC titles

### • Antonik wins girls title

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The rewards of all of the summer mileage, pre-season practice and early-season meets came to fruition for prep cross country squads Saturday morning in Byesville.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference passed out its 2004 titles at the conference championship at Meadowbrook High School with a few familiar names positioning themselves at the top of the team results.

St. John Central's boys captured their second straight overall and 1-A/2-A title. The Bellaire-St. Clairsville battle that's been waged in Class 3-A the past few years went the way of the Big Reds this fall, while Buckeye Local's Panthers captured their second consecutive 4-A crown.

The Wheeling Central girls made school history when they were presented the championship trophy in the 1-A/2-A class. The Lady Maroon Knights dethroned Bellaire from the overall title by a mere point.

The Lady Big Reds settled for their third straight Class 3-A title, while Wheeling Park was the victor in the 4-A division.

IN CLASS 1-A/2-A, Coach Jeremy

See, **OVAC**, Page B5



## OVAC Cross Country Results

### OVAC CC RESULTS

#### Girls

**TEAM SCORES:** Wheeling Central, 38; Bellaire, 39; St. John's, 68; Wheeling Park, 152; Meadowbrook, 187; Barnesville, 197; John Marshall, 201; Zanesville, 209; Tyler Consolidated, 218; Caldwell, 261; Magnolia, 267; Brooke, 271; St. Clairsville, 285.

#### Overall

##### Top 20

1. Katie Antonik (Bellaire), 19:41.48.
2. Tasha Modranski (Edison), 19:55.52.
3. Samantha McIntosh (Harrison), 20:15.12.
4. Natalie Perzanowski (St. John's), 20:39.20.
5. Kris Schuerle (Barnesville), 20:47.49.
6. Stephanie Caruso (Wheeling CC), 20:56.10.
7. Marissa Melanko (Shadyside), 21:08.03.
8. Alysia Scott (Bellaire), 21:08.73.
9. Jade Tuttle (Bellaire), 21:17.28.
10. Lauren Bauer (Wheeling CC), 21:24.52.
11. Caitlyn Tuba (Wheeling CC), 21:26.27.
12. Ashley Wolfe (Wheeling CC), 21:27.96.
13. Kallen Weaver (Wheeling CC), 21:31.89.
14. Megan Miller (Zanesville), 21:34.76.
15. Annie Wiater (St. John's), 21:38.28.
16. Jill Lytton (Shadyside), 21:42.02.
17. Brittany Crosby (Bellaire), 21:45.84.
18. Audra Frizzi (Bellaire), 21:57.86.
19. Claire LeMasters (St. John's), 22:02.05.
20. Kristin Hellmeier (St. John's), 22:10.59.

#### Class 1-A/2-A

##### Top 10

1. Natalie Perzanowski (SJC); 2. Kris Schuerle (Barnes); 3. Stephanie Caruso (WCC); 4. Marissa Melanko (Shady); 5. Lauren Bauer (WCC); 6. Caitlyn Tuba (WCC); 7. Ashley Wolfe (WCC); 8. Kallen Weaver (WCC); 9. Annie Wiater (SJC); 10. Jill Lytton (Shady).

#### Class 3-A

##### Top 10

1. Katie Antonik (Bell); 2. Samantha McIntosh (Harrison); 3. Alysia Scott (Bellaire); 4. Jade Tuttle (Bellaire); 5. Brittany Crosby (Bellaire); 6. Audra Frizzi (Bellaire); 7. Jessi Boston (Bellaire); 8. Lyndsay Etchison (Martins Ferry); 9. Alexis Erch (Magnolia); 10. Alicia Vannest (Bellaire).

#### Class 4-A

##### Top 10

1. Tasha Modranski (Edison); 2. Megan Miller (Zanesville); 3. Linsay Dunaway (Wheeling Park); 4. Kristen McCabe (John Marshall); 5. Kelsey Braldo (Cambridge); 6. Tia Moore (Buckeye Local); 7. Melissa Basich (Buckeye Local); 8. Mandi Swiger (Wheeling Park); 9. Danielle Francis (Wheeling Park); 10. Emilie Hall (Beaver Local).

#### Boys

**TEAM SCORES:** St. John Central, 50; Buckeye Local, 113; Bellaire, 113; St. Clairsville, 128; Harrison Central, 150; Caldwell, 165; Zanesville, 211; John Marshall, 260; Shadyside, 265; Wheeling Park, 271; Meadowbrook, 273; Union Local, 318; East Liverpool, 351; Wheeling Central, 355.

#### Top 20 Overall

1. Derek Carter (Caldwell), 16:30.
2. Austin Carney (Zanesville), 17:10.
3. Jarod Sailing (Caldwell), 17:12.
4. Brian Wilson (Oak Glen), 17:15.
5. Joey DePalma (St. Clairsville), 17:27.
6. Evan Mathews (Buckeye Local), 17:28.
7. Zach Yereb (St. John's), 17:33.
8. Eric White (Union Local), 17:35.
9. Jared Wilson (St. John's), 17:39.
10. Jaymes Taylor (Bellaire), 17:41.
11. Zach Foster (St. John's), 17:44.
12. Matt Gilloon (Steubenville Central), 17:52.
13. Adam Lytton (Shadyside), 17:57.
14. Nick Habursky (St. John's), 18:05.
15. Jimmy Beaird (Harrison), 18:06.
16. Nick Moscato (St. John's), 18:08.
17. Corey Blattler (Barnesville), 18:09.
18. Tyler Tenley (Harrison), 18:10.
19. Jacob Gasser (Indian Creek), 18:12.
20. Donald Reese (Weir), 18:14.

#### Class 1A/2A

1. Derek Carter (Caldwell); 2. Jarod Sailing (Caldwell); 3. Zach Yereb (St. John's); 4. Jared Wilson (St. John's); 5. Zach Foster (St. John's); 6. Matt Gilloon (Steubenville Central); 7. Adam Lytton (Shadyside); 8. Nick Habursky (St. John's); 9. Nick Moscato (St. John's); 10. Corey Blattler (Barnesville).

