

Clawing their way to the top

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In all reality, Novi Wildcat boys' cross country coach Bob Smith should be salivating.

Over what? Well, his squad.

The Wildcats are bringing 35 runners to the program in 2003, compared to the 25 that graced the roster last year. Coming back for the Wildcats are a slew of talented runners — including a harrier that could easily be considered one of the most premier runners in Michigan.

"The guys had a real nice summer," Smith said of his team's condition and preparation for the season. "I know they were all out there running and it's really exciting. I can't believe what a close field it is."

Statistically speaking, junior Mark Moore is the top-runner on the squad this year and his performance at the state meet last year marks him as one of the top runners in the state for 2003.

But, the other Wildcats aren't about to let him get away with being the default leader for the squad.

Juniors Amol Huprikar and Spencer Ornes will be nipping at his heels as they look to keep a pack time of under a minute for Smith and their fellow 'Cats to admire. Seniors Eric Tingwall and Scott Bergeson will be right up there as well.

This year, Novi has seen one of the most remarkable improvements over a summer by one of their runners in senior Eric Joseph.

"Last year, his PR (personal record) was a 16:21," Smith noted. "This year, he came out with a 16:07. He's really taken his game to the next level and he's eyeing a potential All-State status."

Joseph came out of the gates in full stride and doesn't look like he plans on slowing down any — which is just going to push his squad to better themselves even more.

"Most schools end up with one or two guys in the front," Smith said. "We're going to have four or five in the front."

The captains on the team this year are Moore, Joseph, Preketes, Tingwall and Bergeson. They will be leading

a squad of young runners as they get in the hunt for some major Kensington Valley Conference competition.

The seniors on the team include Bergeson, Chris Brandis, Brad Dobryden, Joseph, Preketes, Darin Styles and Tingwall while the juniors are Huprikar, Moore, Justin Namm, Ornes, Nate Quay and Brad Spisich. Sophomores include Peter Andrews, Dan Bruder, Steve Fannon, Artun Kircali, Brad Larson, Kevin Lee, Riley Lokar, Andrew Macek, Chris Machisak, Brenden Neville, Andrew Park and Matt Thomas. Incoming freshman are Mike Beard, Pat Carroll, Jordan Dagslet, Ricky Manza, Alex Prasad, Abhishek Rao, Akira Shinomiya, Ben Vallerand, Scott Wagner and Mike Wheat.

"We are a very young team," Smith noted. "Young, but we're very experienced. This is a seasoned team and I think we're going to have an impact."

The Wildcats are hoping to be in the hunt for the KVC title this year as they are nearly every season. Their biggest foes, without a doubt, come in the form of Mavericks.

"The consensus across the state is that the state meet is Milford's to lose," Smith said. "It's really true, because on paper they are awesome."

But that doesn't mean Novi can't beat them.

"We scare the bejabbers out of them," Smith said. "They have to be ready when we run against them. For a long time, we were looking over our shoulders at who is coming up behind us, but now they are looking over theirs. They are tough, but you never know who is going to win."

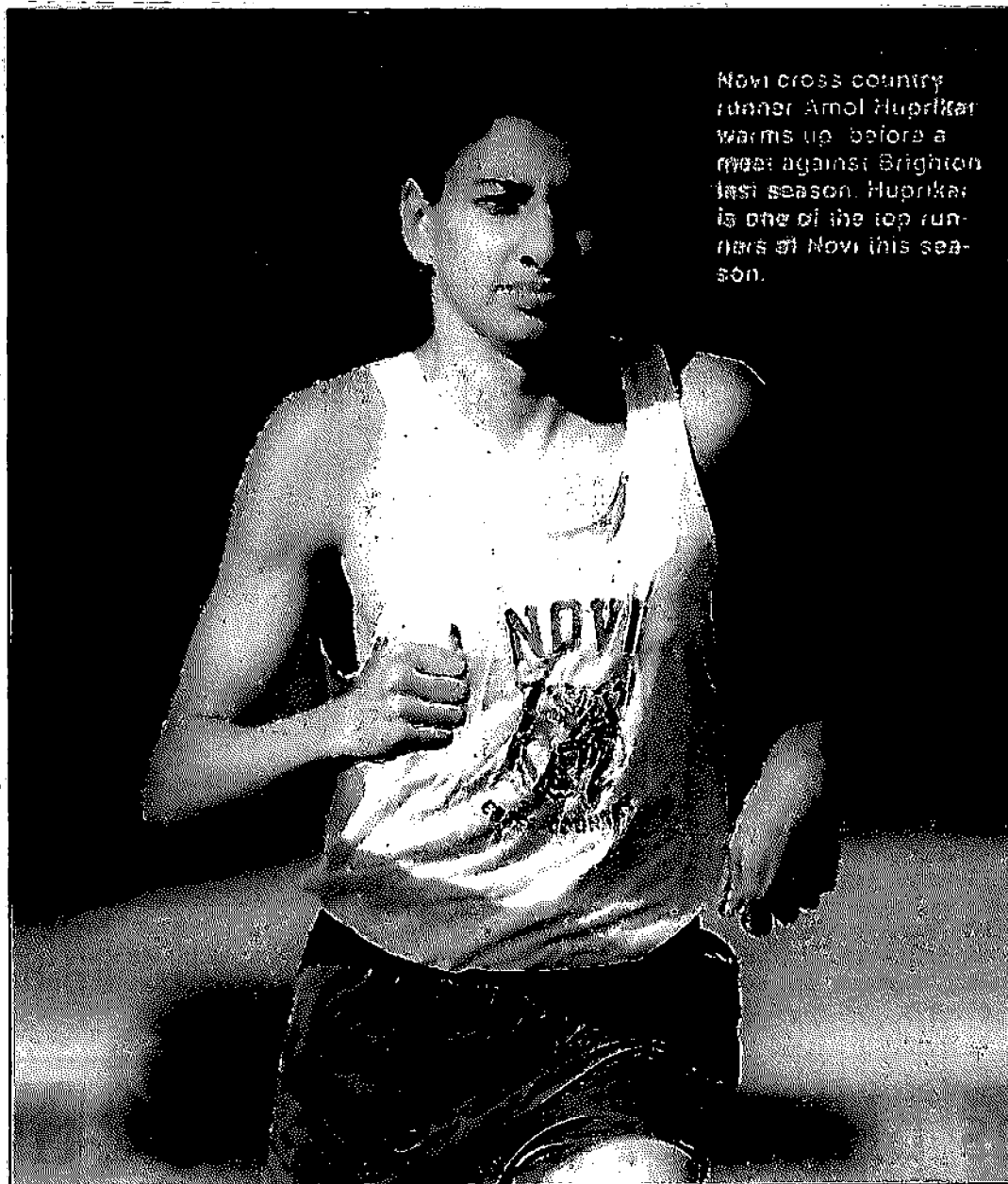
The Wildcats are going to be eyeing a conference title from the word go.

"If we stay healthy, we have the potential to be knocking on the door for first place," Smith said. "We have to stay healthy, and that's the key."

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NOVI NEWS—Thursday, August 21, 2003

WILDCATS



Novi cross country runner Amol Huprikar warms up before a meet against Brighton last season. Huprikar is one of the top runners at Novi this season.

GIRLS AND BOYS CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULES

Aug. 20	Northville	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	Howell	4:30 p.m.
SEPT. 9	LAKELAND	4:30 P.M.
Sept. 16	Brighton HS	4:30 p.m.
SEPT. 23	SOUTH LYON	4:30 P.M.
Sept. 30	Hartland	4:30 p.m.
OCT. 7	MILFORD	4:30 P.M.
Oct. 11	Gabriel Richard Invite	2:25 p.m.
Oct. 20	KVC Championships	4:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	MHSAA Regional	TBA
Nov. 1	MHSAA Finals @ M.I.S.	TBA

Note: Bold dates indicate home contests.

OAKLAND COUNTY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

By MARVIN GOODWIN
Of The Oakland Press

A strong season is expected since most of the top boys return from last year. Once again, Milford will be in the chase for state honors with Novi also figuring prominently and Bloomfield Hills Lahser also a contender.

KENSINGTON VALLEY

Defending champion: Milford
(Division 1 state runner-up, 7-0, dual meets)

This year's favorite: Milford. The Mavs return six of seven state finalists, including a senior contingent of Dan DeRusha, Seth Thibodeau, Kyle Harris and Chad Murray. Each has all-state efforts in either track or cross country. Kyle and Craig Montson, sub-10-minute two-milers, also figure prominently along with Dana Pitcock and Mike Andersen. Tim Wilkins and Joel VanDerworp give the Mavs a top 10 unmatched in the state. "Our depth has been unbelievable for the last two years," Mavs coach Brian Salyers said. "All those guys are mid-16s (16 minutes) or faster."

The darkhorse: Novi, which took third at state last year, will be nipping at the Mavs with Mark Moore, last year's top sophomore in the state, Eric Joseph, Spencer Omes and Amol Huprikar, each with state meet experience. "We have plenty of guys who are ready to step up this year," said Novi coach Robert Smith as Justin Namm, Eric Tingwall, Nick Prekates, Scott Berguson, Nate Quay and Dan Bruder ready themselves to make an impact.

The wildcard: With a senior-dominated lineup, South Lyon potentially has its strongest team in years. Jeff Tschirhart leads the returnees and he'll have plenty of help. "I have about 15 seniors on the squad," said Lions coach Scott Smith. South Lyon was a deceiving 2-5 in dual meets, but lost several close ones. "The KVC is a mighty brutal place to run," Smith said.

Who's left: Lakeland's young squad may need another year of seasoning but the Eagles are developing. Juniors Steve Leonard, Mitch Weiner and Jason Sosnowski all ran at the state meet last season along with sophomores Brad Craig and Dan Welch. Josh Par, Alex Rickens and Ryan Matson will also help. "We'll have to rely on the team concept," Lakeland coach Randy Wilkins said, whose teams have qualified for state 20 of the last 21 years. "I've got no real thoroughbred, but I've got some kids who are pretty good."

Predicted finish: 1. Milford; 2. Novi; 3. Lakeland; 4. South Lyon; 5. Brighton; 6. Pinckney; 7. Howell; 8. Hartland



DeRusha



Moore



Thibodeau

Preseason top 10 boys

1. Dan DeRusha, Milford — A leading runner for past three seasons
2. Mark Moore, Novi — Could have breakout season
3. Neal Naughton, Walled Lake Western — Injury abruptly ended last season
4. Seth Thibodeau, Milford — Deceivably competitive
5. Donnie Richmond, Oxford — Runs with fiery determination
6. Chris Hammer, Troy Athens — Has a nose for the finish line
7. John Black, Brother Rice — Diminutive but can run with the best
8. Mike Quick, Bloomfield Lahser — The youngest of the leading bunch
9. Brooks Cowan, Troy — Hard worker becoming more competitive
10. Kyle Harris, Milford — Has good finishing speed

Preseason Top 10 boys teams

1. Milford — Mavs just too deep to beat.
2. Novi — Wildcats rarely rebuild, they reload.
3. Lahser — Knights often finish strong at end.
4. Brother Rice — Warriors will continue last season's success.
5. Oxford — Could be Wildcats' best season in years.
6. Troy Athens — Red Hawks have components for a contender.
7. Lake Orion — Dragons' depth keeps them competitive.
8. Lakeland — KVC was toughen up the Eagles.
9. Troy — Colts are one runner from being real good.
10. South Lyon — Finally, could be the Lions' breakout season.

CROSS COUNTRY

SUNDAY AUGUST 24 2003



The Daily Oakland Press file photo/
BRANDY BAKER

Milford's Dan DeRusha is an all-state athlete and one of the big reasons why the Mavericks are the top boys cross country team in Oakland County.

