

SPORTS

OHSAA orders St. John to forfeit CC title

• Ineligible athlete costs Irish OVAC title; Barnesville wins

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio High School Athletic Association informed the St. John Central boys' cross country team late Thursday afternoon that it would have to forfeit its recent Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A/AA championship due to an ineligible athlete.

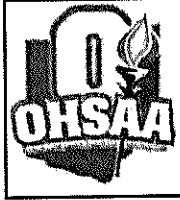
Dr. Deborah Moore, an assistant com-

missioner with the OHSAA, informed Irish Athletic Director Bob Voytecek of the penalty after she conducted an investigation into the eligibility of an Irish runner who transferred to the school during the summer.

"St. John Central used an ineligible cross country transfer student throughout the season," Moore said via email. "This will require forfeiture of all contests in which he participated."

The athlete in question made his season debut on Oct. 2 at the Cambridge

Invitational, which the Irish had captured. That title will also be forfeited.



According to OHSAA transfer rules, the athlete in question is now ineligible for one calendar year from the time he enrolled at St. John Central. The other runners on the squad are allowed to maintain their medals and honors earned at the aforementioned meets.

"I will take the blame," said Voytecek, who is in his first year as athletic director at his alma mater. "This is in no

way the student-athlete or Coach (Jeremy) Midei's fault. It falls on my shoulders. I obviously wish it hadn't happened, but it's my mistake. I'm not making any excuses. I missed the eligibility rule and this is my fault."

The OHSAA requires St. John to draft a letter of disqualification, which Voytecek will submit early next week.

"As the coach of the team, the culpability lies with me," a disappointed Midei said. "We thought we had covered all of our bases. We were by no means trying to

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● SJC

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cheat anyone. Obviously, (the athlete's) name was out there. We disclosed it."

The OVAC title would have been the Irish's eighth straight conference title and 10th overall.

"As a representative of St. John, I just want to say how sorry I am to the administration and to the St. John community, including the students, teachers and our kids' parents," Midei said. "We certainly didn't mean to circumvent the rules in any shape or form. This has been an embarrassing and humbling experience and a mistake we don't want to repeat."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak, who believes this sort of incident is unprecedented, will present the championship trophy to runner-up Barnesville at the upcoming athletic director's meeting.

"This is obviously unfortunate regardless of what school or kid it is," Rataiczak said. "I will contact the schools and make arrangements to have the trophies exchanged and straightened out. This will also have an effect on the overall OVAC Cup points as well."

The Shamrocks, who like the Irish, learned the forfeit late Thursday afternoon. The Shamrocks ran extremely well at the conference meet a couple of weeks ago. They finished third overall, trailing overall champion St. Clairsville and the Irish.

"We had thought for a couple of years this could be our year," said Shamrocks' head coach Mark Brown. "We knew St. John had graduated many talented runners from last year and we had a lot coming back and we thought we could win."

However, two Saturdays

'As a team and a program, we just have to move forward from here.'

— Jeremy Midei

ago, the Shamrocks came up five points short of the Irish. Now, they'll receive the conference pennant at the Banquet of Champions.

"We don't feel guilty at all about winning it this way," Brown said. "If we had been 10th and not ran well then maybe, but we beat all of the 4-A schools and that really makes me feel deserving."

The Shamrocks' runner-up plaque will now go to Caldwell, which had originally finished third in the small-school division.

"I want to congratulate Barnesville and Coach Brown," Midei said. "They're certainly deserving of the trophy because they ran a championship-caliber race. As a team and a program, we just have to move forward from here and learn from our mistakes. It was an isolated incident, and I know it isn't something we'll repeat in our future."

At the Cambridge Invitational, Tusky Valley will assume the championship and Newcomerstown moves up to the runner-up spot.

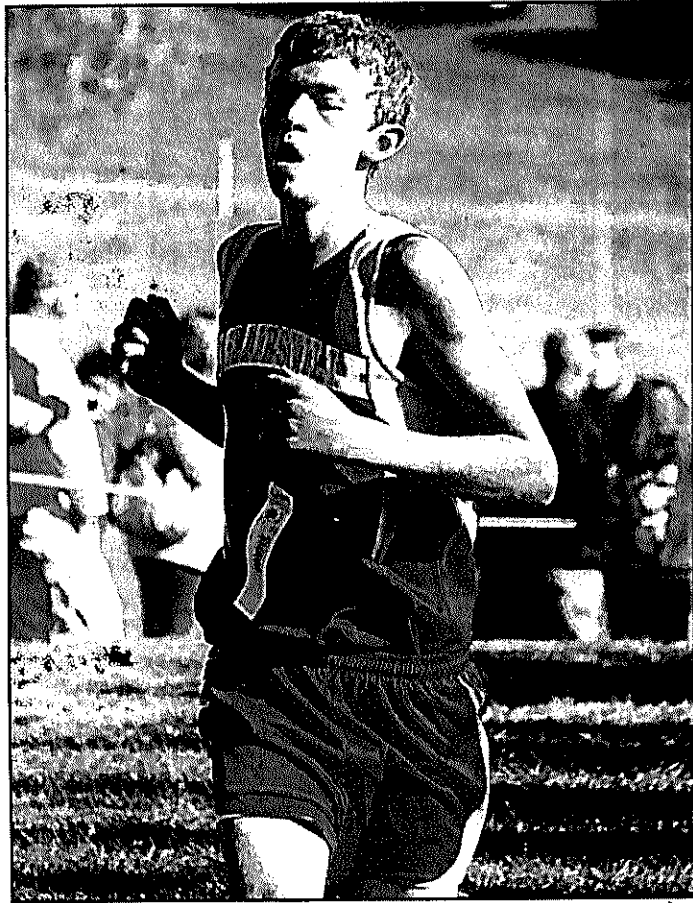
The postseason of cross country begins Saturday. All of the aforementioned schools will be competing against one another in the Eastern District meet at Cambridge.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