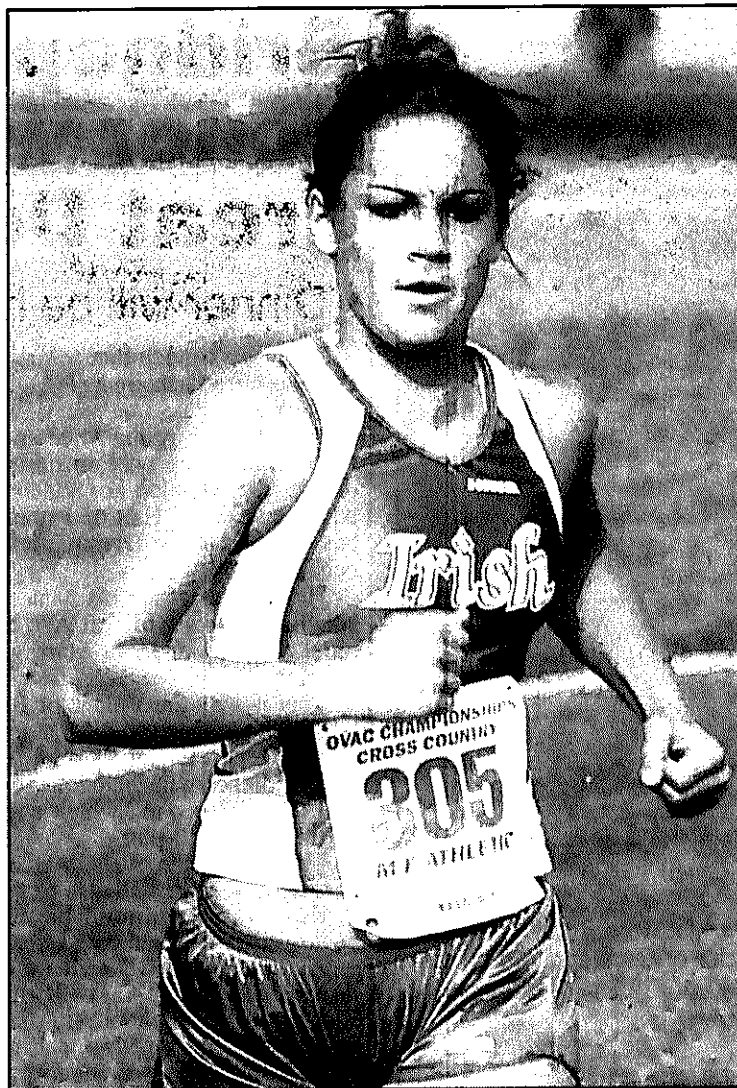
#### Class 3-A

1. Brian Wilson (Oak Glen); 2. Joey DePalma (St. Clairsville); 3. Eric White (Union Local); 4. Jaymes Taylor (Bellaire); 5. Jimmy Beaird (Harrison); 6. Tyler Tenley (Harrison); 7. Jacob Gasser (Indian Creek); 8. Stu Heavilin (Harrison); 9. Jordan Blumling (Bellaire); 10. Jeff Hudock (St. Clairsville).

#### Class 4-A

1. Austin Carney (Zanesville); 2. Evan Mathews (Buckeye Local); 3. Donald Reese (Weir); 4. Kingsly Clark (Buckeye Local); 5. Paul Jancura (Buckeye Local); 6. Anthony Duffield (East Liverpool); 7. Joey Oliver (Zanesville); 8. Ben Harper (Cambridge); 9. Dustin Daugherty (Cambridge); 10. Shawn Birch (John Marshall).

**OVAC**



### • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Midei's boys didn't deliver their best performance of the season in terms of times, but the overall Green depth proved to be enough to hand the first-year mentor his first OVAC crown as a head coach.

"I am a care taker of a great team that was put together," the always-personable Midei said. "(Former head coach) Dennis Delbert deserves a lot of credit because he helped build this and the pieces were sort of in place, but it's definitely exciting to win a championship as a head coach."

Through the first mile of the race the Irish lead pack -- which consisted of Zach Yereb, Jared Wilson and Zach Foster -- weren't spearheading the competition as they sometimes do, but Midei was happy with how his team stuck with the pre-race game plan.

"We did what we needed to do," Midei said. "We were hoping to run a little faster time wise, so the guys are a little disappointed, but we were able to run the race we wanted to in terms of strategy of packing people together."

The Irish depth was demonstrated by the fact that they were able to play all five of their scoring runners inside the overall top 20 to earn all-conference accolades.

"We have a lot of depth, and the guys we ran in the reserve race today play a major role in that because they push these guys in practice all week," Midei explained.

Yereb -- just a sophomore -- led the Irish contingent, finishing seventh overall in 17:33. Wilson was ninth in the race in 17:39, while Foster broke the tape in 11th place at 17:44.

Senior Nick Habursky finished 14th in 18:05, while Nick Moscato added a 16th place finish in 18:08.

"The next four weeks for us are the big ones," Midei said. "We have the OVACCL next week and then the post season. We have never won a district or regional title, so those are big goals for us, but getting back to the state is what we want to do."

Caldwell -- which always seems to be a factor in the team race -- finished second in the class and sixth overall with 165 points.

The Redskins produced the

wrote another chapter to its storied history Saturday, winning the title with 113 points. The Red Devils were second with 128 markers.

"St. Clairsville and us have done a lot of battling the past couple of years," Arno said. "Both schools have a lot of talent and a lot of heart, so it's developed into a friendly rivalry."

Arno's army -- without a true standout runner as they have had in years' past -- did it the old fashioned way...with depth.

"We are coming along, so we are hoping we can do well the next couple of weeks," Arno explained. "We have guys coming around for us now. They are starting to come together and learning what it takes to be successful."

The Big Reds led by Jaymes Taylor who finished 10th overall in 17:41.

Jordan Blumling was the second Big Reds' runner to cross the line, finishing ninth in the 3-A race.

Matt Antonik, Aaron Porter and Chase Maffe rounded out the top five scorers for the Big Reds.

"Jaymes has been outstanding for us all season as a leader," Arno said. "Jordan is refocused and the other guys are starting to step up."

St. Clairsville -- which won the OVAC title a year ago -- was led by Joey DePalma who finished fifth overall in 17:27.

Harrison Central -- which was third in the team race -- had two runners achieve all-OVAC status. Leading the Huskies was Jimmy Beaird who was 15th overall in 18:06. Tyler Tenley was 18th in 18:10.

BUCKEYE LOCAL thought it might receive a stern test from Zanesville for the 4-A title.

Coach Eric Laughlin's squad rolled to the championship and finished tied for the overall runner-up slot with Bellaire with 113 points.

"We thought it would be tight," Laughlin said. "We had a guy come up with bronchitis this week, but he ran for us and really had a gutsy effort. It takes a team effort to win a meet like this, and that's what we got today."

Laughlin's squad was led by senior standout Evan Mathews who was sixth overall in 17:28.

Kingsly Clark was the second Panther to cross the line, finishing fourth overall in the 4-A bat-



kept pushing me and paying off now."