Troy Athens; 3. Troy; 4. Rochester; 5. Clarkston; 6. Rochester Adams; 7. Birmingham Seaholm

OAA III

Defending champion: Royal Oak Kimball (6-1 dual meets)

This year's favorite: Rochester Hills Stoney Creek is certain to climb from its fifth-place finish of last year with Joe Corey leading the way.

The darkhorse: Waterford Kettering has the league's top runner, Justin Switzer, and if the rest of the Captains catch up, they'll be a factor.

The wildcard: Despite pay-for-play, Avondale will be competitive.

The rest: Kimball won't recover from graduation losses which also hit Farmington Harrison hard.

Runner to watch: Justin Switzer could have a breakout season.

Predicted finish: 1. Stoney Creek; 2. Waterford Kettering; 3. Avondale; 4. Royal Oak Kimball; 5. Farmington Harrison; 6. Royal Oak Dondoro; 7. Madison Heights Lamphers; 8. Clawson

OAA II

Defending champion: Bloomfield Hills Lahser (third at state)

This year's favorite: Lahser. The Knights return their top seven from last

season, including Mike Quick and Bruce Kaczmarek, a pair of All-State runners, along with Ben Raphaelson, Matt Rose, Andrew Kennedy, Eddie Cusack and Kirill Zikanov. "The challenge is to stay focused, keep working hard and to stay healthy," said Lahser coach Nick Stratton.

The darkhorse: Farmington. The Falcons return Dan Clay, Patrick Whinnery and Kyle Mason, three varsity runners from last season.

The wild card: Bloomfield Hills Andover.

The rest: Jon Hair and Jared Dean should help Waterford Mott, who'll hope to be competitive. West Bloomfield's numbers are low and North Farmington is hurt by graduation.

Runner to watch: Colin Orr of West Bloomfield.

Predicted finish: 1. Lahser; 2. Farmington; 3. Bloomfield Hills Andover; 4. Birmingham Groves; 5. Waterford Mott; 6. West Bloomfield; 7. North Farmington; 8. Berkley

FLINT METRO

Defending champion: Oxford

This year's favorite: Oxford. The Wildcats return nearly all their top runners, including state qualifiers Donnie Richmond and Kenny White. Tim Rowland, Nolan Walter and German Guerrero will also help along with Adam Richmond, Todd Davidson and Brad Haney. They're seeking an eighth straight league title and a state qualifying berth. "They're attitude is probably the best I've ever had," coach Ray Sutherland said, "(and) they're putting in a little extra effort."

The wildcard: Fenton will be on the Wildcats' heels.

The darkhorse: Holly. Brian Godar has piled up the mileage this summer while Jon Detrick and Kurt Marth should also help. All-state hurdler Rob Fiorillo will bring his competitiveness to the squad.

Who's left: Brad Lawrence will be among Ortonville Brandon's leaders.

Runner to watch: Donnie Richmond runs like the wind.

Predicted finish: 1. Oxford; 2. Fenton; 3. Holly; 4. Ortonville Brandon; 5. Lapeer West; 6. Lapeer East; 7. Linden.

THE REST

Birmingham Brother Rice will contend with Catholic Central and Detroit-Jesuit in the Catholic League with a roster including John Black (16th at state), Ryan Gregory, Jason Hannawa and Mike Bair.

Brendan Godvin leads Orchard Lake St. Mary's with help from Nick Battista and Spencer Jacobs.

Walled Lake Northern jumps head first into the Western Lakes with hopes of being competitive, with Bob Lawan, Brad Thomas, Mihkey Maves and Jason Banfield hoping to pace the Knights. Neal Naughton leads Walled Lake Western and Walled Lake Central, hit hard by graduation, will need time to rebuild.

OAA I

Defending champion: Rochester (6-0 dual meets)

This year's favorite: Lake Orion. The Dragons return most of their key runners, including Billy Peterson, who hopes to rebound from an illness-plagued sophomore season after a sparking freshman year, veteran Keth Magic, Shawn Wisner, Rob Shinouskis and Colin Motley, a solid top five for the Dragons. Jayson Lawton, Matt Martin, Chris Neary and Ryan Dahl should also help.

The darkhorse: Troy Athens returns Chris Hammer (17th at state), Alvin Moore, Scott Brunning, Tom Clippard and Nick Ferri among its leading runners with Phil Shaheen and Ben Bernal also figuring to help. "All have three or four years experience ... and they're extremely motivated," Athens coach Mike Stallsmith said.

Who's left: Although Rochester returns five of its top eight runners, they'll have to battle to be in the title chase. Jason Day, Matt Chumbley, Sam Watson, Brad Linden and Jordan Raetz will lead the Falcons. "You want to defend your title so you've got to work harder," Rochester coach Larry Adams said. "That should help them stay hungry this year. Troy returns a solid top three — Brooks Cowan, Mike Luginbill and Jordan Everson — but coach Kevin Spencer is looking for help. "I've got big question marks," he said. "(because) we had a lot of graduation (losses)." Rochester Adams relies on Steve Czarnicki with help from Brent Macumber, Mike Moreland and Tony Visintainer. Matt Paulian and Bill Kozlowski could also be factors. Clarkston's youth will be hard to overcome while Birmingham Seaholm will try to keep its head above water.

Runner to watch: Brooks Cowan of Troy in only his second year of cross country.

Predicted finish: 1. Lake Orion; 2.

HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

The Detroit News | Monday, August 25, 2003

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

Milford makes another push for a state title

By David Goricki
The Detroit News

MILFORD — Brian Salyers believes Milford is ready to earn the title of state champion after finishing runner-up in Division 1 the last two years.

"We're blessed with tremendous talent ... our most talented group ever," said Salyers, Milford's coach. "They have great work ethic and a great spirit. I enjoy this group a lot. They have some special opportunities before them and it's up to them to reach their goal (of winning state title)."

Milford has never won a state title in cross country, falling two points behind state champion Rockford last season. Milford, which was second to Detroit Catholic Central in 2001, was 17th nationally last year and 10th two years ago.

"We have six of our top seven runners returning and five have been all-state in cross country or track," Salyers said.

Seniors Dan DeRusha, Seth Thibodeau, Kyle Harris and Chad Murray anchor Milford's lineup, along with juniors Dana Pitcock and Mike Anderson.

DeRusha is the defending Oakland County champion (15 minutes, 22 seconds), but he placed just 76th at state (16:35.20). Thibodeau (25th, 15:59) and Harris (29th, 16:05) earned all-state status with Murray falling just short of a top-30 finish (32nd, 16:07).

2. Saline: The team returns six of its top seven runners from last year's team, which finished seventh in Division 1.

All-state seniors Dustin Voss and Neil Atzinger lead the returning group. Voss finished second at state and set the school's record with a time of 15:21. Atzinger placed ninth (15:47). Seniors Dan Pinter, Jim Hart and Brian Fisher and juniors Carter Bishop and Curtis Begley will also contribute.

3. Bloomfield Hills Lahser: It returns all seven of its top runners from last year's team, which placed third in Division 2, includ-

ing all-staters junior Bruce Kaczmarek (24th, 16:11) and sophomore Mike Quick (29th, 16:18).

4. Novi: All-state junior Mark Moore (8th, 15:47) leads a lineup that placed third in Division 1 last year. Senior Eric Joseph (16:21) and juniors Spencer Ornes (16:37) and Amol Huprikar (16:48) are also returning starters.

5. Detroit Catholic Central: The Shamrocks return three of their top seven runners from last year's team, which placed fourth in Division 1, including seniors David Lucas (38th, 16:12) and Dan Horgan (42nd, 16:14). Junior Max Working (16:30) is the other returning starter.

6. Ann Arbor Huron: Senior all-stater Frank Tinney (third, 15:24) is among three starters back from last year's team, which placed sixth in Division 1. Juniors Adam Daoud (16:52) and Austin Riker (16:56) are the other returning starters.

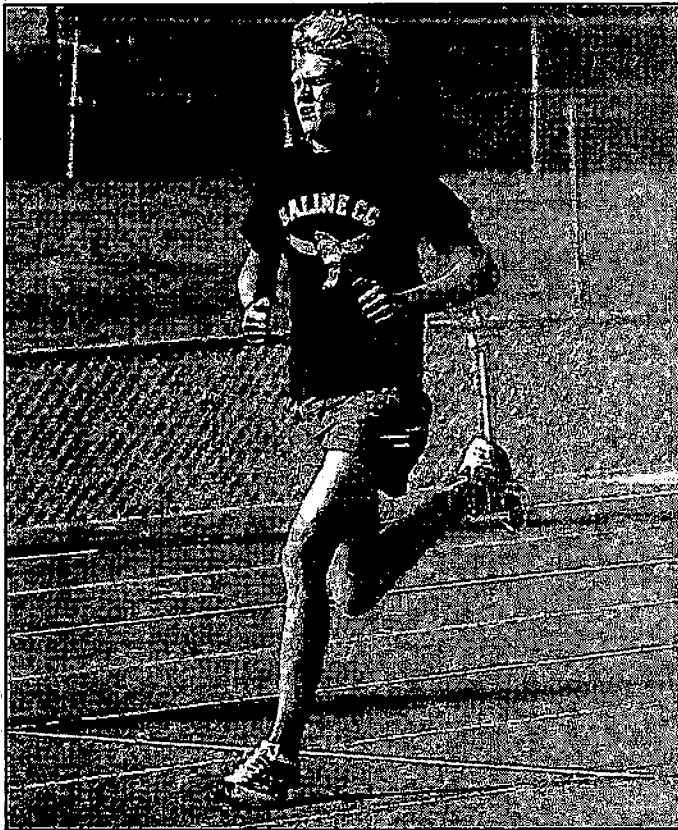
7. Troy Athens: It returns four of its top five runners from last year's team, including all-state senior Chris Hammer (17th, 15:54). Senior Scott Brunning (17:07) and juniors Tom Clippard (17:04) and Phil Shaheen (17:20) are the other returning starters.

8. Birmingham Brother Rice: All-state junior John Black (16th, 15:52) is among four returning starters from last year's team. Seniors Jason Hannawa (16:48), Ryan Gregory (16:53) and Mike Bair are the other returning starters.

9. Sterling Heights: The team lost Macomb County champion Jeff Dragglich to graduation, but returns four of its top seven runners from last year's team.

Junior Jimmy Partridge (16:22), sophomore Mike Craze (16:59) and seniors Dominic Fano (17:33) and Josh Bogus (17:58) are returning starters.

10. Utica Eisenhower: Senior Matt Crampton (16:26), sophomore Jon Davis (17:36) and junior Kyle Antosiek return for the defending Macomb County champion, which placed 10th in Division 1.



Ricardo Thomas / The Detroit News

Dustin Voss of Saline was second in the state meet last year at 15:21, but the time set his school's record.

Top runners

Runner	Class	School
1. Dustin Voss	Senior	Saline
He is the favorite to win the state title after his runner-up finish last season with a time of 15:21, setting the school's record.		
2. Frank Tinney	Senior	Ann Arbor Huron
He has a long stride at 6-foot-5. He should contend with Voss for a state title after placing third last year with time of 15:24. He is considering Michigan, Stanford and Ivy League schools.		
3. Neil Atzinger	Senior	Saline
He placed ninth with a time of 15:47 in Division 1 last year. He was also the state runner-up in the 1,600 meters last spring with a time of 4:18.		
4. Mark Moore	Junior	Novi
He placed eighth with a time of 15:47 in Division 1 last year.		
5. Dan DeRusha	Senior	Millford
He earned the title of Oakland County champion with a time of 15:22 last year, but struggled at state with a time of 16:35.		
6. John Black	Junior	Birmingham Brother Rice
He placed 16th at state with a time of 15:52 last year. "John's very talented and he's put in a lot of time this summer to improve," Coach Bob Stark said.		
7. Chris Hammer	Senior	Troy Athens
He finished 17th at state with a time of 15:54. "I expect Chris to be one of the top four or five runners in the state," Coach Mike Stallsmith said.		
8. Seth Thibodeau	Senior	Millford
He helped his team to a second place finish at state in Division 1 with a 25th place time of 15:59.		
9. James Erickson	Senior	Belleville
He is looking to improve on his 24th place finish (15:59) in last year's state meet.		
10. (tie) Kyle Harris	Senior	Millford
He earned all-state status in cross country (29th, 16:05) and track last season.		
10. (tie) Mike Quick	Sophomore	Bloomfield Hills Lahser
An all-stater (29th, 16:18), he was a regional champion (15:58) and also OAA Division 2 league champion.		