SPORTS

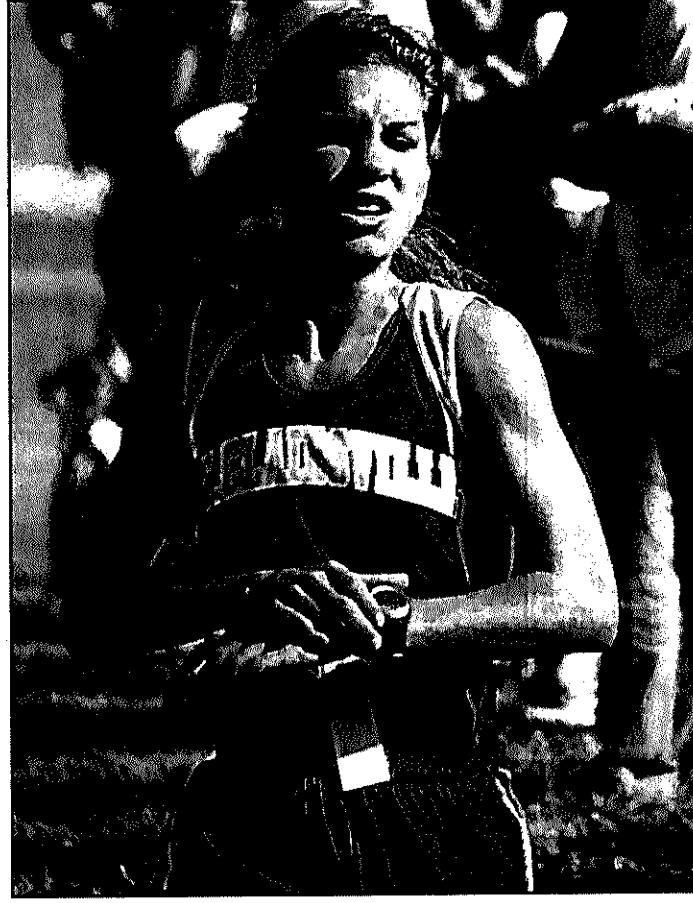
Sunday, October 10, 2010

Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE junior Andy Thornburg heads toward the finish line for the victory in the Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship Saturday morning at Meadowbrook High School.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE senior Jamle Perzanowski clicks her watch as she crosses the finish line with the victory in the Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship Saturday at Meadowbrook High School.

St. C. sweeps 3-A

• Red Devil boys win overall title; Thornburg, Perzanowski prevail

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BYESVILLE – Sometimes it's tough having a target on your back.

St. Clairsville came into Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship here with a bullseye planted firmly on its boys and girls' teams.

The Red Devils were seemingly unphased and responded in resounding fashion.

The St. Clairsville boys and girls cruised to yet another conference banner at Meadowbrook High School.

The Red Devils' boys team of head coach Tony Cirolì not only earned the Class 3-A pennant, but it also took home the overall banner, finishing with 57

points, which was 54 fewer than runnerup and small-school division champion St. John Central.

"We've got a couple of consistent, strong kids and some kids who flip-flop," said Cirolì during the awards presentation.

"We needed it all to come together for us to be successful, and I think we've meshed as a team. Regardless of people thinking we're the favorite or whatever, we've not done anything until we perform and earn it. It's never a given."

The Red Devils definitely seemed to have a chip on their shoulder despite the consistent idea of being the favorite.

"We knew we had to keep focused this week," Cirolì said. "I couldn't have asked for a better time from all of those kids together."

St. Clairsville placed all seven of its varsity runners inside the meet's top 30 overall. Taking its depth a step further, the Red Devils had all seven of their runners inside the Class 3-A top 10.

Leading the way once again was junior ace Andy Thornburg, who won the overall individual championship in a personal-best time of 16:13.

"Andy said he felt good," Cirolì said. "As a coach, it's tough because you're happy with his time, but you're a little bit concerned because you'd really like to see him drop that kind of time going into the state competition."

Thornburg's victory kept the title in his household for another year. His brother Alex, who is now competing at Loyola of

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St. John boys, Shadyside girls capture team titles

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BYESVILLE – Both St. John Central and Shadyside have rich traditions in the sport of cross country.

The two schools found themselves in the winner's circle once again here Saturday morning at the annual Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship.

For the Fighting Irish of Coach Jeremy Midei, the most recent victory marks the school's 10th conference title and now eighth in a row.

Shadyside, meanwhile, hasn't made room in its gymnasium for a distance running banner since 1999 when the Tigers' boys and girls swept the

crowns. The Lady Tigers ended the drought at Meadowbrook High School with a decisive victory in the small-school race.

ST. JOHN came into the meet thinking it could contend with St. Clairsville for the overall title. However, when the dust settled, Midei was left wondering if his team had done enough to hold off an impressive effort from Barnesville.

However, once the scores had been tabulated, the Irish finished with 111 points, which was five fewer than the Shamrocks.

"It was a bittersweet race for us," Midei said. "We knew coming in that St. Clairsville and Barnesville had very good

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ST. JOHN
Central's Ramon Nieves was the Irish's top runner Saturday at the OVAC Cross Country Championship. He finished fifth overall and second in the small-school division.

Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



● Small

Continued from Page C1

teams, so it was going to be an up-hill battle. I wish we had competed better than we did (for the overall title)."

Through the first three runners on the respective teams, the Shamrocks held a lead over the Irish. However, St. John's fourth and fifth runners made up the deficit.

"Barnesville ran a great race...probably the best race they've ran all season," Midei said. "I think both teams deserved to win. I am certainly stoked we were able to pull it out. No offense to Barnesville, but we didn't expect it to be as close as it was. That's just a testament to how well they ran."

The Irish were led by their veteran, Ramon Nieves and Matt Riffle. Both were members of the Irish state championship team in 2008. Nieves finished fifth overall in 16:36. Riffle, meanwhile, was sixth in 16:45.

Junior Matt Thomas was the third Irish runner to cross the line. He did so in 22nd place in a time of 17:39.