Antonik raced overall title of the third of her career. Arguably the most interesting she became the Big Red to ever win OVAC meet, posting best 19:41.

"This is huge program," Arno said. "Some great runners, sure where Katie ran but she's probably in or three. It says a lot she's done in the off."

Antonik -- who Edison's Tasha McIntosh was the opening mile -- made a furious charge final half of the race.

"We know that hills then we will catch at least get pretty close offered. "The feeling after winning this, it's able."

Freshman dandy etched her name on OVAC certificate finishing eighth in 2

Senior Jade Tuttle overall in 21:11. Crosby and Audra 17th and 18th, respectively 21:45 and 21:57.

Harrison Central meet's bronze medal more Samantha McIntosh turned in a 20:15.

WHEELING CENTRAL all five of its scorers top 13 overall.

Stephanie Caruso overall in 20:56, Lauren Bauer (10th) and Kallen Weaver (11th) the top five for the team who are currently ranked the West Virginia state.

The Lady Irish -- in as one of the scorers scored 68 points at the individual championship small-school class.

Freshman captain Perzanowski -- who

12. Ashley Wolfe (Wheeling CC), 21:27.96.
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- Class 4-A
1. Austin Carney (Zanesville); 2. Evan Mathews (Buckeye Local); 3. Donald Reese (Weir); 4. Kingsly Clark (Buckeye Local); 5. Paul Jancura (Buckeye Local); 6. Anthony Duffield (East Liverpool); 7. Joey Olliver (Zanesville); 8. Ben Harper (Cambridge); 9. Dustin Daugherty (Cambridge); 10. Shawn Birch (John Marshall).

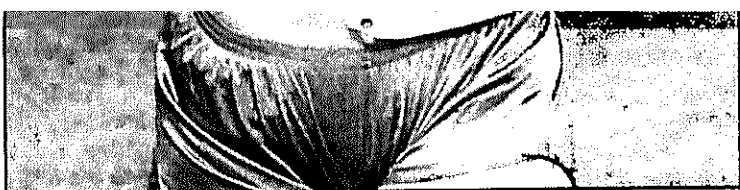
## OVAC Jr. High Results

JR. HIGH BOYS TEAM RESULTS: 1. St. John Central, 50; 2. Union Local, 66; 3. Harrison Central, 74; 4. St. Clairsville, 107; 5. Caldwell, 118; 6. Bellaire, 139; 7. Cambridge, 146; 8. Tyler Consolidated, 154.

JR. HIGH BOYS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS: 1. Derrick Sprowl (HC), 11:35; 2. Justin Brooks (HC), 11:38; 3. Jonathan Ebbert (STC), 11:56; 4. Josh Fitch (UL), 12:05; 5. Billy Padgelek (UL), 12:15; 6. Kyle Timko (SJC), 12:16; 7. Shawn Light (MEA), 12:18; 8. Aaron Lucas (CALD), 12:23; 9. Dustin Hess (UL), 12:32; 10. Alex Thornberg (SJC), 12:36; 11. Joey Rauschenberg (SJC), 12:37; 12. Sam Foster (SJC), 12:38; 13. Ross Fuller (BEL), 12:43; 14. Marcus Wise (HC), 12:44; 15. Nick Schuetz (SJC), 12:46.

JR. HIGH GIRLS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Caldwell, 39; 2. Bellaire, 50; 3. St. Clairsville, 67; 4. St. John Central, 82; 5. Cambridge, 125.

JR. HIGH GIRLS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS: 1. Kelly Perzanowski (SJC), 12:57; 2. Ericka Skinner (HC), 13:02; 3. Vanessa Hestop (BEL), 13:15; 4. Jamie Garbash (STC), 13:21; 5. Kylee Ney (BEL), 13:34; 6. Sarah Crum (CALD), 13:53; 7. Mariah Miller (BARN), 13:58; 8. Kate Hodgson (STC), 14:04; 9. Tiffany Roberts (BARN), 14:05; 10. Alli Feyko (MEA), 14:10; 11. Erica McAuley (CALD), 14:10; 12. Adrienne Stead (CALD), 14:13; 13. Kyla McLaughlin (CALD), 14:19; 14. Farley Jones (BARN), 14:20; 15. Dawn Ann Spicer (CALD), 14:20.



## OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Midei's boys didn't deliver their best performance of the season in terms of times, but the overall Green depth proved to be enough to hand the first-year mentor his first OVAC crown as a head coach.

"I am a care taker of a great team that was put together," the always-personable Midei said. "(Former head coach) Dennis Delbert deserves a lot of credit because he helped build this and the pieces were sort of in place, but it's definitely exciting to win a championship as a head coach."

Through the first mile of the race the Irish lead pack -- which consisted of Zach Yereb, Jared Wilson and Zach Foster -- weren't spearheading the competition as they sometimes do, but Midei was happy with how his team stuck with the pre-race game plan.

"We did what we needed to do," Midei said. "We were hoping to run a little faster time wise, so the guys are a little disappointed, but we were able to run the race we wanted to in terms of strategy of packing people together."

The Irish depth was demonstrated by the fact that they were able to play all five of their scoring runners inside the overall top 20 to earn all-conference accolades.

"We have a lot of depth, and the guys we ran in the reserve race today play a major role in that because they push these guys in practice all week," Midei explained.

Yereb -- just a sophomore -- led the Irish contingent, finishing seventh overall in 17:33. Wilson was ninth in the race in 17:39, while Foster broke the tape in 11th place at 17:44.

Senior Nick Habursky finished 14th in 18:05, while Nick Moscato added a 16th place finish in 18:08.

"The next four weeks for us are the big ones," Midei said. "We have the OVACCL next week and then the post season. We have never won a district or regional title, so those are big goals for us, but getting back to the state is what we want to do."

Caldwell -- which always seems to be a factor in the team race -- finished second in the class and sixth overall with 165 points.

The Redskins produced the meet's individual champion when Derek Carter successfully defended his crown from 2003.

Carter toured the 3.1 mile Meadowbrook High terrain in a sizzling 16:30.

"I really wanted this race," Carter said moments after finishing. "I am happy with my time because I was able to drop about 30 seconds. My coaches have really helped me out, and now I just want to continue and make it back to the state."

Not only did the 'Skins produce the champion, but they also had the bronze medalist. Jarod Sailing was third overall in 17:12.

Shadyside produced an all-OVAC runner when senior Adam Lytton finished 13th overall in a time of 17:57.

Barnesville's Corey Blatter also earned all-conference by finishing 17th overall in 18:09.