HEAT: Novi boys keep the pace in Northville scrimmage

Heat won't slow 'Cats

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Let's just start off by saying that it was plenty warm out for the Novi Wildcats August 20.

In the beating afternoon sun, the Wildcats boys' cross country team took to their first competition of the year by competing in a scrimmage against the Northville Mustangs at Cass Benton.

Boys' Cross Country

"It's really warm out," Novi coach Bob Smith said after the event. "We've been practicing in the morning, so to switch to the afternoon like this was a small challenge for the guys."

Challenging indeed. The Wildcats found themselves running through the hilly course that the beautiful Cass Benton provides with blue skies overhead and not a cloud to be seen. Not a bad day for a picnic, but a sizzling day for a 15-20 minute run.

"I think the guys did a good job today," Smith said. "I didn't know what to expect out of them with this being their first afternoon run, but they lived up to any expectations there were."

In fact, the trio that looks to be the leaders of the Novi cross country pack all came in with the exact same times, as though they all timed their runs perfectly. Eric Joseph, who is quickly becoming a premier runner with Novi, and juniors Mark Moore and Amol Huprikar all finished their runs in 17 minutes, 35 seconds — not bad for their first time out in the sun.

Justin Namm was next in line, finishing the run in 18:12, while Scott Bergeson, a senior, ran to an 18:56. Eric Tingwall had a nice showing, finishing up the course in 19:04, while Nate Quay recorded a 20:37 on the day.

Freshman Mike Wheat ran to a 21:15 finish, not too far ahead of teammate Darin Styles. Brad Spisich finished in 21:55, while Scott Wagner recorded a 22:02. Alex Prasad and Ricky Manza, both freshman, finished just two seconds apart with a 22:06 and a 22:08, respectively. Pat Carroll ran a 22:14 for the

Wildcats, while Brenden Neville notched a time of 22:52. Fellow Wildcat Steve Fannon took a 22:53, while Andrew Park ran a 22:54 and Matt Thomas ran a 23:19. Kip Miller took home a time of 23:49 in his first race in high school, while Chris Brandis competed his run in 24:22. Turning in a time of 24:29 was Artun Kircali, while fellow Wildcat Kevin Lee ran a 24:44 and Mike Beard ran a 26:45.

Andrew Macek recorded a 27:05 on the day, Jorgen Dagslet ran a 28:34, Brad Bobryden notched a 30:06, Peter Andrews ran a 31:10, Brad Larson recorded a 31:15 and Akira Shinomiya finished in 31:20 to round out the Wildcat times. Abhishek Rao, Spencer Ornes, Nick Preketes, Dan Bruder, Chris Machisak, Ben Vallerand and Riley Lokat were not able to run the race due to various situations.

"We had most of the team participating," Smith said. "We had some injuries and some sicknesses that stopped some of our guys from running."

The Wildcats are looking good though, and are no doubt looking forward to their next race, which takes them to Howell to compete against their Kensington Valley Conference rivals in the Howell Highlanders. The meet is slated for September 4 at 4:30 p.m. Following that meet, the Wildcats will host the Lakeland Eagles at 4:30 p.m. September 9 as one of their three home meets this year.

Shocked by Howell

For the first time since 1997,

Novi boys harrier team

loses to an opponent other

than rival Milford Mavericks

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's strange to say, but coach Bob Smith thinks this could be the best thing to happen to his squad this year.

What is it he's talking about? A loss, actually.

The Novi Wildcats boys cross country team took their first regular-season loss to a team other than Milford for the first time since 1997. The Howell Highlanders came out with something to prove, and they did so with a 27-28 win over one of the top teams in the Kensington Valley Conference.

"It really was a heck of a meet," Smith said. "But it all boils down to us being complacent for the last year and a half or so. There were signs that we were getting away from the root of what made us good. That came back to haunt us in a big way."

Though the Wildcat harriers were the ones who took the loss on the course, Smith is taking full responsibility for the entire event.

"The buck stops here, or so the old saying goes," he said. "I may

have even been a little complacent myself, or at least allowed it to happen. For that, I'll take responsibility. I just haven't been working them like I should be."

Mark Moore was the first to cross the line in the race, completing his run in 16:23, while Eric Joseph took second in 16:38. From there through fifth place, it was all Howell, with Spencer Ornes taking sixth in 17:17 and then two more Howell runners finishing behind him.

"This was the best thing to happen to this team," Smith said. "It was definitely a wake-up call for us. It shows us that we're vulnerable, and that we can't survive on history, memory or wishes. It all has to come back to hard work."

Any idea of competing for the Kensington Valley Conference title may be out the window for the Wildcats — but Smith said that was becoming a goal that was slowly pulling further and further away from his squad.

"Milford is currently ranked seventh in the nation," he said. "We're not there. We're not even close to that. Right now, we can't

"It was definitely a wake-up call for us. It shows us that we're vulnerable, and that we can't survive on history, memory or wishes. It all has to come back to hard work."

Bob Smith
Boys Cross Country Coach

even expect to beat them unless some really strange things begin to happen."

The squad is eyeing a possible second-place finish or a second-place tie in their conference.

"There's really no difference between the two," Smith said. "The guys really seemed to accept that."

The Wildcats did learn a very valuable lesson from the loss — this should be a once-only experience this year.

"We're not going to let this happen again," Smith said. "If we lose,

it's not going to be because we weren't prepared. I really felt as though that were the problem this time, and I just didn't have them prepared the way they should have been."

The Wildcats boys' soccer team didn't react in a negative way, which was different than most would have done.

"They are a pretty even-keel team," Smith said. "I was kind of surprised the way they reacted, but they don't get overly excited with wins so I shouldn't expect that to get overly depressed with losses.

That's a good frame of mind."

Smith, on the other hand, does react.

"I don't take losing very well," Smith said. "But, I am learning from the guys every day as well. I do think we're going to be on the winning track after this, and maybe this whole learning experience was a positive one."

The Wildcats are slated to get right back into the conference match-ups when they visit Brighton September 16 at 4:30 p.m. before hosting the Lions of South Lyon September 23, which also begins at 4:30 p.m.

U of D Invitational

In what is known as an "open" run, any person can take to a course and compete. This can cause problems when it comes to keeping team scores, but that is sometimes the best thing for a program.

"We turned this race into one for the less experienced guys," Smith said. "Our next wave, you might say."

The older runners, or more expe-

rienced ones at least, like Moore and the other top-10 runners on the squad, were given an alternate workout that day but still showed up to not only cheer on their fellow Wildcat harriers, but also the dads that ran the race as well.

"It was nice to see," Smith said. "The older kids set up the tent and did everything for the dads instead of the other way around."

The Wildcats even stuck around to be the cheering section for their friends.

"They pushed them and cheered them as spectators," Smith said. "I really think that kept a couple of the guys in the race."

Ricky Manza was the first 'Cat across the line. Following him was Pat Carroll and then Mike Wheat and Scott Wagner.

"Our first four guys to finish were freshman," Smith said. "That was really good to see."

Steve Fannon, a sophomore, was next for the Wildcats, followed by Matt Thomas, Brenden Neville, Darin Styles, Brad Spisich and Mike Beard to round out the top 10.

Back to winning ways

Novi boy harriers learn a lesson from Howell loss, come back with a vengeance at Walled Lake Western Invitational

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Any time a member of your team takes a place in the top 10 in a tournament, it's an accomplishment. Any time a team takes first in a tournament, it's worthy of applause.

Well, for the Novi Wildcats boys cross country team, winning the Walled Lake Western Invitational on "The Hill" is an applause-worthy accomplishment.

Not only did the Wildcats find their squad finishing first in the junior/senior portion of the event with an impressive 47 points, they also found their squad taking third in the freshman/sophomore race with 95 points.

If that weren't enough, Novi finished third, fifth, sixth and ninth in the overall race as junior Mark Moore paced his squad with a 16:46. Eric Joseph, who could easily become one of the premier runners in Michigan by the end of the year, completed the course in

just 16:58, which was good for fifth place.

Amol Huprikar, who is also a junior on the Wildcats cross country team, tallied a 17:06 for sixth place, while Spencer Ornes ran a 17:42 for ninth.

Running "The Hill" at Walled Lake Western is never an easy task. The course, which is the length of a traditional cross country course for high school, is a path that takes runners up and down two rather large hills. Out of the duo of land masses, "The Hill" is the one that is known for climbing times on even the best runners in the Western Lakes Activities Association where the Warriors of Walled Lake Western compete, as well as everyone who participates in the WLW Invitational.

Novi turned in some impressive numbers with their run, proving they are ready to bounce back from their loss to the Howell Highlanders in their opening meet of the Kensington Valley

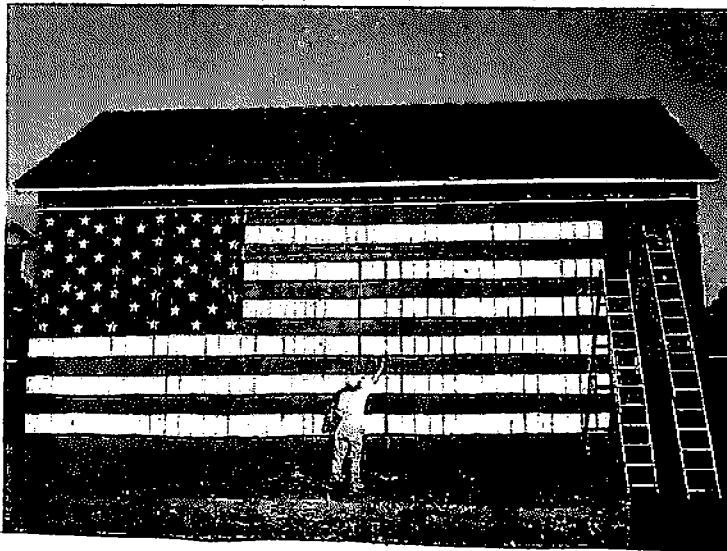
Conference last week. Their five-man average came in at an astounding 17:39 and their first-through-fifth pack time was a jaw-dropping 2:08.

On this course, home-field advantage is definitely evident. Not only does Walled Lake Western hold the key to good times through intense training on the course each and every day, but they also develop their runners to know the ins and outs of running on such rolling terrain. In fact, the home-course advantage was so clear, no one could dispute it after the winner of the junior/senior event came in at 16:25 and wearing the silver and blue of the Western Warriors as Neal Naughton took first in the run. For

the freshman/sophomore race, Todd Bowwau, also of Walled Lake Western, ran to a first-place finish in a time of 18:01.