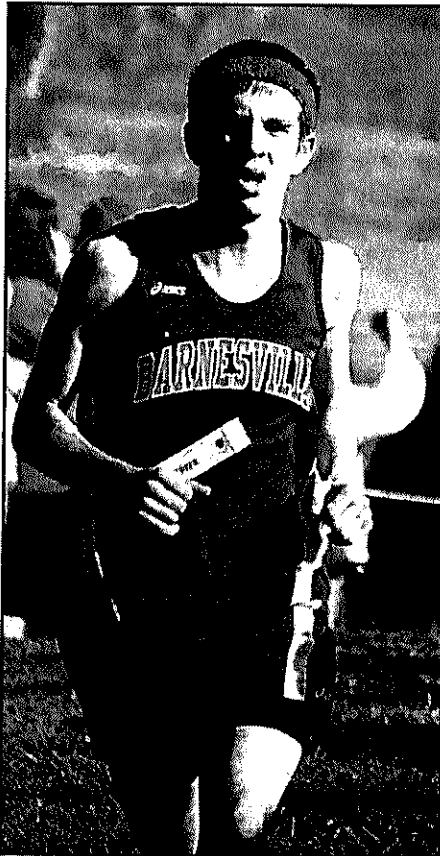
Sophomore Corey Leasure was 28th overall and fourth for St. John, while senior Cory Foster rounded out the scorers for St. John with a 52nd place finish overall.

"We certainly didn't have our best race," Midei said. "We wanted to go out and do what we do and we weren't able to do that today. I wish I knew what it was. It wasn't just one guy, so it's obviously something we did cumulatively as a team that didn't work."

The aforementioned Shamrocks turned in a brilliant performance. Their dynamic senior duo of Wesley Lewis and Brennan Delaney paved the way.

Lewis was second overall and first in the small-school division in 16:23, which is a personal best. Delaney, meanwhile, finished a second and place behind his teammate.

Sophomore Brandon Stephens turned in a sharp run as well. He fin-



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BARNESVILLE'S Wesley Lewis finished second overall and helped the Shamrocks to a third-place overall finish and second place in their class.

ished 10th overall in 17:00.

THE SHADYSIDE Lady Tigers came into the wide-open small-school race as one of the teams to watch.

Coach Laura Gouldsberry's squad didn't disappoint, finishing with 214 points, which was fifth overall.

"I really think our girls ran the best they could today," Gouldsberry said. "We had some cramps during the race, but they pulled through in the end and we're coming home with the title."

The title is the school's first under anyone other than Donna Joseph's watch.

"The girls really wanted today," Gouldsberry said. "We're a fairly young team, but I think we're more known because we're out there racing and scoring points. This is big for us going into the postseason and hope-



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Tara Tollett heads toward the finish line. She was the top Lady Tigers' runner during the OVAC meet, which fueled Shadyside to the Class 1-A/2-A team title.

fully we can build on it."

Leading the charge for the Lady Tigers was sophomore Tara Tollett who was 25th overall in 21:00. Junior Brooke Meintel was 29th overall and second for the Lady Tigers.

Shadyside's scoring was rounded out by sophomore Hayley Holenka (51st), junior Jillian Laslo (63rd) and senior Karlie Amato (78th).

Barnesville's Lina Partridge was 21st overall and third in the small-school division. St. John's junior Lindy Stauffer was 24th overall and fourth in 1-A/2-A.

River, which finished second in the team race, was led by Laken Ramsay who was ninth in the small school division.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

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Chicago, claimed the individual title a year ago.

"I was thinking about following my brother the entire race," Andy said. "It didn't really add any pressure, but it did give me some more incentive to run and push harder. The conditions and course were really good today, and I was just trying to run my race."

A few places behind Thornburg was senior Nick Pokas, who finished in ninth place with a time of 16:55. Pokas ran sub 17 despite battling a bloody nose as he finished the race.

Sophomore Drake Walker continued his strong campaign. He finished in 14th place in a time of 17:11. Cole Antolak and Joe Davies rounded out the scoring for the Red Devils, finishing 16th and 17th, respectively in 17:19 and 17:22.

Brett Frakowski (29th) and Jacob Zink (30th) cracked the top 10 of 3-A.

"We've got some races still to go this season," Cirola said referring to the Ohio postseason, which begins in two weeks. "We've still got a lot of work to do, but I like how



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

A PACK of runners, including Buckeye Local's Leah Figurski (left), Shadyside's Brooke Meintel (center) and St. Clairsville's Melanie Hannan race in Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC CC Championship. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

want to be good, we've got to run against the best competition we can find."

Bellaire's Ryan James put together a solid showing. He was 25th overall and eighth in Class 3-A with a time of 17:46.

THE ST. CLAIRSVILLE girls ran

team had to count places a little more this season, but a strong top three was plenty enough to carry the Lady Red Devils to their fourth straight Class 3-A title.

St. C. finished with 106 points, which was second overall to 4-A champion and OVAC newcomer

nearest competitor.

"The race went pretty much how I expected," Perzanowski said. "It's nice to keep the title after my sister (Kelly) won it last year. I've been able to keep my focus this season and it's paid off for me. I am excited, but nervous at the same time for the postseason. I've got to keep everything going."

The Lady Red Devils received a strong run from sophomore Amy Castle who finished third overall in a time of 19:21. Junior Melanie Hannan, who's had a strong season, was 17th overall in 20:22.

Sophomore Juliana Madzia finished 32nd overall and rounding out the scoring for St. C. was junior Brooke Bosworth in 67th place.

"Our girls really believe in themselves," Mooney said. "We came in knowing we stood a good chance, but we knew we had to run well and then keep our fingers crossed that we stay healthy and keep it going."

Martins Ferry had a strong meet with a fairly young squad. The Lady Riders finished second in

St. C.

Continued from Page C1

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"We've got some races still to go this season," Cirola said referring to the Ohio postseason, which begins in two weeks. "We've still got a lot of work to do, but I like how we're progressing. We've been to Lancaster, Boardman and Pickerington because we know if we



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A PACK of runners, including Buckeye Local's Leah Figurski (left), Shadyside's Brooke Meintel (center) and St. Clairsville's Melanie Hannan race in Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC CC Championship. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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THE CLAIRSVILLE girls ran roughshod through the OVAC and basically every field it entered a year ago.