Steubenville Central's Matt Gilloon was 12th overall in the boys' race, turning in a solid 17:52 to earn all-OVAC.

Bellaire's boys have had their fair share of success at the OVAC cross country meet.

Coach Chris Arno's team

wrote another chapter to its storied history Saturday, winning the title with 113 points. The Red Devils were second with 128 markers.

"St. Clairsville and us have done a lot of battling the past couple of years," Arno said. "Both schools have a lot of talent and a lot of heart, so it's developed into a friendly rivalry."

Arno's army -- without a true standout runner as they have had in years' past -- did it the old fashioned way...with depth.

"We are coming along, so we are hoping we can do well the next couple of weeks," Arno explained. "We have guys coming around for us now. They are starting to come together and learning what it takes to be successful."

The Big Reds led by Jaymes Taylor who finished 10th overall in 17:41.

Jordan Blumling was the second Big Reds' runner to cross the line, finishing ninth in the 3-A race.

Matt Antonik, Aaron Porter and Chase Maffe rounded out the top five scorers for the Big Reds.

"Jaymes has been outstanding for us all season as a leader," Arno said. "Jordan is refocused and the other guys are starting to step up."

St. Clairsville -- which won the OVAC title a year ago -- was led by Joey DePalma who finished fifth overall in 17:27.

Harrison Central -- which was third in the team race -- had two runners achieve all-OVAC status. Leading the Huskies was Jimmy Beard who was 15th overall in 18:06. Tyler Tenley was 18th in 18:10.

BUCKEYE LOCAL thought it might receive a stern test from Zanesville for the 4-A title.

Coach Eric Laughlin's squad rolled to the championship and finished tied for the overall runner-up slot with Bellaire with 113 points.

"We thought it would be tight," Laughlin said. "We had a guy come up with bronchitis this week, but he ran for us and really had a gutsy effort. It takes a team effort to win a meet like this, and that's what we got today."

Laughlin's squad was led by senior standout Evan Mathews who was sixth overall in 17:28.

Kingsly Clark was the second Panther to cross the line, finishing fourth overall in the 4-A battle. He was a spot ahead of Paul Jancura in the 4-A race. Mike Diceasare and Mike Becher were the other scoring Panthers.

ON THE GIRLS' SIDE, Bellaire made it a three-peat when Arno's Lady Big Reds rolled to the 3-A title. By virtue of Wheeling Central's pack running on their second through fifth runners, the Lady Maroon Knights edged Bellaire for the overall title.

"We knew Wheeling Central would be tough because they have come a long way in the past couple of years," Arno said. "We've talked about where we have come from, and to win the third in a row really means a lot to these girls."

The Lady Big Reds -- who have battled nagging injuries much of the season -- seem to be on their way to getting healthy.

One Lady Red who's battled some nagging injuries is junior ace Katie Antonik. However, she showed no ill effects during the 3.1 mile jaunt.

"All of the thanks go to my coaches," the modest Antonik said. "When I was a freshman I wasn't that good, but my coaches

kept pushing me and I guess it's paying off now."

Antonik raced to her third overall title of the season and third of her career. However, it's arguably the most cherished seeing she became the first Lady Big Red to ever win the giant OVAC meet, posting a career-best 19:41.

"This is huge for our program," Arno said. "We have had some great runners, and I am not sure where Katie ranks just yet, but she's probably in the top two or three. It says a lot about what she's done in the off season."

Antonik -- who was chasing Edison's Tasha Modranski during the opening mile-and-a-half -- made a furious charge in the final half of the race.

"We know that if we hit the hills then we will catch people or at least get pretty close," Antonik offered. "The feeling is so great after winning this, it's indescribable."

Freshman dandy Alysia Scott etched her name onto an all-OVAC certificate by virtue of finishing eighth in 21:08.

Senior Jade Tuttle was ninth overall in 21:17. Brittany Crosby and Audra Frizzi were 17th and 18th, respectively, in 21:45 and 21:57.

Harrison Central produced the meet's bronze medalist in sophomore Samantha McIntosh who turned in a 20:15.

WHEELING CENTRAL had all five of its scorers inside of the top 13 overall.

Stephanie Caruso was sixth overall in 20:56, while Lauren Bauer (10th) Caitlyn Tuba (11th), Ashley Wolfe (12th) and Kallen Weaver (13th) rounded the top five for the Lady Knights who are currently ranked third in the West Virginia state poll.

The Lady Irish -- which came in as one of the favorites -- scored 68 points and produced the individual champion in the small-school class.

Freshman ace Natalie Perzanowski -- who has battled a



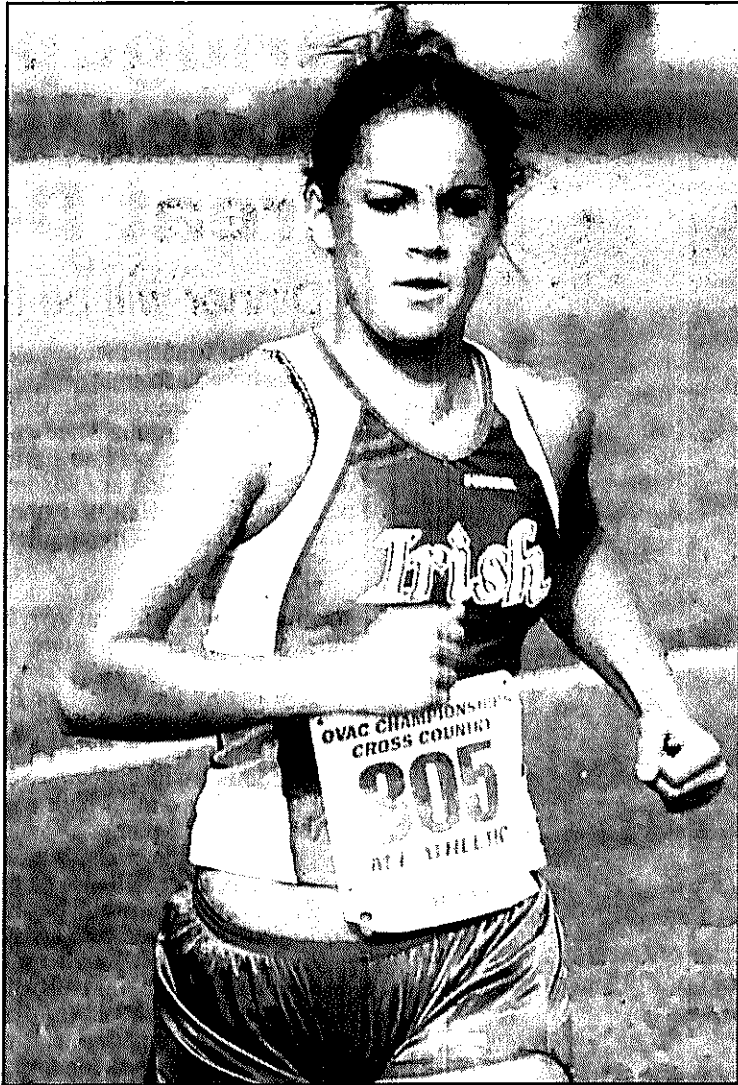
TOP LEFT: St. John Central fresh took home the A/AA girls champions

TOP RIGHT: A pack of runners, including Corey Blatter (11), Zach Foster, Eric White, Jaymes Taylor and Jared Wilson at Byesville.