The Wildcats cross country team will be back in action Saturday when they run the Shamrock Invitational at Cass Benton Park. Scheduled start time is 11:30 p.m. for the varsity team and 12:30 for the junior varsity. September 23 finds Novi hosting South Lyon at 4:30 p.m. in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up at Cass Benton.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 2003

SCOREBOARD

Football

WATERFORD OUR LADY OF THE LAKES 28, ROYAL OAK SHRINE 7

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Shrine, Woll, W - Moo Fase, W - Mike Carico, W - Anthony Anzures, W - Anzures, S - Steve Mahan, RECORDS - WOLL 3-0; Shrine 2-1

BLOOMFIELD HILLS CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD 44, CHESTER HILLS LUTHERAN NORTHWEST 0

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Cranbrook, Northwest, C - Andrew Sherman, C - Karolak, C - Jamie Lynch, C - Sherman, C - Karolak, C - Brandon Walker, C - Sherman, RECORDS - Cranbrook 2-1, 1-1 Metro; Northwest 1-2, 1-2

BOYNTONVILLE CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD 44, CHESTER HILLS LUTHERAN NORTHWEST 0

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Boyntonville, Northwest, C - Andrew Sherman, C - Karolak, C - Jamie Lynch, C - Sherman, C - Karolak, C - Brandon Walker, C - Sherman, RECORDS - Cranbrook 2-1, 1-1 Metro; Northwest 1-2, 1-2

Girls basketball

SOUTHFIELD 71, DETROIT CONSORTIUM 34

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Consortium, Southfield, RECORDS - Southfield 1-3; Consortium 1-4

Boys cross country

HOLLY INVITATIONAL (at Springfield Oaks)

TEAMS - 1. Temperance Bedford 83; 2. Howell 97; 3. Detroit Catholic Central 107; 4. Ann Arbor Pioneer 125; 5. Rochester 138; 6. Lake Orion 147; 7. Troy Athens 168; 8. Grand Blanc 186; 9. Sylvania Northview 210; 10. Jackson 263; 11. Troy 274; 12. Albans 347. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Adam Kooplar (Temperance Bedford) 16:09; 2. David Lucas (Catholic Central) 18:15; 3. Matt Chumbley (Rochester) 18:20; 4. Chris Hammer (Troy Athens) 18:20; 5. Billy Peterson (Lake Orion) 18:29; 6. Brooks Cowan (Troy) 18:29; 7. Takashi Gaud (Pioneer) 18:32; 8. Jeff Hubbard (Pioneer) 18:35; 9. Adam French (Howell) 18:49; 10. Sam Watson (Rochester) 18:52; 11. Dan Morgan (Catholic Central) 18:54; 12. Max Working (Catholic Central) 16:57; 13. Justin Schenkel (Howell) 17:08; 14. Keith Magic (Lake Orion) 17:09; 15. Craig Weaver (Sylvania Northview) 17:09. Division 2 TEAMS - 1. Dexter 67; 2. Bloomfield Hills Lahser 101; 3. Flint Powers 112; 4. Fenton 139; 5. Port Huron Northern 168; 6. St. Clair 170; 7. Saginaw Heritage 214; 8. Richland Gull Lake 228; 9. Gaylord 242; 10. Holland 303. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Justin Switzer (Waterford Kettering) 18:02; 2. Mike Bampos (Flint Powers) 16:09; 3. Lex Williams (Dexter) 16:15; 4. Luke Walker (Flint Powers) 18:18; 5. Mike Quick (Lahser) 16:20; 6. Tony Nalli (Dexter) 16:29; 7. Dan Meyer (Dexter) 16:34; 8. Nick Lewis (Gaylord) 16:36; 9. Mike Walker (Fenton) 16:38; 10. Matt Rose (Lahser) 16:37; 11. Pete Wilson (Gull Lake) 16:40; 12. Dave Brown (Port Huron Northern) 18:55; 13. Andrew Kennedy (Lahser) 18:58; 14. Mark Jones (Saginaw Heritage) 18:59; 15. Jeff Standest (St. Clair) 17:00. Division 3 TEAMS - 1. Shepherd 87; 2. Hillsdale 87; 3. Vicksburg 111; 4. Coruna 131; 5. Jackson Lumen Christi 139; 6. Croswell-Lexington 149; 7. Orchard Lake St. Mary's 172; 8. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 223; 9. Menominee 271; 10. Wyoming Kelloggville 303. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Josh Perrin (Hillsdale) 15:55; 2. Dan Roberts (Vicksburg) 16:13; 3. Dan Clark (Jackson Lumen Christi) 16:14; 4. Brian Murphy (Coruna) 16:33; 5. Dale Staudaker (Croswell-Lexington) 16:44; 6. Josh Jerome (Shepherd) 16:53; 7. Steve Denico (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep) 16:57; 8. R.P. White (Hillsdale) 17:05; 9. Chad Dobson (Croswell-Lexington) 17:15; 10. Patrick Gorsskopf (Coruna) 17:18. Division 4 TEAMS - 1. Bath 117; 2. Stephenson 122; 3. Gladstone 128; 4. Napoleon 156; 5. Cape 164. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Liam Boylan Pett (Bath) 16:19; 2. Chris Stockard (Bath) 16:58; 3. Jacob Cubois (East Jackson) 17:13; 4. David Smith (Byron) 17:25; 5. Ben Hoover (Cape) 17:26. Division 5 TEAMS - 1. Vandercook Lake 74; 2. Jonesville 100; 3. Morenci 148; 4. Ann Arbor Greenhills 161; 5. Southfield Christian 165. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Adam Sprangel (Vandercook Lake) 16:50; 2. Ben Tuberton (St. Mary Cathedral) 16:57; 3. Randall Wilcox (Vandercook Lake) 17:12; 4. Ben Curt (Jackson Christian) 17:16; 5. Chris Davis (Jonesville) 17:23.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN INVITATIONAL

TEAMS - 1. Novi 52, 2. Birmingham Brother Rice 75, 3. Walpole Lake Western 79, 4. South Lyon 102, 5. Northville 120. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Neil Naughton (WLV) 16:25; 2. John Black (BR) 16:33; 3. Mark Moore (Novi) 16:46; 4. Colin Orr (West Bloomfield) 16:53; 5. Eric Joseph (Novi) 16:58.

Girls cross country

HOLLY INVITATIONAL (at Springfield Oaks)

Division 1 TEAMS - 1. Clarkston A 66; 2. Clarkston B 115; 3. Brighton 130; 4. Lake Orion 140; 5. Utica Eisenhower 189; 6. Troy 190; 7. Rochester 189; 8. Troy Athens 212; 9. Jackson 240; 10. Clinton Chippewa Valley 251. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Mo Kuhra (Clarkston A) 19:14; 2. Gillian Nordquist (Clarkston A) 19:16; 3. Lyndsay Smith (Clarkston B) 19:17; 4. Kristina Olsen (Jackson) 19:21; 5. Lindsey Gaudard (Lake Orion) 19:25; 6. Liz Hoelting (Rochester) 19:32; 7. Jenna Leach (Clarkston B) 19:43; 8. Shari Rodgers (Utica Eisenhower) 19:47; 9. Liz Menegon (Clarkston A) 19:50; 10. Susie Rivard (Brighton) 19:52; 11. Kaito Reilly (Lake Orion) 19:55; 12. Ashley Fort (Troy Athens) 19:58; 13. Anne Hoekstra (Loy Nantz) 20:07; 14. Anne Otman (Clarkston A) 20:22; 15. Kelsey Gustafson (Troy) 20:28. Division 2 TEAMS - 1. Dexter 71; 2. Richland Gull Lake 120; 3. Lakeland 134; 4. Fushing 151; 5. Gaylord 168; 6. Caladonia 227; 7. Birmingham Seaholm 245; 8. Berkley 259; 9. Fenton 260; 10. Bloomfield Hills Lahser 283. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Caitlin Clifford (Lahser) 18:45; 2. Kelsey Devereaux (Jackson Northwest) 19:19; 3. Ellen French (Seaholm) 20:00; 4. Angie Joerin (Lakeland) 20:07; 5. Jon Gunderson (Dexter) 20:09; 6. Natti Nalli (Dexter) 20:09; 7. Kaitie Hanfger (Gaylord) 20:12; 8. Rachel Gutierrez (Linden) 20:23; 9. Kaitlyn Carbury (Fenton) 20:33; 10. Brooke Bones (Lahser) 20:36; 11. Laura Portis (Gull Lake) 20:41; 12. Tricia Miedema (Caladonia) 20:48; 13. Erica Wines (Gull Lake) 20:55; 14. Chelsea Smith (Berkley) 21:02; 15. Stephanie Christensen (Fushing) 21:04. Division 3 TEAMS - 1. Goodrich 64; 2. Hillsdale 79; 3. Jackson Lumen Christi 102; 4. Milan 104; 5. Elk Rapids 132; 6. Detroit Country Day 179; 7. Vicksburg 221; 8. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 255; 9. Shepherd 260; 10. Detroit Renaissance 277. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Kelly Sampson (Detroit Renaissance) 18:25; 2. Nicole Bush (Wyoming Kelloggville) 18:31; 3. Megan Young (Detroit Country Day) 18:43; 4. Kyla O'Mara (Goodrich) 18:58; 5. Kaitlin O'Mara (Goodrich) 18:09; 6. Janee Jones (Goodrich) 19:14; 7. Erin Batt (Hillsdale) 19:46; 8. Angela

Martinez (Milan) 18:53; 9. Chelsea Moray (Croswell-Lexington) 20:02; 10. Kelly Higgins (Coruna) 20:02.

Division 4

TEAMS - 1. Stephenson 68; 2. Lansing Catholic Central 73; 3. Gladstone 118; 4. Bath 146; 5. Kalamazoo Hackett 153. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Amanda Neudin (Stephenson) 20:37; 2. Rachel Trombly (Reese) 20:53; 3. Laum Adaman (Stephenson) 20:58; 4. Leah Tamant (Bath) 21:03; 5. Vanessa Vettori (Stephenson) 21:44. Division 5 TEAMS - 1. Traverse City St. Francis 91; 2. Southfield Christian 98; 3. Ubly 100; 4. Ann Arbor Greenhills 117; 5. Big Rapids Crossroads Charter Academy 122; 6. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest 144; 7. Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard 150; 8. Morenci 224; 9. Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart 228; 10. Oakland Christian 284. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Laura Roff (Lutheran Northwest) 18:59; 2. Katie Olson (Greenhills) 19:31; 3. Jackie Rhoad (Ubly) 19:42; 4. Rebecca Monroe (Big Rapids Crossroads Charter) 20:58; 5. Val Allen (Southfield Christian) 20:32; 6. Kyla Kubacki (Ubly) 20:52; 7. Katie Roff (Lutheran Northwest) 21:04; 8. Megan Carter (Southfield Christian) 21:13; 9. Kaiti Eadron (Traverse City St. Francis) 21:28; 10. Lindsay Looker (Lutheran Northwest) 21:27.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN INVITATIONAL

TEAMS - 1. Novi 52, 2. Northville 53, 3. Rochester Adams 84, 4. Walpole Lake Western 120, 5. Livonia Franklin 123. INDIVIDUALS - 1. Liz Mihrak (Northville) 21:13; 2. Becca Rudey (WLV) 21:14; 3. Cassie Adamson (Walpole Lake Western) 21:28; 4. Pam Ramos (Novi) 21:34; 5. Kriston Tyler (LF) 21:43.

Girls tennis

SACRED HEART GAZELLE INVITATIONAL

TEAMS - 1. Birmingham Detroit Country Day 17; 2. Jackson Lumen Christi 15; 3. Bloomfield Hills Sacred Heart 11; 4. Portland 5. SINGLES (round robin winners) - 1. Eliene Cotter (J); 2. Stefania Porciv (J); 3. Tasejah Vemuri (CD); 4. Caroline Thibault (CD). DOUBLES (round robin winners) - 1. Dana Clark-Lauren Young (SH); 2. Mhairi Murphy-Kathleen Murphy (CD); 3. Jeannine Audeas-Erly Szuk (J); 4. Elyssa Felsenfeld-Shruti Ramakrishana (CD). WARREN MOTT INVITATIONAL TEAMS - 1. Warren Mott 19; 2. Berkley 18; 3. East Detroit 8; 4. St. Clair Shores Lakeside 3. SINGLES (round robin winners) - 1. Emma Carmack (B); 2. Lilian Chan (WM); 3. Kaito Wallace (B); 4. Laura Rubino (WM). DOUBLES (round robin winners) - 1. Jackie Zablocki-Rhea Flores (WM); 2. Megan Rogers-Mary Li (WM); 3. Jackie Katz-Claire Pechoux (B); 4. Kim Cheung-Ya Ed (WM).