Coach Heidi Mooney's

team had to count places a little more this season, but a strong top three was plenty enough to carry the Lady Red Devils to their fourth straight Class 3-A title.

St. C. finished with 106 points, which was second overall to 4-A champion and OVAC newcomer University, which finished with 43 points.

"We've got great team chemistry and that makes a big difference," Mooney said. "Each of these girls wants the others to do well and they deserve what they've earned. The girls have a great mindset, their focused and ultimately root for each other."

Much like the St. C. boys, the Lady Red Devils were led by the individual champion. Like the boys further, the title stayed in the same household.

Senior Jamie Perzanowski remained undefeated this season, running away from the 196 other female competitors for the individual title in a time of 18:08. Her mark was 1:13 faster than her

nearest competitor.

"The race went pretty much how I expected," Perzanowski said. "It's nice to keep the title after my sister (Kelly) won it last year. I've been able to keep my focus this season and it's paid off for me. I am excited, but nervous at the same time for the postseason. I've got to keep everything going."

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Martins Ferry had a strong meet with a fairly young squad. The Lady Riders finished second in 3-A and fourth overall with 187 points.

Coach Chrissy Lewis' team had two runners earn all-OVAC. Sophomore Sunshine Wrenn continued her fine season with a eighth place run.

She toured the course in 20:00. Senior Kylie Stewart - who was crowned Homecoming Queen Friday evening - finished 19th in 20:24.

Harrison Central finished third in 3-A and sixth overall with 221 points. The Lady Huskies had a pair of runners earn all-conference. Junior Lauren Yoho was ninth in 20:02, while sophomore Mindy Snyder finished 16th in 20:20.

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OVAC CC CROSS COUNTRY

OVAC CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP (At Meadowbrook High School)

BOYS

TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville, 57; St. John, 111; Barnesville, 116; Parkersburg South, 117; Wheeling Park, 139; University, 202; Caldwell, 255; Magnolia, 316; Harrison Central, 332; John Marshall, 349; Cameron, 370; East Liverpool, 374; Bellaire, 395; Martins Ferry, 415; Linsly, 419; Union Local, 420; Buckeye Local, 423; Indian Creek, 452; Meadowbrook, 462; Cambridge, 463; Oak Glen, 495; Zanesville, 540; River, 566; Shadyside, 581; Weir, 645; Bishop Donahue, 678.

Overall Top 25
1. Andy Thornburg (St. C.), 16:13; 2. Wesley Lewis (Barnes), 16:23; 3. Brennan Delaney (Barnes), 16:24; 4. Jordan Brown-Stobbe (U), 16:25; 5. Ramon Nieves (SJC), 16:36; 6. Matt Riffle (SJC), 16:45; 7. Alec Hinerman (Mag), 16:52; 8. Bill Feeney (Mag), 16:53; 9. Nick Pokas (St. C.), 16:55; 10. Brandon Stephens (Barnes), 17:00; 11. Brandon Sailing (Cald), 17:05; 12. Dustin Carpenter (PS), 17:05; 13. Dallas Guy (Meadow), 17:10; 14. Drake Walker (St. C.), 17:11; 15. Austin Chambers (Cam), 17:12; 16. Cole Antolak (St. C.), 17:19; 17. Joe Davies (St. C.), 17:22; 18. Cody Patterson (WP), 17:23; 19. Garret Lynch (PS), 17:27; 20. Nathaniel Boyer (EL), 17:33; 21. Brandon Robinson (WP), 17:37; 22. Matt Thomas (SJC), 17:39; 23. Ronnie Barker (PS), 17:39; 24. Jonathan Niswonger (Cald), 17:39; 25. Ryan James (Bell), 17:46.

Class 4-A
TEAM SCORES: Parkersburg South, 117; Wheeling Park, 139; University, 202; John Marshall, 349; East Liverpool, 374; Buckeye Local, 423; Indian Creek, 452; Meadowbrook, 462; Cambridge, 463; Zanesville, 540.

Individual Top 10
1. Stobbe (U), 16:25; 2. Carpenter (PS), 17:05; 3. Guy (Meadow), 17:10; 4. Patterson (WP), 17:23; 5. Lynch (PS), 17:27; 6. Boyer (EL), 17:33; 7. Robinson (WP), 17:37; 8. Barker (PS), 17:39; 9. Long (WP), 17:47; 10. Nowak (U), 17:48.

Class 3-A
TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville, 57; Magnolia, 316; Harrison Central, 332; Bellaire, 395; Martins Ferry, 415; Union Local, 420; Oak Glen, 495; Weir, 645.

Individual Top 10
1. Thornburg (St. C.), 16:13; 2. Hinerman (Mag), 16:52; 3. Feeney (Mag), 16:53; 4. Pokas (St. C.), 16:55; 5. Walker (St. C.), 17:11; 6. Antolak (St. C.), 17:19; 7. Davies (St. C.), 17:22; 8. James (Bell), 17:46; 9. Frakowski (St. C.), 17:49; 10. Zink (St. C.), 17:51.

Class 1-A/2-A
TEAM SCORES: St. John, 111; Barnesville, 116; Caldwell, 255; Cameron, 370; Linsly, 419; River, 566; Shadyside, 581; Bishop Donahue, 678.

Individual Top 10
1. Lewis (Barnes), 16:23; 2. Delaney (Barnes), 16:24; 3. Nieves (SJC), 16:36; 4. Riffle (SJC), 16:45; 5. Stephens (Barnes), 17:00; 6. Sailing (Cald), 17:05; 7. Chambers (Cam), 17:12; 8. Thomas (SJC), 17:39; 9. Niswonger (Cald), 17:45; 10. Leasure (SJC), 17:48.

