

Two area powerhouses are looming large on the state cross country scene. Boys teams from Detroit Catholic Central and Novi are both showing signs of being state meet contenders. Catholic Central won the prestigious West Bloomfield Invitational 66-135 over Saline, last year's state meet third-placer. Matt Daly took the individual race in 16:15.

Novi crushed White Lake Lakeland in a dual meet, 18-37. Senior Chris Toloff broke Lakeland's course record with an impressive 15:31. Two days later, the Novi team ran in the unscored Titan-University of Detroit Mercy Invitational at Cass Benton Park. Competing against collegians, Toloff again shattered a course record, running 15:27 on the hilly course.

The Titan Invitational also saw a notable performance from a star of the future. Kelly Sampson, an eighth-grader at Detroit's Bates Academy, placed second in 20:26, just five seconds behind Eastern Michigan's Marne Smiley, a former state track champion. Sampson is the granddaughter of Robert Sampson, who was the 1928 PSL champion in the high jump for Cass Tech.

Northville's boys squad continued to run strong, placing second at the Bath Invitational, with 77 points to Rockford's near-perfect 16. Dathan Ritzenhein of Rockford won the individual run in a record 14:44, as Northville's Brian Bilyk placed eighth in 17:07.

Oakland Christian's girls look like they will be a force in Division III. Over the weekend they won the Genessee Invitational, scoring 51 points to Whitmore Lake's 57.