Wildcats trample Brighton Bulldogs

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats boys' cross country team was well aware that their loss earlier this season meant one thing to them - it was time to refocus their efforts on the season.

Refocus and redirect their energy was exactly what this squad did as they marched to a perfect 15 points to Brighton's 46.

Eric Joseph led the charge for the Wildcats, earning first place with an applaud-worthy time of 17:00, as did the second-place Mark Moore. Spencer Ornes showed some improvement, continuing his steady climb for bettering his times as he took third with a 17:50.

Notching fourth was Amol Huprikar, who has consistently been one of the top runners in the Kensington Valley Conference. He ran a 17:34. Justin Namm, a junior, collected a 17:36 to help the Wildcats sweep the top five spots.

Scott Bergeson took eighth in the meet, notching a 17:50 for his personal best time to

round out the top-10 for the Novi harrier squad. The Wildcats didn't have too much trouble with their Brighton opponents, but still find themselves looking up at Milford in the conference standing as the Mavericks remain undefeated this year.

Novi, however, has ceased to worry about the KVC title. Instead, their focus is on pack times, team performance and, for long term goals, the Regional.

Novi will return to action when they visit the Hartland Eagles in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up September 30 at 4:30 p.m. On October 4, the 'Cats will take a road trip and compete in the Oakland County meet at 10 a.m. Three days later, the much anticipated match-up against the Milford Mavericks will be held at home, at Cass Benton, at 4:30 p.m.

Catholic Central Invitational

In the Catholic Central Invitational, the Wildcats brought out the best of the best

in their younger runners as Catholic Central took first place in their own meet with 49 points. Novi, on the other hand, finished 10th with 290 points.

Pat Carroll was the first across the line for the Wildcats, finishing in an overall 49th place with a time of 19:13 to set his own personal record, as did Mike Wheat, who ran to 56th place in 19:24.

Kip Miller took third overall for the varsity squad, running a 19:26 to set his career best while finishing in 59th place while Scott Wagner took 63rd with a 19:35.

Steve Fannon set a personal best with a 19:48 to finish in 67th, while Brad Spisich took 79th with a time of 20:30.

In the junior varsity race, freshman Mike Beard paced his squad with an 18th-place overall finish in a time of 19:24 to set his career-best record.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Cross country

Boys

Howell 20, Lakeland 35

MILFORD — The Highlanders were led by Justin Schenkel, who covered the Possum Hollow course in 17 minutes, 31 seconds.

"Justin ran an excellent race today," Howell coach Paul Webster said. "Travis Sinke (who finished 11th) also ran really well."

The Highlanders improved to 2-1 in the KVC. They will run in the Jackson Invitational on Saturday.

Pinckney 17, Hartland 47

DEXTER — The Pirates grabbed the top three places to put the meet away at Hudson Mills Metropark.

Erik Reichenbach won in a photo finish over teammate Ian Boyle, finishing the race at 16:59.

Jon Lenik was the top finisher for the Eagles, finishing in fourth place with a time of 17:14.

Novi 15, Brighton 43

BRIGHTON — Novi took the first five places in improving to 2-1 on the season.

"Novi was impressive," Brighton coach Bob Ritsema said. "From sixth place to 26th, they had two kids and we had the rest. We just have to keep moving that pack up."

The Bulldogs travel to Howell on Sept. 23.

Novi beats South Lyon

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Thursday, October 2, 2008-NOVI NEWS

There was one thing for sure when the Novi Wildcat boys cross country team hosted the South Lyon Lions – they couldn't underestimate their opponents.

South Lyon, which has a threatening team to any squad in the Kensington Valley Conference, was as serious of a risk of bringing a loss to Novi as any other team the Wildcats have run against this year – which is one of the reasons Novi was so happy to escape with an 18:39 victory.

"They are a team that is capable of winning," Novi coach Bob Smith said. "We had to take them as seriously as we take any other teams out there. They are a deep team and their JV squad matches up with pretty much anyone in the conference."

The Wildcats definitely weren't complaining when they had the top three runners cross the line wearing the familiar green-and-white of Novi. Junior sensation Mark Moore and senior Eric Joseph were first, crossing the line side-by-side for a time of 16:45, while junior Amol Huprikar notched a 16:46 for third place and a career-best.

"Amol has really set himself up this year thanks to the work he put in during the summer," Smith said. "He has put the time and energy into making himself a great runner, and I saw that way back in August."

The Wildcat pack was then broken up by South Lyon's Jeff Tschirhart, who ran to a fourth-place finish with a time of 17:14, while Novi's Spencer Ornes finished fifth with a 17:18.

Another South Lyon harrier by the name of Andrew Keller finished sixth in the run, collecting a 17:27 for his efforts, while Justin Namm of Novi took seventh with a 17:32 to set a career-best mark.

"We had some good runs for everyone," Smith said.

The Lions weren't out of contention though, and injuries to the top three runners from Novi could have easily meant a different outcome.

"If we didn't have our top three front runners, we would have lost," Smith said after glancing over the score sheet. "That's the kind of threat South Lyon is. Anyone who runs against them has to give them the respect they deserve."

The Wildcats are gearing up for the final stretch of their season through October, and the first major test of the Novi harriers' individual abilities will come Saturday at the Oakland County meet.

There, Smith said he is planning on letting his guys break out and run without worrying about pack times.

"They can go all-out without thinking about the pack or keeping together," he said.

Moore will no doubt appreciate that, as he, Joseph and Huprikar have been packing their times throughout the year.

"He may be a little rusty at first," Smith said of Moore. "But, it won't take long and he'll be back in old form."

Novi's biggest difference this year when it comes to seeing how Moore will break out in his first real chance to do so is that they don't have another front runner that has truly challenged him all season as Brian Gilchrist did in 2002. Joseph, however, has been striving to keep strides with his fellow 'Cat, and will be looking to take over the role Gilchrist played last year.

"Eric has a lot of potential,"

Smith said. "He sees himself as an all-state runner, and he's capable of it. He has a good view of what he is and what he will be able to accomplish."

But that doesn't mean all runners who deserve all-state status are going to get it this year – and that's not a bash on the Novi harriers who are hoping to get it.

"This is probably one of the most competitive cross country seasons ever," Smith said. "Guys who are all-state runners won't necessarily be getting all-state honors, and a few guys who aren't all-state might step up for that one race and get it. That's how competitive cross country is."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Where's the beef?

■ Novi coach Bob Smith wants his brother to pay up

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In a situation that can only be described as disturbing, some harsh allegations have recently surfaced about the boys cross country coach at South Lyon High School — he hasn't opened his wallet in a long, long time.

In the annual Novi High School boys' cross country meet against the Lions, Wildcat coach Bob Smith always extends his hand in a friendly bet with the South Lyon coach — who's name just happens to be Scott Smith.

"He owes me about three years worth of steak dinners," Bob Smith said of the culprit. "He is so cheap that he won't open his wallet and pay what he owes me."

That allegation, however, is in serious doubt by the accused.

"My brother likes to eat," Scott Smith retorted. "He has a voracious appetite and is infamous for being a cheapskate. He always tries to finagle some way to get a free meal out of me."

Scott Smith, however, didn't deny the actual bet of a steak dinner goes to the winner, but responded with a quick complaint.

"It's kind of funny that the time the Avenius's and the Moores started arriving was when the steak dinner bet came up," he said. "It definitely didn't come out of nowhere, it just coincided with the arrival of (Mark) Avenius and (Tim) Moore."

Bob Smith didn't respond on that issue, but noted that he didn't want to resort to such drastic measures as bringing this dirty secret of his brother's into the forefront of media

frenzy.

"I wanted to be nice," he said. "But, I told him I would call him out on it pretty soon. I didn't want to go public, but after not getting what was owed to me last year and the year before, I figured I better go to the media."

One thing was for sure after both parties were interviewed — both thought the other was trying to save as much money as possible.

"He will find the cheapest way possible," Bob Smith said when asked how his brother will repay the debt. "I know he is budget conscious, but as long as he ends up paying the bill I'm satisfied."

Scott Smith, on the other hand, felt that perhaps it was because of his brother's age that the confusion of who owed who a steak dinner was being brought out.

"He is my much older brother after all," he said. "When you get as old as Bob, you're memory has trouble ascertaining the truth."

So, is Scott Smith suggesting it's possible his brother might actually have forgotten the debts were already paid?

"It's more than possible," he answered. "It's definitely probable."

According to Bob Smith, the debt has been paid in a rather "spotty" sequence through the past 10 years — all of which the Novi coach has won.

But, there is a solution to all of the confusion and mayhem: Bob is willing to accept a meal for his entire family of himself, his wife, Pam, and his daughter, Samantha.

"I'll take his wife and daughter out," Scott Smith replied to the suggestion. "I'll do so surely out of the

goodness of my heart and the love and respect I have for my family."

But what about Bob?

"He's welcome to come along," the South Lyon coach said. "But he has to pay for his own meal."

With so many allegations and accusations flying back and forth, it doesn't seem that the situation will be concluded any time in the near future.

Though Scott Smith has offered to take both Pam and Samantha Smith out to steak dinners with his brother being forced to purchase his own, the South Lyon coach wouldn't go as far as pinpointing a date or place.

"In wanting to avoid being coerced by Bob to provide him with his much desired free lunch, I will say that after the cross country season is over, I will be happy to celebrate South Lyon's come-from-behind victory at the KVC meet with his wife and daughter," Scott Smith said. "Bob is more than welcome to tag along."

If and when his brother ever decides to come through on the debt that he feels is owed, Bob Smith said he will make sure everyone is well aware of the occurrence.

"We have to be out and in public," he said of the debt's eventual payment. "I want him to be seen opening his wallet and paying the bill. I might even take a picture with my digital camera and send it in to the South Lyon Herald and the Novi News."

And maybe, one day, that event will take place. But, Bob Smith better be prepared — his brother might just ask to borrow some money to foot the expenses.

Thursday, October 9, 2003-NOVI NEWS

Mark Moore

Junior

Cross Country

Any time your top runner earns a career-best mark at a particular course, you have to take notice. Well, when it comes to Moore, just about any time he runs you should take notice. The stellar Novi junior was finally let loose of the sometimes binding restrictions of a pack time and turned in a performance of 16:44 at Kensington Metro Park to take eighth place in the Oakland County meet to help the Wildcats to a 10th-place finish out of 41 teams.



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Pirate runners fall in the rain to Novi

by John Mueller
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

PINCKNEY — Some liked the weather conditions, and some didn't.

A cold and persistent rain fell throughout Tuesday's Kensington Valley Conference cross country meet between Pinckney and Novi, and both of Pinckney's squads lost as the result of consistent Wildcat finishes.

"The weather made it hard, and it was cold," Pinckney runner Matt Gerardi said as he huddled under the gazebo at Hudson Mills Metropark after the boys lost by a score of 24-31.

"When we started we were pumped up, but the rain just gets to you, after a while," he said. "The spirits go down... at least mine did."

But some members of Pinckney's girls team, which fell by a score of 24-38, said they actually preferred the harsh conditions.

"The weather conditions determine who's tougher, and we like that," said Lynsey Ardingo, who finished in first place for the girls in a time of 20 minutes, 36 seconds.