ABOVE: Buckeye Local's Evan Mathews won the Class 4-A meet.

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Midei's squad had three other runners earn all-conference accolades. Senior Annie Wiater was 15th in 21:38, while Claire LeMasters was 19th in 22:02. Lytton



● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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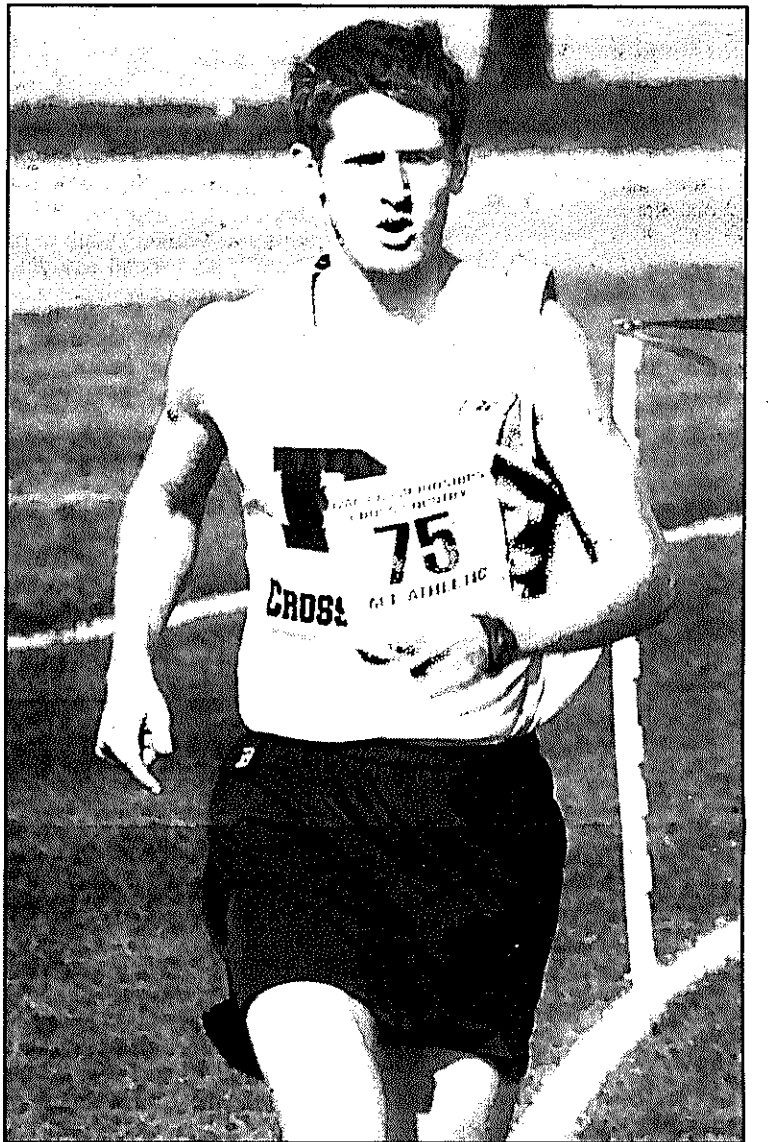
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T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP LEFT: St. John Central freshman Natalie Perzanowski took home the A/AA girls championship.

TOP RIGHT: A pack of runners, including from right Corey Blattler (11), Zach Foster, Eric White (358), Zach Yereb (middle), Jaymes Taylor and Jared Wilson (left), compete Saturday at Byesville.

ABOVE: Buckeye Local's Evan Matthews finished second in the Class 4-A meet.

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Midei's squad had three other runners earn all-conference accolades. Senior Annie Wiater was 15th in 21:38, while Claire LeMasters was 19th in 22:02

and Kristin Heilmeier earned the final all-OVAC spot at 20th.

Shadyside had a pair of all-OVAC runners.

Sophomore Marissa Melanko was seventh in 21:08, while Jill Lytton was 16th in 21:42.

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# Panthers, Patriots Repeat

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

It was deja vu for Buckeye Local and Wheeling Park.

The Panther boys and Patriot girls each repeated as conference champions Saturday at the 2004 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at sunny Meadowbrook High School in Byesville.

Buckeye Local easily outdistanced Zanesville by a 113 to 211 count in the boys' event.

Wheeling Park amassed 152 points to down second-place John Marshall by 49 markers.

Zanesville's Austin Carney clocked a time of 17:10 to win the boy's race in Class AAAA, while Edison's Tasha Modranski sprinted to the girl's crown with a showing of 19:55.

Evan Matthews once again led a Panther contingent that has continued to improve.

The four-year senior turned in a time of 17:28 to finish sixth in the overall standings.

What made the Panthers' triumph a little bit more impressive was the fact they did it without a major contribution from usual No. 2 runner Mike Beecher. While he competed in Saturday's race, Beecher is recovering from bronchitis.

Buckeye Local coach Eric Laughlin said his runners did a great job to help pick up the slack.

"We're very excited about coming in here and repeating," he said. "We were also excited that the rest of the team stepped up and helped us get another title."

Kingsly Clark and Paul Jancura finished fourth and fifth in the class standings, respectively.

John Marshall's John Birch was 10th in Class AAAA with a time of 18:51.

Lyndsay Dunaway once again paced the Patriots. She had a time of 22:39 to capture third in the class results.

"It's a great feeling," commented Wheeling Park coach Ron Hill, filling in for coach Michael Jebbia. "All of the credit goes to the girls."

"I do want to point out the excellent effort of our seniors in Dunaway, Danielle Francis and Mandi Swiger. Those girls really stepped it up."

**BOYS**

**Team Results**

1. Buckeye Local 113; 2. Zanesville 211; 3. John Marshall 260; 4. Wheeling Park 271; 5. East Liverpool 361; 6. Edison 440; 7. Brooke 578; 8. Beaver Local 594.