GIRLS
Overall
TEAM SCORES: University, 43; St. Clairsville, 106; Wheeling Park, 132; Martins Ferry, 187; Shadyside, 214; Harrison Central, 221; John Marshall, 242; Parkersburg South, 249; Oak Glen, 272; Cambridge, 284; River, 289; Union Local, 304; Weir, 306; Fort Frye, 324; Meadowbrook, 338; Barnesville, 357; Buckeye Local, 372; Wheeling Central, 395; St. John, 401; Bishop Donahue, 489.

Overall Top 25
1. Jamie Perzanowski (St. C.), 18:08; 2. Amelia Paladino (U), 19:21; 3. Amy Castle (St. C.), 19:31; 4. Emily Lynch (U), 19:45; 5. Katelyn Wheeler (U), 19:48; 6. Sarah Kaufman (Zanes), 19:49; 7. Elena Romanek (WP), 19:51; 8. Sunshine Wrenn (MF), 20:00; 9. Lauren Yoho (HC), 20:02; 10. April Kirk (PS), 20:02; 11. Jenna Furr (Cald), 20:03; 12. Sarah Biehl (FF), 20:11; 14. Alexis Virtue (Weir), 20:11; 15. Kristen Mastrantoni (Weir), 20:12; 16. Mindy Snyder (HC), 20:20; 17. Melanie Hannan (St. C.), 20:22; 18. Lauren Tarovisky (WP), 20:23; 19. Kylie Stewart (MF), 20:24; 20. Madison Morris (WP), 20:30; 21. Lina Partridge (Barnes), 20:45; 22. Abbie Orr (Camb), 20:46; 23. Alex Phares (U), 20:54; 24. Lindy Stauffer (SJC), 20:56; 25. Tara Tollett (Shady), 21:00.

Class 4-A
TEAM SCORES: University, 43; Wheeling Park, 132; John Marshall, 242; Parkersburg South, 249; Cambridge, 284; Meadowbrook, 338; Buckeye Local, 372.

Individual Top 10
1. Paladino (U), 19:21; 2. Lynch (U), 19:45; 3. Wheeler (U), 19:48; 4. Kaufman (Z), 19:49; 5. Romanek (WP), 19:51; 6. Kirk (PS), 20:02; 7. Martineili (U), 20:11; 8. Tarovisky (WP), 20:23; 9. Morris (WP), 20:30; Orr (Camb), 20:46.

Class 3-A
TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville, 106; Martins Ferry, 187; Harrison Central, 221; Oak Glen, 272; Union Local, 304; Weir, 306.

Individual Top 10
1. Perzanowski (St. C.), 18:08; 2. Castle (St. C.), 19:31; 3. Wrenn (MF), 20:00; 4. Yoho (HC), 20:02; 5. Virtue (Weir), 20:11; 6. Mastrantoni (Weir), 20:12; 7. Snyder (HC), 20:20; 8. Hannan (St. C.), 20:22; 9. Stewart (MF), 20:24; 10. Chambers (OG), 21:14.

Class 1-A/2-A
TEAM SCORES: Shadyside, 214; River, 289; Fort Frye, 324; Barnesville, 357; Wheeling Central, 395; St. John, 401; Bishop Donahue, 489.

Individual Top 10
1. Furr (Cald), 20:03; 2. Biehl (FF), 20:09; 3. Partridge (Barnes), 20:45; 4. Stauffer (SJC), 20:56; 5. Tollett (Shady), 21:00; 6. Meintel (Shady), 21:08; 7. John (WC), 21:13; 8. Smith (Cam), 21:31; 10. Ramsey (Riv), 21:39.

OVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS (At Meadowbrook High School)

BOYS

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1. Andy Thornburg (St. C.), 16:13; 2. Wesley Lewis (Barnes), 16:23; 3. Brennan Delaney (Barnes), 16:24; 4. Jordan Brown-Stobbe (U), 16:25; 5. Ramon Nieves (SJC), 16:36; 6. Matt Riffle (SJC), 16:45; 7. Alec Hinerman (Mag), 16:52; 8. Bill Feeney (Mag), 16:53; 9. Nick Pokas (St. C.), 16:55; 10. Brandon Stephens (Barnes), 17:00; 11. Brandon Sailing (Cald), 17:05; 12. Dustin Carpenter (PS), 17:05; 13. Dallas Guy (Meadow), 17:10; 14. Drake Walker (St. C.), 17:11; 15. Austin Chambers (Cam), 17:12; 16. Cole Antolak (St. C.), 17:19; 17. Joe Davies (St. C.), 17:22; 18. Cody Patterson (WP), 17:23; 19. Garret Lynch (PS), 17:27; 20. Nathaniel Boyer (EL), 17:33; 21. Brandon Robinson (WP), 17:37; 22. Matt Thomas (SJC), 17:39; 23. Ronnie Barker (PS), 17:39; 24. Jonathan Niswonger (Cald), 17:39; 25. Ryan James (Bell), 17:46.

Class 4-A
TEAM SCORES: Parkersburg South, 117; Wheeling Park, 139; University, 202; John Marshall, 349; East Liverpool, 374; Buckeye Local, 423; Indian Creek, 452; Meadowbrook, 462; Cambridge, 463; Zanesville, 540.

Individual Top 10
1. Stobbe (U), 16:25; 2. Carpenter (PS), 17:05; 3. Guy (Meadow), 17:10; 4. Patterson (WP), 17:23; 5. Lynch (PS), 17:27; 6. Boyer (EL), 17:33; 7. Robinson (WP), 17:37; 8. Barker (PS), 17:39; 9. Long (WP), 17:47; 10. Nowak (U), 17:48.

Class 3-A
TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville, 57; Magnolia, 316; Harrison Central, 332; Bellaire, 395; Martins Ferry, 415; Union Local, 420; Oak Glen, 495; Weir, 645.

Individual Top 10
1. Thornburg (St. C.), 16:13; 2. Hinerman (Mag), 16:52; 3. Feeney (Mag), 16:53; 4. Pokas (St. C.), 16:55; 5. Walker (St. C.), 17:11; 6. Antolak (St. C.), 17:19; 7. Davies (St. C.), 17:22; 8. James (Bell), 17:46; 9. Frakowski (St. C.), 17:49; 10. Zink (St. C.), 17:51.