"It's all mental when it rains, and it's kind of fun for us," she said. "We like to splash in the mud puddles."

This was the last dual meet of the season for both teams. Pinckney's boys ended the KVC season with a record of 5-2, and are currently tied for second place

Novi runs past Pinckney harriers

Continued from page 1

with Novi and Howell behind Milford.

Pinckney boys coach Tom Carney felt his squad should've handled Tuesday's weather conditions better.

"It should've been closer," he said. "We usually like running in mud. But Novi was a little more well-rested than us."

Ian Boyle was Pinckney's highest placer in the boys' competition, taking second place in a time of 16:14. Nick Katsefaras took a fifth place with a 16:32, Levi Hohl finished seventh (17:07), Mark Wehrman took eighth (17:08) and Erik Reichenbach took ninth (17:15) to round out the Pirates effort.

Since joining the KVC a few years ago, Pinckney has yet to notch a cross country win over Novi.

"We've had trouble with Novi, but every year we seem to get a little bit closer to them," Hohl said.

"It was a good race today," Boyle said.

"We went out hard, and we'll learn from the whole thing."

Novi boys coach Robert Smith said Tuesday's meet was a breakthrough performance of sorts for his Wildcats.

"This was a big meet," he said. "We've been hampered by injury and sickness, but we're an October and November team, and we're starting to cruise."

But Smith was quick to acknowledge that Pinckney wasn't that easy to outrun.

"Coach Carney has put together a heck of a team," he said. "He's a classy guy, and we knew it would be a battle."

Pinckney plays host to the KVC meet on Monday at the same course, and the Pirates are hoping a good showing will break them out of the three-way second-place tie.

"We'll be fine," Carney said. "But good luck beating Milford."

Pinckney's girls ended the regular KVC season with a record of 2-5,



Photo by TODD VANSICKLE

Pinckney's Nick Katsefaras runs next to Ian Boyle during Tuesday's meet at Hudson Mills. Boyle finished second overall, while Katsefaras finished fifth.

which has them tied with Hartland near the bottom of the league standings.

Following Ardingo's first-place finish, Jennifer Pope took third in a time of 20:59, Brittany Jensen placed eighth (21:17), Kate Uitti took 12th (21:38) and Erin Blackburn finished at 14th (21:42).

"We've never beaten Novi, and we knew they'd have a great pack," Pinckney girls coach Jeff Hollobaugh said. "Novi is really solid."

"They had a pack together towards the front and we couldn't get ahead of them," Pope said.

Despite the loss, Hollobaugh is looking forward to Monday's KVC meet.

"The more experience you have with your home course, they better you'll do," he said. "But the KVC will be very challenging. This is one of the toughest leagues in the state."

Boys
Brighton 22, South Lyon 37
SOUTH LYON — Though South Lyon was making a run at grabbing

the first several places at Tuesday's KVC meet, the Bulldogs persevered at the end.

Brighton's Derek Shortt won the race in a time of 16:56, followed by Adam Terns in third place (17:17), Garrett Lafata in fifth place (17:27), Daye Hebert in sixth place (17:36) and Dave Suchanek in seventh place (17:36) to round out the Bulldog effort.

Brighton bettered its KVC record to 2-5.

Girls
Brighton 18, South Lyon 43
SOUTH LYON — Brighton freshman Ali Nichols won her first varsity race on Tuesday in 20:18 to lead the Bulldogs.

"It was really good for Ali to win like that," Brighton girls coach Gary Meehan said.

Susie Rivard (20:27) and Natalie Grabowski (20:36) were right behind Nichols for second and third place. Stephanie Viener (20:52) came in fifth and Jenna Noss (21:02) finished seventh.

HIGH SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

Boys cross country

WATERFORD MOTT 19, WATERFORD MOTT 43
 1. Justin Switzer 16:37 (WQ); 2. Joey Lopez (WM) 18:14; 3. David Bowie (WQ) 18:51; 4. Mike Baling (WQ) 18:58; 5. Owen McMahon (WQ) 19:25.
RECORDS — Kettering 6-2

KVC MEET

(at Hudson Mills Metropark)

TEAMS — 1. Milford 28; 2. Novi 68; 3. Pinckney 70; 4. Howell 89; 5. Lakeland 120; 6. Brighton 128; 7. South Lyon 137; 8. Hartland 239

INDIVIDUALS — 1. Seth Thibodeau (M) 15:37, 2. Dan DeRusha (M) 15:51, 3. Mark Moore (N) 16:01, 4. Dana Pitcock (M) 16:10, 5. Amol Huprikar (N) 16:15, 6. Ian Boyle (P) 16:18, 7. Chad Mumay (M) 16:20, 8. Nick Katselaras (P) 16:20, 9. Adam French (How) 16:34, 10. Eric Joseph (N) 16:35, 11. Steve Leonard (L) 16:41, 12. Tim Widna (M) 16:46.

Girls cross country

WATERFORD KETTERING 25, WATERFORD MOTT 30

1. Hilary Howell (K) 22:04.2; Lizzy Jones (M) 22:28; 3. Erin McCaffrey (WM) 23:2; 4. Erin Mallard (WQ) 23:45; 5. Ashley Wall (WQ) 24:01.
RECORDS — Kettering 4-4

KVC MEET

(at Hudson Mills Metropark)

TEAMS — 1. Milford 25; 2. Brighton 37; 3. Hartland 117; 4. South Lyon 127; 5. Howell 128; 6. Novi 137; 7. Pinckney 144; 8. Lakeland 173.

INDIVIDUALS — 1. Lisa Canty (M) 19:12, 2. Sue Rivard (B) 19:20, 3. Megan Jambeck (M) 19:32, 4. Kristin Granroth (M) 19:32, 5. Natalie Grabowski (B) 19:32, 6. Samantha Rinkus (Ha) 19:50, 7. Ali Nichols (B) 20:03, 8. Mallory Farnum (M) 20:16, 9. Carly Green (M) 20:24, 10. Alyssa Mauney (SL) 20:25, 11. Jenna Noss (B) 20:38, 12. Stephanie Vientor 20:37.

Girls swimming

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANDOVER 102, LAKE ORION 84

**200 MEDLEY RELAY — Lake Orion (Erin Sutton, Perry Mitchell, Elizabeth Galvan, Nathalia Comet) 2:04.96; 200 FREE — Emily Roesch (LO) 2:06.28; 200 IM — Galvan (LO) 2:29.42; 50 FREE — Megan Casal (B) 25.48; DIVING — Julia Kartush (B) 159.65; 100 BUTTERFLY — Galvan (LO) 1:08.28; 100 FREE — Casal (B) 57.60; 500 FREE — Roesch (LO) 5:38.67; 200 RELAY — Andover (Ashley Kunz, Sara Parker, Casal, Gayle Myerson) 1:50.28; 100 BACKSTROKE — Mitchell (LO) 1:07.17; 100 BREASTSTROKE — Parker (B) 1:16.42; 400 RELAY — Andover (Katie Amann, Kunz, Alison Fullenkamp, Casal) 4:01.71.
RECORDS — Andover 2-2 CAA II; Lake Orion 0-4**

Milford sweeps KVC cross country meet

By MARVIN GOODWIN
 Of The Daily Oakland Press

PINCKNEY — Milford's Lisa Canty put the finishing touches on a regular season with her second straight Kensington Valley Conference cross country title.

But she's not taking all the credit, as Milford's boys and girls — who both ended the season unbeaten in dual meets — dominated one of the state's toughest conferences Monday at Hudson Mills Metropark.

"I've been fortunate that I've inherited my mom's body," Canty said after leading the girls to the team title with 25 points. "It's slim."

With her ideal running physique and the fact she hasn't had any significant injuries, Canty's contribution to the team over the years is solid. But so have the contributions of the other Mavs.

"Everyone's come really close together this year," said Canty, who clocked 19:12 for the flat, 5-kilometer course.

"We feel we all trust each other in competition."

Megan Jambeck (third), Kristin Granroth (fourth), Mallory Farzum (eighth) and

Carly Green (ninth) were the Mavs' top finishers. Brighton was second with 37 points.

"That core group of girls have been with us for four years," said Milford coach Brian Salyers, not surprised of the Mavs' production. "We felt leadership was a big part of what we have."

Meanwhile, Milford's one-two punch of Seth Thibodeau and Dan DeRusha locked down the first two places as the boys scored 26 points to win their third straight title. Thibodeau finished in 15:37 and DeRusha was 14 seconds behind. Novi's Mark Moore (16:01) and Amol Huprikar (16:15) were third and fifth, respectively, as the Wildcats took second.

One of the Mavs' top runners, Mike Andersen, was out of the lineup due to mononucleosis, according to Salyers.

"He's done for the year," he said. "It's tough to lose a kid that can run 15:58. (But) as tough as this league is, we performed very well."

Milford's boys are ranked No. 1 in the state and the girls are ranked No. 3 in the state. Both will compete at the Division 1 regional Saturday at Clarkston.

Surprises at KVC cross country

Hartland, Howell girls surge into 3rd-place tie; Pinckney boys third

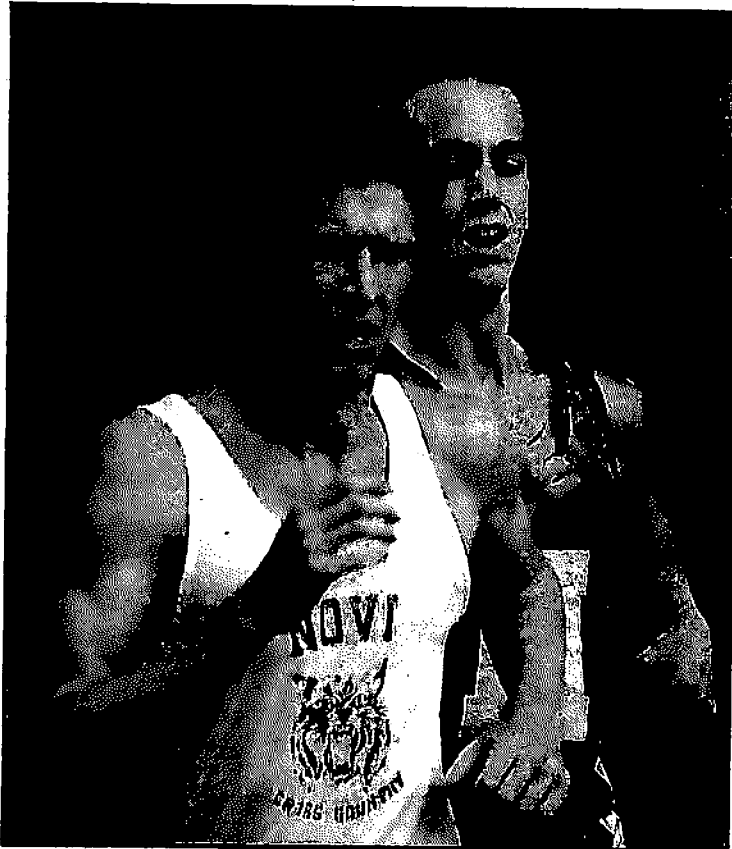


Photo by TODD VANSICKLE

Howell's Adam French gains ground on a Novi runner Monday. French finished ninth overall.

KVC FINAL STANDINGS

BOYS: 1. Milford; 2. Novi; 3. Pinckney; 4. Howell; 5. Lakeland; 6. Brighton; 7. South Lyon; 8. Hartland
GIRLS: 1. Milford; 2. Brighton; 3. Hartland, Howell; Novi (tie); 6. South Lyon; 7. Pinckney; 8. Lakeland

Meanwhile, in the boys competition, Milford didn't surprise anyone with its 26-point first-place finish.