**Top 10 Individuals**

1. Austin Carney (Zan) 17:10; 2. Matthews (BL) 17:28; 3. Reese (Weir) 18:14; 4. Clark (BL) 18:19; 5. Jancura (BL) 18:22; 6. Duffield (EL) 18:23; 7. Oliver (Zan) 18:25; 8. Harper (Camb) 18:37; 9. Dougherty (Camb) 18:37; 10. Birch (JM) 18:51.

**GIRLS**

**Team Results**

1. Wheeling Park 152; 2. John Marshall 204; 3. Zanesville 209; 4. Brooke 271.

**Top 10 Individuals**

1. Tasha Modranski (Edi) 19:55.5; 2. Miller (Zan) 21:34.7; 3. Dunaway (WP) 22:39.3; 4. McCabe (JM) 22:45.5; 5. Braldo (Camb) 22:46.3; 6. Moore (BL) 22:54; 7. Besich (BL) 22:55.3; 8. Swiger (WP) 22:52.6; 9. Francis (WP) 22:59.7; 10. Hall (BL) 23:01.

# Historic Harriers

Wheeling Central girls win first OVAC title; St. John boys repeat in Class A-AA

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

It was a historic day for the Wheeling Central girls' cross country program Saturday.

The Maroon Knights, bolstered by five finishes in the top 13, took home both the overall and Class A-AA crowns Saturday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School.

Wheeling Central rolled to the Class A-AA championship, compiling 38 points, while second-place Bellaire St. John recorded 68 markers. Last year's winner, Barnesville was third in the class standings with 168 points.

On the boys' side, the Irish of head coach Jeremy Midei repeated with 50 points and blistered the field in the overall event. Caldwell, led by overall individual meet champion Derek Carter, finished a distant second.

Central edged a talented Bellaire team by one point 38-39, to capture the overall meet crown.

Both feats were school firsts. And for coach Wayne Rutter and his team, it was time to reap the fruits of the many hours of labor.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet," an elated Rutter said after watching the girls race at the Byesville course.

"This is the first time in the history of the school.

"The other neat thing about it is that the competition was really good."

Rutter added that his team has been showing steady improvement.

"We knew we were going to be really strong," he noted. "Every year we have inched a little bit closer. The kids are really amazing. They work hard and we're really proud of them."

Stephanie Caruso crossed the finish line in fifth place overall for Central in a time of 20:56.1.

She was followed a short time later by teammates Lauren Bauer, Caitlyn Tuba, Ashley Wolfe and Kallen Weaver, all who took 10th through 13th place overall.

"We've always worked hard, and today we came out on top," Caruso said.

Natalie Perzanowski was the first runner in the class to cross the finish line, taking fourth overall in 20:39.2.

Barnesville's Kris Schuerle was fifth overall with a time 20:47.4.

Shadyside's Marissa Melanko took

fourth among Class A-AA runners with a time of 21:08.

The Bellaire St. John boys had five runners finish in the top 16 overall to push the Irish to the big victory.

Zach Yerab was the first St. John runner to cross the finish line with a seventh-place showing overall in 17:33.

Other Irish runners and their overall finishes included: Jared Wilson (9th, 17:39), Zach Foster (11th, 17:44), Nick Habursky (14th, 18:05) and Nick Moscato (16th, 18:08).

While they didn't put forth their best times of the season, Midei was still quite pleased with the effort.

"They had a good race today," he said. "I don't think the guys were feeling their best, but we did what we had to do today."

"We have a lot of depth," he added. "The guys who are running 8th through 14th on the team have a lot to do with how good runners one through seven are. It's in practice where those guys push the top guys to do what they do in the race."

Carter was happy with his time, which was 25 seconds faster than last year's winning clocking.

"It's really exciting, but hopefully our team does well," he said. But just to improve 25 seconds is pretty good."

Carter's teammate, Jarod Sailing, took third overall with a time of 17:12.

Stuebenville's Central's Matt Gilloon was sixth (17:52) in the Class A-AA race, while Shadyside's Adam Lytton was seventh (17:57).

Barnesville's Corey Blattler was 10th in the class standings with a time of 18:09.

**BOYS**

**Team Results**

\*1. Bell. St. John 50; 2. Caldwell 165; 3. Shadyside 285; 4. Wheeling Central 355; 5. River 428; 6. Shenandoah 505.

**Top 10 Individuals**

\*1. Derek Carter (Cald) 16:30; 2. Sailing (Cald) 17:12; 3. Yerab (BSJ) 17:33; 4. Wilson (BSJ) 17:39; 5. Foster (BSJ) 17:44; 6. Gilloon (SCC) 17:52; 7. Lytton (Shad) 17:57; 8. Habursky (BSJ) 18:05; 9. Moscato (BSJ) 18:08; 10. Blattler (Barn) 18:09.

**GIRLS**

**Team Results**

\*1. Wheeling Central 38; 2. Bell. St. John 68; 3. Barnesville 197; 4. Caldwell 261.

**Top 10 Individuals**

1. Natalie Perzanowski (BSJ) 20:39.2; 2. Schuerle (Bar) 20:47.4; 3. Caruso (WCC) 20:56.1; 4. Melanko (Sha) 21:08.0; 5. Bauer (WCC) 21:24.5; 6. Tuba (WCC) 21:26.2; 7. Wolfe (WCC) 21:27.9; 8. Weaver (WCC) 21:31.8; 9. Wiater (BSJ) 21:38.2; 10. Lytton (Sha) 21:42.

\*Overall meet champion



Above, Wheeling Central's team of (top, from left) Lauri Kallen Weaver, Ashley Wolfe, Caitlyn Tuba, and (bottom, from left) Lauren Bauer, Stephanie Caruso and Chelsea Coleman celebrate their victory. Below, Caldwell's Derek Carter heads toward the finish line in the boys' race.



# Antonik Races to Girls' Overall, Class Champion

Bellaire boys and girls win both Class AAA crowns for first time in school history

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

For the first time in school history Bellaire can say both its boys' and girls' cross country teams are Class AAA champs in the same year.

Also, the Big Red's Katie Antonik can call herself a champion.

Antonik raced to the class and overall titles Saturday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville.

For Antonik, the feeling was great.

"The girl from Edison (Tasha Modranski) was with me the whole time and I thought she was going to take it," Antonik said.

"Going into the second mile I felt really strong," she added. "My coaches have pushed me so hard this season. It's because of me that I'm this good."