Class 1-A/2-A
TEAM SCORES: St. John, 111; Barnesville, 116; Caldwell, 255; Cameron, 370; Linsly, 419; River, 566; Shadyside, 581; Bishop Donahue, 678.

Individual Top 10
1. Lewis (Barnes), 16:23; 2. Delaney (Barnes), 16:24; 3. Nieves (SJC), 16:36; 4. Riffle (SJC), 16:45; 5. Stephens (Barnes), 17:00; 6. Sailing (Cald), 17:05; 7. Chambers (Cam), 17:12; 8. Thomas (SJC), 17:39; 9. Niswonger (Cald), 17:45; 10. Leasure (SJC), 17:48.

GIRLS
Overall
TEAM SCORES: University, 43; St. Clairsville, 106; Wheeling Park, 132; Martins Ferry, 187; Shadyside, 214; Harrison Central, 221; John Marshall, 242; Parkersburg South, 249; Oak Glen, 272; Cambridge, 284; River, 289; Union Local, 304; Weir, 306; Fort Frye, 324; Meadowbrook, 338; Barnesville, 357; Buckeye Local, 372; Wheeling Central, 395; St. John, 401; Bishop Donahue, 489.

Overall Top 25
1. Jamie Perzanowski (St. C.), 18:08; 2. Amelia Paladino (U), 19:21; 3. Amy Castle (St. C.), 19:31; 4. Emily Lynch (U), 19:45; 5. Katelyn Wheeler (U), 19:48; 6. Sarah Kaufman (Zanes), 19:49; 7. Elena Romanek (WP), 19:51; 8. Sunshine Wrenn (MF), 20:00; 9. Lauren Yoho (HC), 20:02; 10. April Kirk (PS), 20:02; 11. Jenna Furr (Cald), 20:03; 12. Sarah Biehl (FF), 20:11; 14. Alexis Virtue (Weir), 20:11; 15. Kristen Mastrantoni (Weir), 20:12; 16. Mindy Snyder (HC), 20:20; 17. Melanie Hannan (St. C.), 20:22; 18. Lauren Tarovisky (WP), 20:23; 19. Kylie Stewart (MF), 20:24; 20. Madison Morris (WP), 20:30; 21. Lina Partridge (Barnes), 20:45; 22. Abbie Orr (Camb), 20:46; 23. Alex Phares (U), 20:54; 24. Lindy Stauffer (SJC), 20:56; 25. Tara Tollett (Shady), 21:00.

Class 4-A
TEAM SCORES: University, 43; Wheeling Park, 132; John Marshall, 242; Parkersburg South, 249; Cambridge, 284; Meadowbrook, 338; Buckeye Local, 372.

Individual Top 10
1. Paladino (U), 19:21; 2. Lynch (U), 19:45; 3. Wheeler (U), 19:48; 4. Kaufman (Z), 19:49; 5. Romanek (WP), 19:51; 6. Kirk (PS), 20:02; 7. Martineili (U), 20:11; 8. Tarovisky (WP), 20:23; 9. Morris (WP), 20:30; Orr (Camb), 20:46.

Class 3-A
TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville, 106; Martins Ferry, 187; Harrison Central, 221; Oak Glen, 272; Union Local, 304; Weir, 306.

Individual Top 10
1. Perzanowski (St. C.), 18:08; 2. Castle (St. C.), 19:31; 3. Wrenn (MF), 20:00; 4. Yoho (HC), 20:02; 5. Virtue (Weir), 20:11; 6. Mastrantoni (Weir), 20:12; 7. Snyder (HC), 20:20; 8. Hannan (St. C.), 20:22; 9. Stewart (MF), 20:24; 10. Chambers (OG), 21:14.

Class 1-A/2-A
TEAM SCORES: Shadyside, 214; River, 289; Fort Frye, 324; Barnesville, 357; Wheeling Central, 395; St. John, 401; Bishop Donahue, 489.

Individual Top 10
1. Furr (Cald), 20:03; 2. Biehl (FF), 20:09; 3. Partridge (Barnes), 20:45; 4. Stauffer (SJC), 20:56; 5. Tollett (Shady), 21:00; 6. Meintel (Shady), 21:08; 7. John (WC), 21:13; 8. Smith (Cam), 21:31; 10. Ramsey (Riv), 21:39.

SPORTS



BARNESVILLE'S duo of Brennan Delaney (left) and Wesley Lewis are two of the area runners to watch in Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship. The meet will unfold at 10 a.m. at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville.

T-L File Photos/SETH STASKEY

Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship

Runners to your mark

• Conference champions to be crowned at Meadowbrook Saturday

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Meadowbrook High School course is mowed and lined.

It's the second weekend in October, which can mean only one thing.

The annual Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship will be held Saturday morning in Byesville.

Action gets under way at 10 a.m. with the boys' varsity race. The girls' varsity race is scheduled to go off at 10:45 a.m. Junior High racers will take to the course afterward.

No fewer than 30 schools will converge on Guemsey County to race for the conference title.

The top 10 finishers in each class will receive an award, while the top 20 overall finishers — regardless of class — will be deemed all-OVAC.

Here's a look at the individual classes:

IN 1-A/2-A. St. John Central is once again the favorite in the boys race. The Irish are somewhat of an unknown to many locals since their schedule takes them away from the immediate area several times during the season.

The Irish have won seven consecutive OVAC titles and have won six overall titles in that time frame for head coach Jeremy Midei.

Midei firmly believes that his club,

which lacks the star power of Irish teams in the past, can make a challenge for the overall crown along with the divisional acclaim.

"We're pretty excited with how well this young team has progressed," Midei said. "I think St. Clairsville is the clear favorite. It would take a pretty big effort to knock them off."

The Irish are led by Ramon Nieves and Matt Riffle. Both will be needed to be right in the thick of the lead pack.

"The key for us is to do our thing," Midei said. "If you start running someone else's race now, you're going to get in trouble quickly. We certainly want to win, but at the end of the day, we want to have a race the guys can be proud of."