"We have a tremendous core of seniors this year that have energized us for four years," said Milford boys and girls coach Brian Salyers, speaking of both squads. "We have 19 boys and girls, the boys cheer the girls on and the girls cheer the boys on. It's like a family."

Novi ended up in second place in the meet with 68 points; Pinckney took third (70), Howell placed fourth (89), Lakeland took fifth (120) and Brighton placed sixth (126), followed by South Lyon (177) and Hartland (239).

"We were expecting and hop-

ing to take second, but Novi was definitely ready," Pinckney runner Mark Wehrman said.

Leading the way for the Pirates was Ian Boyle, who posted a sixth-place finish in a time of 16:19.

A few of Howell's runners commented that their results were considerably below their expectations.

"We wanted to finish second or third," said Howell runner Adam French, who led the Highlanders with a ninth-place finish in 16:34. "We did do better than in previous years, but we wanted to do even better than that."

"Half of our guys ran pretty well, and the other half didn't," Howell boys coach Paul Webster said. "Either way, we knew the race for second, third and fourth place would be a dogfight. We definitely have one of the toughest leagues around."

Brighton's Tom Gienapp said the Bulldogs also didn't run up to their potential.

"We didn't all run our best times, I guess," he said with a shrug. "It was an off day, kind of. Milford is pretty tough to beat, because they go one-two all the time."

Derek Shortt led Brighton finishing 15th place (16:53).

For Hartland, Jon Lenik led the Eagle effort with a 38th place (17:57).

In the boys' final league standings, Pinckney took third; Howell took fourth, Brighton took sixth and Hartland took eighth.

Thursday, October 23, 2003-NOVI NEWS

Wildcat harriers still in stride as season nears completion

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Taking on the Pinckney Pirates is never a fun chore — especially on their home course.

Both the Wildcats girls and boys cross country teams did just that, and both managed to pull out a very wet and sloppy win over their KVC foes.

The boys walked away with a 24-32 win over the Pinckney harriers, while the girls notched a 24-36 victory over them.

"Our guys are showing that they are ready for the challenges coming up," Novi boys coach Bob Smith said. "We are indeed an October team."

The Pirates came into the boys meet with a 5-1 record in

the KVC and found themselves leaving with a 5-2 mark — which happens to be the same mark Novi left the meet with after earning the win.

"We knew it would be a close contest," Smith said. "The plan was for our top guys to go out and set a hot pace, challenging Pinckney early. The strategy worked at perfection."

Four of the Novi boys broke the 17-minute barrier as they fought through the pouring rain and slick conditions. Mark Moore was the first across the finish line, leading the top four finishers who all happened to be from Novi. Not far behind were Eric Joseph and Amol Huprikar — who set personal bests despite the horrid weather. Spencer

Ornes finished fourth and also set a personal best time.

"Justin Namm, Scott Bergeson and Eric Tingwall rounded out our top seven with great times and gutsy performances," Smith said.

Senior Nick Preketes also set a career best with his 18:11 time.

"He is quickly closing the gap with the fast racing top seven," Smith commented and then looked at some underclassmen times. "Freshman Kip Miller's time of 18:12 demonstrated a gritty will to win."

In the girls race, the Wildcats found themselves finishing sec-

ond, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh to earn the win. First across the line for Novi was Patti Ramos, while Samantha White took fourth, Meghan Bannatz took fifth, Laura Brunner took sixth and Laine Williams took seventh.

The victory boosted the girls' record to 5-2 to end the KVC dual meet schedule.

The girls also found themselves finishing with an impressive pack time as their one-through five runners finished just 22 seconds apart, and their one through seven runners were all clocked at just a 30 second differential.

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SPORTS

www.wildcatroar.com

Novi Cross Country gears up for states

SPENCER ORNES
Staff Writer

Men's cross country has a rich history at Novi. Since 1998 cross country has placed 1st, 1st, 2nd, 10th, and 3rd at the state championships. When this year's team had a rocky start, they knew they had to change and fast.

"Running as many miles as we did this summer helped me feel more confident about our squad," junior Amol Huprikar said. "In the past, runners who have run high mileage have succeeded. It helps against injury and prepares you for the hard workouts that make you run faster."

The Wildcat cross country team returned four of last year's top seven.

"I knew they would do whatever it would take to get the job done," Coach Robert Smith said.

Both Eric Joseph and Huprikar sat time out with foot injuries and an early, unexpected loss to Howell did not help the team's assurance.

"I was nervous about team chemistry, I knew we trained as hard as anyone, but we were relying too much on our reputation. It was a real wake-up call," Smith said.

Early injuries seemed to be the main reason the squad wasn't at the same level of last year's team at this time.

"Last year we remained healthy throughout the hard training weeks, but this year very few practices ever feature a full, healthy squad," Moore said.

Novi was caught off guard by a Howell team that was not intimidated by Novi's tradition.

"They were a team we truly expected to beat without a problem, although I was absent for the meet we still expected to beat Howell," Huprikar said. "They came in fully prepared and just squeaked by us by a point, that really made us all sit down and take a look at what we had to do."

Doing so well at the

county and KVC meets last year helped the team's morale and confidence.

"It really helped us focus and put us in the mindset that we were capable of succeeding at the state level," senior Scott Bergeson said.

On October 20, 2003, the harriers competed at the KVC league championship where they finished second just two points ahead of a late season charging Pinckney. This was a good boost for the Cats as they headed into the regional meet, October 26, 2003. The Wildcats placed second at the regional meet nearly twenty points ahead of Pinckney, and thirty points behind Milford.

"It was pretty good for our confidence, not everyone ran a personal best, but it was a good race, because no one gave up," Smith said.

As the team neared the regional meet of 2003, Moore was confident in the team's chances this year but remembers last season when everything seemed to be going the Wildcat's way.

"On our team from a year ago, everything was coming together and we were all excited about the season but after early season disappointment our team confidence is low," Moore said. "Our first disappointment this season was our loss to Howell, going into it we thought we could win even without the presence of one of our top runners, Amol."

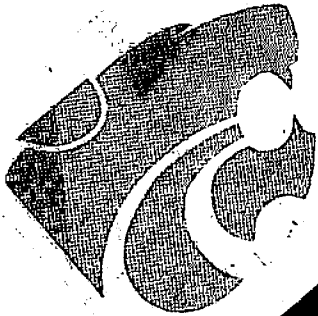
"We lost by a small margin but the loss has stayed with us the entire season."

The team is ready for the state meet this weekend and are ready to prove to everyone wrong on the biggest stage of the season.

Bergeson was not worried about the team at regionals and is excited for the state meet, "although some people are doubting us as of now, the varsity squad this year is just as good as last year's and I think we will pull it together for the end of the season and prove to people what we knew we were capable of all season."

Thursday, October 30, 2008-NOVI NEWS

Athletes OF THE Week



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Mark Moore
Junior

Cross Country

As though Moore needed any extra incentive, the junior barrier was well aware that he and his fellow 'Cats would have to earn a trip to the state finals. Well, they did just that, and Moore led the way as he took fifth-place overall behind such notable runners as Seth Thibodeau of Milford, Neil Naughton of Walled Lake Western and Tim Dalton of Northville. The Wildcats are taking their sixth-straight trip to the finals, and each and every one of them will be looking to give it their best shot with some personal best times. Check for complete finals coverage next week!

Old trip, same thrill

For sixth straight year, Novi makes finals and want to make some noise

Thursday, October 30, 2008-NOVI NEWS

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

What makes a great season? Is it a conference title? Well, that doesn't hurt. Is it meeting every goal set before the start of the year? Probably not, as that's a very tough thing to do. How about making it to the state finals? Yeah — that's one heck of a year.

The Novi Wildcats boys' cross country team would probably agree with that. For the sixth straight year, the 'Cats are going to make the trip to the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Competing in one of the toughest Regionals in the state is never an easy task, and the Wildcats have managed to do it through the years — though coach Bob Smith would like to see the talent in the Regional spread out.

"Region 7-1 is a blood bath," Smith said. "Too bad the MHSAA does not care that top schools are left home."

And, much like the Michigan High School Athletic Association was able to change the tennis Regionals, they have the power to rectify the situation.

"Every year they have the opportunity to fix some of the problems that are plaguing our sport," Smith said. "Every year, they choose not to."

Luckily for Novi and two other Kensington Valley Conference schools, they can worry about that next year. Until then, they have a major competition on their hands with the Lower Peninsula cross country finals. The Wildcats took second place behind the Milford Mavericks, who have an unofficial third-place ranking in the nation. Also escaping from the Regional was a very strong Pinckney team in third place. Howell took fourth, but didn't qualify.

With wet and soggy conditions

to deal with, the Wildcats were forced to come to the match with a strategy.

"It was raining all morning, but the rain stopped about an hour before the gun went off," Smith said. "Because of the conditions, we needed to modify our race strategy. Since the ground was saturated, we decided that a conservative first mile was in order."

According to Smith, soggy ground takes the strength out of the legs of harriers.

"So, we were content to remain competitive for the first mile, and then race in earnest starting with the second mile," he said. "We ended up with one guy in the 15s and four finishing in the 16s."

And it worked. Novi's second place finish was only able to be duplicated by state-favored Milford. That's not a bad statistic — especially considering there were 17 teams that competed in the event. Out of those 17, the six Kensington Valley Conference teams were in the top 10.

Novi was ready for the task at hand though and followed their leaders to the major finish. Junior Mark Moore led the way for the Wildcats, crossing the line in fifth place with a time of 15:57. Not far behind was Amol Huprikar, also a junior, as he recorded a personal-best time of 16:08. Eric Joseph was third in line for Novi, finishing in 16:30 while Spencer Ornes finished fourth for Novi and reported a time of 16:50 for his efforts.

"Our strategy worked like a charm," Smith said. "Our guys had plenty of snap and drive for the hard charge to the finish."

The Wildcats will compete in the state finals Saturday with a start time of 1:30 p.m. (details at www.mhsaa.com) for Division I. The finals are held at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.



Submitted Photo

The Novi boys' cross country team will once again make the trip to the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn this Saturday to compete in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Finals for Division I competition. 2003 marks the sixth-straight year the Wildcats have competed in the finals, and they are hoping to make as much noise as their former teammates did during their time on the speedy course.

Seventh in the state!

Wildcats make a run for it at finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

At what point does winning become a legacy?

For the Novi Wildcats boys' cross country team, running to a top-10 place in the state finals doesn't seem to be an issue. For the past six years, the squad has repeated that feat each and every year, and 2003 proved to be no different.

"We did it again," Novi coach Bob Smith said. "For the sixth-straight year, I am proud to announce that the Novi mens' cross country team finished in the top-10 at the state finals."

Novi raced to a seventh-place finish this year as they collected 252 points in the highly touted and highly attended event. Placing first were Kensington Valley Conference rivals Milford, who won with a convincing 90 points, while Ann Arbor Huron took second with 149 points. In third was a strong Saline team, gather 166 total points, and Grand Ledge took fourth with 2001 and Ann Arbor Pioneer was fifth with 236. Placing sixth and showing how strong the KVC is this year were the Pinckney Pirates, who collected 240 points at the meet.

And the Wildcats have another honor too. For the seventh-straight season, Novi has the right to claim they have some of the best runners in the state on their squad. Juniors Mark Moore and Amol Huprikar were recipients of All-State status thanks to their incredible performances.

Moore ran to a top-10 finish as he took 10th in a time of 15:31.35, while Huprikar finished 13th with a time of 15:33.20.

Though not everyone could take home a coveted All-State medal, there were impressive performances across the board from each and every Wildcat runner.

"Six of our seven racers set a career personal best yesterday," Smith said of his stellar harrier squad.

Eric Joseph, a senior who has been remarkable this season, finished in 47th place and just missed out on his personal record — though his time wasn't anything to scoff at. Joseph put together a 16:22.35 in the most competitive meet in Michigan.