Her head coach, Chris Arno, said Antonik deserves most of the credit.

"We were expecting Katie to run like that in a couple of weeks," he said. "Her time was outstanding for this time of year."

"It just shows how much time she's been putting in and how the hard work is paying off."

Antonik wasn't alone in helping the Big Reds garner the class title with 39 points, just one point behind Wheeling Central for the overall title and well ahead of Meadowbrook in the class race. Five other Bellaire runners finished in the top 10 in the class

"The class title is big for us. It's the third year in a row to do that. That shows how hard they have been working

ing performances.

"The class title is big for us," Arno pointed out.

"It's the third year in a row for the girls to do that. That shows how hard they have been working."

"This meet is big because a lot of teams never make it to the regional or state meets. This is a big meet for all of the local teams. Meadowbrook does a great job with it."

Harrison Central sophomore Samantha McIntosh came in third overall in the girls' race, one spot behind runner-up Modranski.

Martins Ferry's Lyndsay Etchison, competing as an individual, turned in an eighth-place finish in the class standings, Magnolia's Alexis Emch, also running as an individual, was ninth in the class scoring. Harrison Central's Alicia Vannest was 10th.

The Bellaire boys compiled 113 points to edge second place St. Clairsville by 15 points. Jaymes Taylor paced the Bid Red with a 10th place overall finish.

"It was such a great race by our boys," Arno said. "Jaymes Taylor has been our

is refocused and has been Oak Glen's Brian V runner in Class AAA, f Devils' Brian DePal; Buckeye Local's Evan l ish line for fifth-place o

Union Local's Eric the class standings, v Central trio of Jimmy B and Stu Heavilin all tu in the class results.

Indian Creek's Jaco enth in the race, while Hudock was 10th.

**BOYS**

**Team Res**

1. Bellaire 113; 2. St. Clairsville 150; 4. Meadowbrook 273; 5. Union Creek 365; 7. Magnolia 409.

**Top 10 Indiv**

1. Brian Wilson (OG) 17:15; 2. White (UL) 17:35; 4. Taylor (B) 18:06; 6. Tenley (HC) 18:10; 7. Collins (HC) 18:26; 9. Blumling (Bel) 18:29.

**GIRLS**

**Team Res**

1. Bellaire 39; 2. Meadowbrook 218; 4. Magnolia 267; 5. St. Clairsville 311.

**Top 10 Indiv**

\*1. Katie Antonik (Bel) 19:55.5



Katie Antonik

# Historic Harriers

## Wheeling Central girls win first OVAC title; St. John boys repeat in Class A-AA

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

It was a historic day for the Wheeling Central girls' cross country program Saturday.

The Maroon Knights, bolstered by five finishes in the top 13, took home both the overall and Class A-AA crowns Saturday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School.

Wheeling Central rolled to the Class A-AA championship, compiling 38 points, while second-place Bellaire St. John recorded 68 markers. Last year's winner, Barnesville was third in the class standings with 168 points.

On the boys' side, the Irish of head coach Jeremy Midei repeated with 50 points and blistered the field in the overall event. Caldwell, led by overall individual meet champion Derek Carter, finished a distant second.

Central edged a talented Bellaire team by one point 38-39, to capture the overall meet crown.

Both feats were school firsts. And for coach Wayne Rutter and his team, it was time to reap the fruits of the many hours of labor.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet," an elated Rutter said after watching the girls race at the Byesville course.

"This is the first time in the history of the school.

"The other neat thing about it is that the competition was really good."

Rutter added that his team has been showing steady improvement.

"We knew we were going to be really strong," he noted. "Every year we have inched a little bit closer. The kids are really amazing. They work hard and we're really proud of them.

Stephanie Caruso crossed the finish line in fifth place overall for Central in a time of 20:56.1.

She was followed a short time later by teammates Lauren Bauer, Caitlyn Tuba, Ashley Wolfe and Kallen Weaver, all who took 10th through 13th place overall.

"We've always worked hard, and today we came out on top," Caruso said.

Natalie Perzanowski was the first runner in the class to cross the finish line, taking fourth overall in 20:39.2.

Barnesville's Kris Schuerle was fifth overall with a time 20:47.4.

Shadyside's Marissa Melanko took

fourth among Class A-AA runners with a time of 21:08.

The Bellaire St. John boys had five runners finish in the top 16 overall to push the Irish to the big victory.

Zach Yerab was the first St. John runner to cross the finish line with a seventh-place showing overall in 17:33.

Other Irish runners and their overall finishes included: Jared Wilson (9th, 17:39), Zach Foster (11th, 17:44), Nick Habursky (14th, 18:05) and Nick Moscato (16th, 18:08).

While they didn't put forth their best times of the season, Midei was still quite pleased with the effort.

"They had a good race today," he said. "I don't think the guys were feeling their best, but we did what we had to do today.

"We have a lot of depth," he added. "The guys who are running 8th through 14th on the team have a lot to do with how good runners one through seven are. It's in practice where those guys push the top guys to do what they do in the race."

Carter was happy with his time, which was 25 seconds faster than last year's winning clocking.

"It's really exciting, but hopefully our team does well," he said. But just to improve 25 seconds is pretty good."

Carter's teammate, Jarod Sailing, took third overall with a time of 17:12.

Stuebenville's Central's Matt Gilloon was sixth (17:52) in the Class A-AA race, while Shadyside's Adam Lytton was seventh (17:57).

Barnesville's Corey Blattler was 10th in the class standings with a time of 18:09.

### BOYS

#### Team Results

\*1. Bell, St. John 50; 2. Caldwell 165; 3. Shadyside 265; 4. Wheeling Central 355; 5. River 428; 6. Shenandoah 505.

#### Top 10 Individuals

\*1. Derek Carter (Cald) 16:30; 2. Sailing (Cald) 17:12; 3. Yerab (BSJ) 17:33; 4. Wilson (BSJ) 17:39; 5. Foster (BSJ) 17:44; 6. Gilloon (SCC) 17:52; 7. Lytton (Shad) 17:57; 8. Habursky (BSJ) 18:05; 9. Moscato (BSJ) 18:08; 10. Blattler (Barn) 18:09.

#### \*Overall Meet Champion

### GIRLS

#### Team Results

\*1. Wheeling Central 38; 2. Bell, St. John 68; 3. Barnesville 197; 4. Caldwell 261.