Barnesville is another team to keep an eye on in the Class 1-A/2-A boys race. The Shamrocks have been solid this season with a pair of talented runners at the forefront. Seniors Brennan Delaney and Wesley Lewis are a strong one-two punch.

On the girls' side of the small-school classification, Wheeling Central is the two-time defending champion. The Lady Maroon Knights expect a serious challenge from a youthful Shadyside squad.

The Lady Tigers have been running



ST. CLAIRSVILLE senior Jamie Perzanowski is one of the favorites in the OVAC girls' competition Saturday.

See, CC, Page B2

Continued from Page B1

well this season with sophomore Tara Tollett and junior Brooke Meintel leading the way.

"Our girls have been a little unpredictable lately due to many distractions," said Shadyside head coach Laura Gouldsberry. "However, our training has looked fantastic these past few weeks and I am hoping we can be rewarded for our hard work and dedication on Saturday."

Along with the aforementioned racers, Jillian Laslo, Hayley Holenka and Karlie Amato are also being counted on heavily this weekend.

"A strong performance by our top five is essential," Gouldsberry said. "They're all healthy and ready to attack the course."

All told, Shadyside owns three OVAC pennants. Its last title came in 1999.

IN CLASS 3-A, St. Clairsville has proven to be the division kingpin the last several years and the Red Devils' boys and girls appear to once again be the favorites.

The St. Clairsville boys

of Coach Tony Ciroti have won seven titles all told, including the last five. The Red Devils appear to have the pieces to make it six in a row Saturday.

"We've been running well the last couple of races," Ciroti said. "We have been solid in some aspects and shaky in others. We just need to come together this weekend and have a solid performance."

Leading the way for the Red Devils is junior Andy Thornburg, who figures to challenge for the individual title. Thornburg prevailed against a Division I-dominated field last week at Pickerington.

Senior Nick Pokas, who's the grandson of Cal, for whom this race is named, is a solid number two runner. After that point, it's wide open for St. C. with the likes of Cole Antolak, Drake Walker, Joe Davies, Jacob Zink and Brett Frakowski.

The Lady Red Devils own three conference titles in history and they've all been the last three years. St. C. won the overall title last

year with a dominating performance.

Four of those runners from that squad are back this year and playing vital roles. Leading the way is senior standout Kelly Perzanowski, who's undefeated this year. She's prevailed against stiff competition at Boardman and Pickerington to name a few.

Sophomore Amy Castle, junior Melanie Hannan and sophomore Juliana Madzia are also playing key roles in the Lady Red Devils' top five. Shae Cenkus serves as the fifth runner.

"We've had some solid practices of late and I am feeling good about the outcome," said St. C. girls' head coach Heidi Mooney. "We've had some good performances of late as a team and I am expecting all of our girls to step it up this week."

The Martins Ferry girls could issue a challenge to St. C.'s reign. The Lady Riders have had a strong season under head coach Chrissy Lewis.

The Lady Riders are a youthful squad. Sunshine Wrenn, Kylie Stewart, Lindsay Cunningham, Brenna Becca and Holly Ackerman make up the top five.

"We're very excited about the OVAC this year to see where we stand against some great teams," Lewis said. "We've had some strong and weak performances this year, but we know that if we can pull it all together for this meet,

we can place well."

Harrison Central's girls could also make some noise. The Lady Huskies are led by Mindy Snyder, who was second in the Buckeye 8. Lauren Yoho and Jessica Custer are solid second and third runners.

IN 4-A, the road to the title has ran through Wheeling Park the last several years. Coach Michael Jebbia's girls have claimed nine titles in school history and the last two.

The Patriot boys, meanwhile, own 12 conference titles, which is second all-time to only Shadyside's 12. Included in the Pats' total is four in a row.

Both the Park boys and girls figure to be right in the mix once again this weekend, but Jebbia thinks the conference's addition of University will add some intrigue this weekend.

"I think it may come down to us and University," Jebbia said. "Our boys have beaten them once and they've beaten us twice, so we're going to have race very well to win."

The Patriots are led by junior Brandon Robinson. After that, the Patriots are basically a logjam. Their second through seventh runners vary from race to race since they're usually packed together.

On the girls' side, Jebbia thinks University is the favorite.

"University is ranked number two in West Virginia," Jebbia pointed out. "We're ranked eighth. Our girls have had a tremendous season and have worked very hard."

The Lady Patriots are led by sophomore Elena Romanek, juniors Lauren Tarovisky and Madison Morris.

Buckeye Local's girls, who own three conference titles, are led by Leah Figurski.

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Bridgeport vs. River

Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championships

Tigers, Irish Prevail

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BYESVILLE - Both St. John Central and Shadyside have rich traditions in the sport of cross country.

The two schools found themselves in the winner's circle once again Saturday morning at the annual Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championships.

For the Fighting Irish of Coach Jeremy Midei, the most recent victory marks the school's 10th conference title and eighth in a row.

Shadyside, meanwhile, hasn't made room in its gymnasium for a distance running banner since 1999 when the Tigers boys and girls swept the crowns. The Tigers girls ended the drought at Meadowbrook High School with a decisive victory in the small-school race.

St. John came into the meet thinking it could contend with St. Clairsville for the overall title. However, when the dust settled, Midei was left wondering if his team had done enough to hold off an impressive effort from Barnesville.

However, once the scores had been tabulated, the Irish finished with 111 points, which was five fewer than the Shamrocks.

"It was a bittersweet race for us," Midei said. "We knew coming in that St. Clairsville and Bar-

CLASS 2-A, 1-A

nesville had very good teams, so it was going to be an uphill battle. I wish we had competed better than we did (for the overall title)."

Through the first three runners on the respective teams, the Shamrocks held a lead over the Irish. However, St. John's fourth and fifth runners made up the deficit.

The Irish were led by their veteran, Ramon Nieves and Matt Riffle. Both were members of the Irish state championship team in 2008. Nieves finished fifth overall in 16:36. Riffle, meanwhile, was sixth in 16:45.