#### Top 10 Individuals

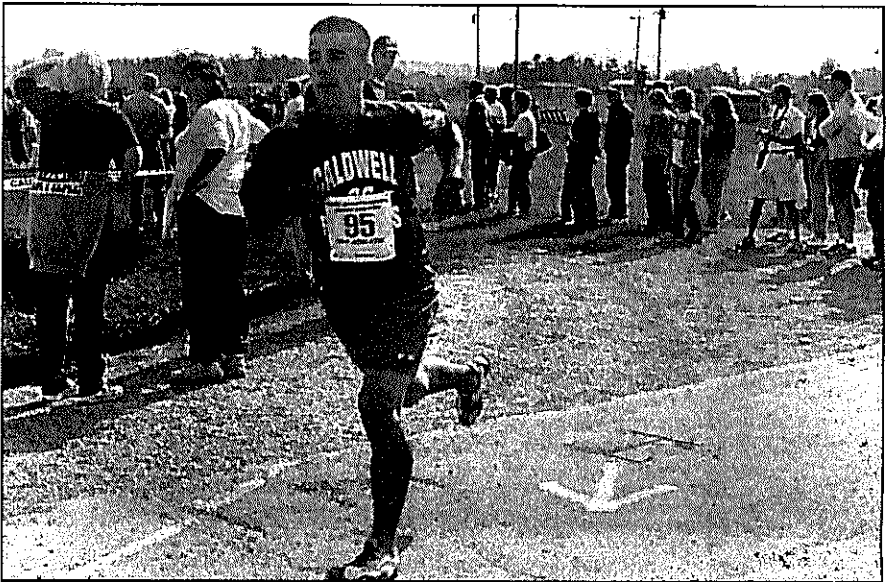
1. Natalie Perzanowski (BSJ) 20:39.2; 2. Schuerle (Barn) 20:47.4; 3. Caruso (WCC) 20:56.1; 4. Melanko (Sha) 21:08.0; 5. Bauer (WCC) 21:24.5; 6. Tuba (WCC) 21:26.2; 7. Wolfe (WCC) 21:27.9; 8. Weaver (WCC) 21:31.8; 9. Wlatter (BSJ) 21:38.2; 10. Lytton (Sha) 21:42.

#### \*Overall meet champion



Photos by Rick Thorp

Above, Wheeling Central's team of (top, from left) Lauren Swearingen, Kallen Weaver, Ashley Wolfe, Caitlyn Tuba, and (bottom, from left) Lauren Bauer, Stephanie Caruso and Chelsea Coleman celebrate their title. Below, Caldwell's Derek Carter heads toward the finish line in the boys' race.



## Antonik Races to Girls' Overall, Class Championships

### Bellaire boys and girls win both Class AAA crowns for first time in school history

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

For the first time in school history Bellaire can say both its boys' and girls' cross country teams are Class AAA champs in the same year.

Also, the Big Red's Katie Antonik can call herself a champion.

Antonik raced to the class and overall titles Saturday at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville.

For Antonik, the feeling was great.

"The girl from Edison (Tasha Modranki) was with the me the whole time and I thought she was going to take it," Antonik said.

"Going into the second mile I felt really strong," she added. "My coaches have pushed me so hard this season. It's because of them that I'm this good."

Her head coach, Chris Arno, said Antonik deserves most of the credit.

"We were expecting Katie to run like that in a couple of weeks," he said. "Her time was outstanding for this time of year.

"It just shows how much time she's been putting in and how the hard work is paying off."

Antonik wasn't alone in helping the Big Reds garner the class title with 39 points, just one point behind Wheeling Central for the overall title and well ahead of Meadowbrook in the class race. Five other Bellaire runners finished in the top 10 in the class results.

Alysia Scott, Jade Tuttle, Britany Crosby and Audra Frizzi all turned in outstand-

"The class title is big for us. It's the third year in a row for the girls to do that. That shows how hard they have been working."

Chris Arno

ing performances.

"The class title is big for us," Arno pointed out.

"It's the third year in a row for the girls to do that. That shows how hard they have been working.

"This meet is big because a lot of teams never make it to the regional or state meets. This is a big meet for all of the local teams. Meadowbrook does a great job with it."

Harrison Central sophomore Samantha McIntosh came in third overall in the girls' race, one spot behind runner-up Modranki.

Martins Ferry's Lyndsay Etchison, competing as an individual, turned in an eighth-place finish in the class standings, Magnolia's Alexis Emch, also running as an individual, was ninth in the class scoring. Harrison Central's Alicia Vannest was 10th.

The Bellaire boys compiled 113 points to edge second place St. Clairsville by 15 points. Jaymes Taylor paced the Bid Red with a 10th place overall finish.

"It was such a great race by our boys," Arno said. "Jaymes Taylor has been our number one runner all year. He put a long summer in.

"Jordan Blumling has been consistent the last couple of weeks and Matt Antonik

is refocused and has been coming along."

Oak Glen's Brian Wilson was the top runner in Class AAA, followed by the Red Devils' Brian DePalma, who outraced Buckeye Local's Evan Matthews to the finish line for fifth-place overall.

Union Local's Eric White was third in the class standings, while the Harrison Central trio of Jimmy Beard, Tyler Tenley and Stu Heavilin all turned top 10 outings in the class results.

Indian Creek's Jacob Gasser was seventh in the race, while St. Clairsville's Jeff Hudock was 10th.

### BOYS

#### Team Results

1. Bellaire 113; 2. St. Clairsville 128; 3. Harrison Central 150; 4. Meadowbrook 273; 5. Union Local 318; 6. Indian Creek 365; 7. Magnolia 408.

#### Top 10 Individuals

1. Brian Wilson (OG) 17:15; 2. DePalma (St.C) 17:27; 3. White (UL) 17:35; 4. Taylor (Bel) 17:41; 5. Beard (HC) 18:08; 6. Tenley (HC) 18:10; 7. Gasser (IC) 18:12; 8. Heavilin (HC) 18:26; 9. Blumling (Bel) 18:28; 10. Hudock (St.C) 18:29.

### GIRLS

#### Team Results

1. Bellaire 39; 2. Meadowbrook 187; 3. Tyler Consolidated 218; 4. Magnolia 267; 5. St. Clairsville 285.

#### Top 10 Individuals

\*1. Katie Antonik (Bel) 19:41.4; 2. McIntosh (HC) 20:15.1; 3. Scott (Bel) 21:08.7; 4. Tuttle (Bel) 21:17.2; 5. Crosby (Bel) 21:45.8; 6. Frizzi (Bel) 21:57.8; 7. Boston (Bel) 22:12.4; 8. Etchison (MF) 22:16.7; 8. Emch (Mag) 22:22.8; 10. Vannest (HC) 22:25.7.

#### \*Overall Meet Winner



Katie Antonik

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