The aforementioned Shamrocks turned in a brilliant performance. Their dynamic senior duo of Wesley Lewis and Brennan Delaney paved the way.

Cameron's Austin Chambers was seventh in the small-school race. He ran 3.1 miles in 17:12.

Coach Laura Gouldsberry's Shadyside squad didn't disappoint, finishing with 214 points, which was fifth overall.

"I really think our girls ran the best they could," Gouldsberry said. "We had some cramps during the race, but they pulled through in the end and we're coming home with the title."

Leading the charge for the Tigers was sophomore Tara Tollett who was 25th overall in 21:00.

Barnesville's Lina Partridge was 21st overall and third in the small-school division.

Wheeling Central's Jesse John led the Knights. She was seventh in small-school. Cameron's Sarah Smith was eighth.

Red Devils Capture Boys', Girls' Titles

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BYESVILLE - Sometimes it's tough having a target on your back.

St. Clairsville came into Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championships with a bulls-eye planted firmly on its boys' and girls' teams.

The Red Devils were seemingly unphased and responded in resounding fashion.

Both teams cruised to yet another conference banner at Meadowbrook High School.

The Red Devils' boys of coach Tony Ciroti not only earned the Class 3-A pennant, but it also took home the overall banner, finishing with 57 points, which was 54 fewer than runnerup and small-school division champion St. John Central.

"We've got a couple of consistent, strong kids and some kids who flip-flop," Ciroti said. "We needed it all to come together for us to be successful, and I think we've meshed as a team. Regardless of people thinking we're the favorite or whatever, we've not done anything until we perform and earn it. It's never a given."

St. Clairsville placed all seven of its varsity runners inside the meet's Top 30 overall. Taking its depth a step further, the Red Devils had all seven of their runners inside the Class 3-A Top 10.

Leading the way once again was junior ace Andy Thornburg, who won the

CLASS 3-A

Results

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overall individual championship in a personal-best time of 16:13.

Thornburg's victory kept the title in his household for another year. His brother Alex, who is now competing at Loyola of Chicago, claimed the individual title a season ago.

A few places behind Thornburg was senior Nick Pokas, who finished in ninth place with a time of 16:55. Pokas ran sub 17 despite battling a bloody nose as he finished the race.

Sophomore Drake Walker continued his strong campaign. He finished in 14th place in a time of 17:11. Cole Antolak and Joe Davies rounded out the scoring for the Red Devils, finishing 16th and 17th, respectively in 17:19 and 17:22.

Brett Frakowski (29th) and Jacob Zink (30th) cracked the top 10 of 3-A.

Magnolia finished second in the 3-A boys' race with 316 points. The Blue Eagles were led by a pair of all-OVAC performers in Alec Hinerman and Bill Feeney. The pair basically crossed the line together in seventh and eighth place with times of 16:52 and 16:53.

Bellaire's Ryan James put together a solid showing. He was 25th overall and eighth in Class 3-A with a time of 17:46.

St. Clairsville's girls ran roughshod through the OVAC and basically every

field it entered a season ago.

Coach Heidi Mooney's team had to count places a little more this season, but a strong top three was plenty enough to carry the Red Devils to their fourth straight Class 3-A title.

St. C. finished with 106 points, which was second overall to 4-A champion and OVAC newcomer University, which finished with 43 points.

"We've got great team chemistry and that makes a big difference," Mooney said. "Each of these girls wants the others to do well and they deserve what they've earned. The girls have a great mindset, their focused and ultimately root for each other."

Senior Jamie Perzanowski remained undefeated this season, running away from the 196 other female competitors for the individual title in a time of 18:08. Her mark was 1:13 faster than her nearest competitor.

Martins Ferry had a strong meet with a fairly young squad. The Riders finished second in 3-A and fourth overall with 187 points.

Weir's duo of Alexis Virtue and Kristen Mastrantoni finished back-to-back at 13th and 14th place, respectively. Virtue ran a 20:11 and Mastrantoni was a second back.

University Girls, South Boys Win Crowns

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BYESVILLE - Could the balance of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference big schools be shifting?

Parkersburg South made a grand entrance last season and now University's Hawks made a statement performance Saturday in the annual running of the Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championships.

The Hawks ran roughshod through the field en route to both the overall and Class 4-A girls' titles.

They finished with 43 points with all seven of their runners inside the Top 30 of the meet.

"This is the conference we're going to be in and we had the opportunity to come and compete, so I jumped right at it," University coach and John Marshall graduate Dan Demchak said. "The West Virginia teams are in our region, so we know them and I thought we competed well. We've got some big ones left ahead of us, but we're pleased with how we did and we're hoping

CLASS 4-A

this starts our momentum."

The aforementioned Patriots of South claimed another OVAC banner. South claimed the boys' title with 117 points, 22 fewer than four-time defending champion Wheeling Park.

University's girls had three of the first five runners overall. Leading the way was freshman Amelia Paladino who finished second with 19:21. Frosh Emily Lynch was fourth in 19:45

and junior Katelyn Wheeler was fifth in 19:48.

Rounding out University's top five were junior Deborah Martinelli (13th) and junior Alexis Phares (23rd).

Wheeling Park's girls, who had won the last two conference titles, settled for the runner-up plaque with 132 points.

Leading Michael Jebbia's unit was sophomore Elena Romanek who ran a 19:51. Juniors Lauren Tarovisky and Madison Morris finished 18th and 20th overall

in 20:23 and 20:30, respectively.

South's boys flew under the radar somewhat until the scores were added. The Wood County Patriots were led by senior Dustin Carpenter who was 12th. Junior Garrett Lynch was 19th. Junior Ronnie Barker was 23rd and third for South. Tyler Bahr and Joe Anderson rounded out the scoring for the Wood Countians in 31st and 32nd, respectively.

Wheeling Park's boys were led by senior Cody Patterson who was 18th overall and fourth in 4-A in 17:23. Junior Brandon Robinson was 21st overall in 17:37.

Junior Tyler Long was 26th overall in 17:47. That was good enough for eighth in his class.

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