Spencer Ornes, who has shown steady improvement since his first runs with Smith and the Wildcats, ran a 16:28.90 for his personal career best time and took 57th place for his efforts.

Taking 129th was Scott Bergeson, who put together a time of 17:14 to notched a career-best time for the Wildcats.

Claude Miller came to run too, and he finished his long-distance trek in 17:16.40 to take 131st at the finals.

Nick Preketes ran his best ever as well, coming up with a 17:37.65 for a 155th-place finish in the state.

The Wildcats found themselves in some very familiar company as the majority of those finishing in the top-10 in the state were runners who competed in the 7-1 regional at Clarkston — considered the strongest regional in the state.

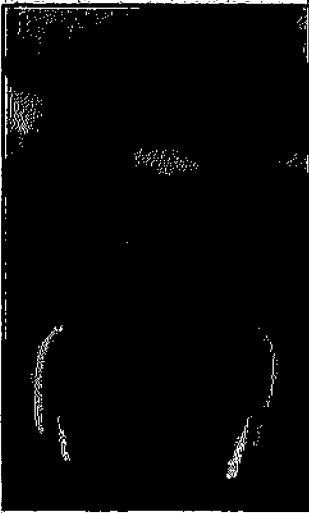
Finishing first overall was Saline's Dustin Voss, who put together a staggering time of 14:54.45 to blow the competition out of the water. Second place went to Frank Tinney of Ann Arbor Huron, who ran a 15:07.20, while Waterford Kettering's Justin Switzer ran a 15:09.45 for third.

A familiar name in this area was that of Neal Naughton, the stellar runner from Walled Lake Western, who finished fourth with a time of 15:14.30 while Milford's Seth Thibodeau ran to a fifth-place finish in 15:23.60. Muskegon Mona Shores was well represented as well, as Tim Kajjala took sixth in 15:24 and Ryan McCarl took ninth with a 15:28.35. Neil Atzinger of Saline took seventh with a 15:25.30, and Milford's Dan DeRusha finally found himself placing eighth with a time of 15:26.65.

Thursday, November 6, 2003-NOVI NEWS

Amol Huprikar
Junior
Cross Country

Huprikar showed just what it means to be a Novi Wildcat as he took 13th place in the state to secure a place as an All-State cross country runner in his junior season. The talented Wildcat not only proved that it takes skill to be among the elite, but also plenty of heart and determination as well.



Athletes OF THE Week

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• 2003 Cross Country Dream Team •

— Player of the Year —

Seth Thibodeau
Milford senior

- Earned All-State honors at State meet, placing fifth overall in 15:23.
- Earned medal at Regional meet, placing third overall in 15:48.
- Won individual championship at KVC meet, placing first overall in 15:37.
- Won individual championship at Oakland County meet, placing first overall in 16:00.
- At Ohio's Midwest Meet of Champions placed second overall in 15:28.



Seth Thibodeau

"Seth is not very big," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "But he's one of those kids that you can't judge the book by its cover. He's progressed in so many ways as a runner during his career here at Milford: from a physical standpoint he's gotten taller and lighter; and from a maturity standpoint he's developed from a little kid to a young man. But the one thing that has remained constant and the one thing that separates him from the rest is not something you can see — it's something that's from within. It's that fire."

Mike Anderson
Milford junior

- Earned medal at Oakland County meet, placing 15th overall in 17:04.
- At Ohio's Midwest Meet of Champions placed ninth overall in 15:58.



Mike Anderson

"Mike had his season cut short because of Mono," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "But he was the one that early on separated us from the rest. He was our stop-gap, because while Mike was chasing DeRusha and Thibodeau, our other guys were chasing him. And that made our team better. That's where Mike's presence was so significant, because if there had been a gap, our No. 4 and No. 5 runners would have been saying 'well, we can't run with those guys (DeRusha and Thibodeau), so we'll just stay back here.' So it made a difference to have Mike bridging that gap."

Dan DeRusha
Milford senior

- Earned All-State honors at State meet, placing eighth overall in 15:26.
- Earned first team All-KVC honors at league meet, placing second overall in 15:51.
- Earned medal at Oakland County meet, placing third overall in 16:18.
- At Ohio's Midwest Meet of Champions placed third overall in 15:30.
- Won second individual championship at Spartan Invitational, placing first overall in 15:33.



Dan DeRusha

"Dan is the ultimate success story," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "Throughout his career he has accomplished so many things and at so many levels. This year he really embraced the idea that his teammates were his best friends in the world, and he made a lot of concessions to do what was best for the team."

Eric Joseph
Novi senior

- Took 72nd at the state finals meet with a 16:22
- Was the 15th runner at the Regional meet in 16:30
- Took 10th in the KVC meet with a 16:35 following two weeks of illness and injury
- Has run the state meet three years straight
- 13th fastest runner ever at Novi High School



Eric Joseph

"Eric has been a strong runner for us for four years," Bob Smith said. "He was an impact player for us even as a freshman and has maintained that status through his entire career. Eric has been a great runner on some great teams. Never in his four years would he settle for riding the coattails of the team. Instead, he always dedicated himself to being better as a runner and as a leader. There's no doubt in my mind that he's a great runner."

'Cats get three area selections

Tim Dalton
Northville senior

- All-State runner with 23rd-place finish in 15:39 at state finals
- First All-State runner at Northville since 1987
- Tied for first on All-Time Northville runners list with 15:39
- Took fourth at 7-1 Clarkston Regional with a 15:56.5
- Won WLAA Jamboree at Cass Benton with a 16:48



Tim Dalton

"Tim has had a great career at Northville and this year he showed he is a complete package as a runner," Chris Cronin said of the Northville harrier. "Tim hopes to run next fall at the Division I level, and I think he can make that happen. He has reached a new level this fall, and Mustang fans should be prepared come the spring track season to see him burn up the track."

Mark Moore
Novi junior

- All-State runner status for second-straight year
- Finished 10th at state finals with a time of 15:31
- Finished fifth at 7-1 Clarkston Regional with a 15:57
- Took ninth at Oakland County with a 16:44
- Third overall at KVC meet with a 16:01



Mark Moore

"Mark is really a complete runner," Bob Smith said. "He has the mental tools as well as the physical tools. He has strength, speed, heart and soul. He's a big meet runner, and he's not intimidated by anybody. He led in the state meet for the entire first mile, which was cool to hear announced over the loud speaker. He showed that he's really to run with the big boys all the time. He's one of them."

Amol Huprikar
Novi junior

- All-State runner with a 13th-place finish in 15:33
- Took seventh at the 7-1 Regional with a time of 16:08
- Notched a 14th-place finish in the Oakland County meet with a 16:48
- Took fifth at the KVC meet with a time of 16:15



Amol Huprikar

"Amol started (at Novi) as a virtual unknown," Bob Smith said. "He moved into the school district from Allen Park with no real prior history when it came to cross country. Soon, he moved from being our fifth runner, to fourth, to third, to second and now he's challenging for the number one spot. Every race he runs gives him more confidence and more knowledge. I think he believes he's now another number one runner for us, and rightfully so."

Kyle Harris
Milford senior

- At State meet placed 36th overall in 15:56.
- Earned medal at Regional meet, placing 14th overall in 16:28.
- Earned second team All-KVC honors at league meet, placing 14th overall in 16:49.
- At Ohio's Midwest Meet of Champions placed 15th overall in 16:08.



Kyle Harris

"I refer to Kyle as the Silent Assassin," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "He is one that does not say much, but he's a four-time state finalist, which is a pretty big deal. In nature Kyle is what people consider to be more of a track runner than a cross country runner. But he's also one that is a tenacious competitor, so he'll burn where he can burn to make that difference for his team."

Steve Leonard
Lakeland junior

- At State meet placed 39th overall in 16:00.
- Earned medal at Regional meet, placing 12th overall in 16:22.
- Earned second team All-KVC honors at league meet, placing 11th overall in 16:41.
- Earned medal at Oakland County meet, placing 16th overall in 17:05.



Steve Leonard

"I thought Steve had a real good season," Eagles head coach Randy Wilkins said. "He was real consistent all year — he was consistently our No. 1 man. He races well, he's real competitive. He works real hard and he's pretty self-motivated. I'm pleased to say that he has another season and I think he'll be better next year."

Chad Murray
Milford senior

- At State meet placed 44th overall in 16:04.
- Earned medal at Regional meet, placing 11th overall in 16:21.
- Earned first team All-KVC honors at league meet, placing seventh overall in 16:20.
- Earned medal at Oakland County meet, placing 13th in 16:54.
- At Ohio's Midwest Meet of Champions placed 26th in 16:20.



Chad Murray

"Chad is a guy that most people don't really notice, because his name is not the one in the headlines," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "But he ran a career best 16:04 at the state meet, and how many teams would like to have a guy run 16:04. And in addition to being a performer, Chad's also a leader. He's somebody that takes great pride in the team and is probably our most vocal person."

Jeff Tschirhart
South Lyon senior

- At Regional meet placed 16th overall in 16:32.
- At KVC meet placed 18th overall in 16:58.
- Earned medal at Oakland County meet, placing 19th overall in 17:07.



Jeff Tschirhart

"Jeff was definitely the team leader in terms of training," Lions head coach Scott Smith said. "At the end of his junior cross country season, he doubled his efforts to perform well for this season by putting in 1,000 miles between Nov. 1st and Sept. 1st. He was either our first, second or third kid as a junior, but this year he was our No. 1 runner in every single race."



Dana Pitcock

Dana Pitcock
Milford junior

- Placed 31st at states in 15:47.
- Earned medal at Regional meet, placing 10th in 16:20.
- Earned All-KVC at league meet, placing fourth in 16:10.

"When we went down to Ohio, Dana blew out his ankle," Mavericks head coach Brian Salyers said. "So he missed about four weeks and had to work his way back. His best race of the year was the conference meet — he finished fourth and beat some great racers."

ALL-COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY



Black



Chumbley



DeRusha



Huprikar



Moore



Naughton



Quick



Richmond



Switzer



Thibodeau

Milford duo, coach earn All-County honors

By MARVIN GOODWIN
Of The Daily Oakland Press

Oakland County continued to maintain its tradition as a strong area for distance running with a group of All-County athletes who can compete with any in the state. Milford became the first Oakland County team to win the boys state title since Novi did it in 1999.

Justin Switzer, Waterford Kettering — In a breakout season, established himself as one of the state's top runners, finishing third at the Division 1 state meet. Was also OAA III and regional champ, and took titles at the Holly and Brother Rice Invitationals. Had third-fastest time of all state meet competitors with a 15:09 and qualified for the Footlocker nationals by finishing eighth in the Midwest Regional in Wisconsin.

Neal Naughton, Walled Lake Western — One of area's top runners past two seasons. The Western Lakes league champ also won Walled Lake Western and Brother Rice Invitational meets and was regional runner-up. Couldn't compete at last year's Division 1 state meet because of broken leg but placed fourth this year in 15:14 and was the top finisher of Michigan athletes at the Footlocker Midwest regional, where he placed fifth and also qualified for the national meet.

Dan DeRusha, Milford — Won Spartan Invitational and took third at the Midwest Meet of Champions in Hilliard, Ohio. Was Oakland County and Kensington Valley Conference runner-up and took eighth at the Division 1 state meet in 15:26.

Seth Thibodeau, Milford — Took second at the

Midwest Meet of Champions, and notched titles at the Oakland County and Kensington Valley Conference meets before placing third at regionals. Was Spartan Invitational runner-up and shined at state with a fifth-place finish at the Division 1 meet in 15:23.

Mark Moore, Novi — Tall and strong, was a third-place finisher at the Kensington Valley Conference meet and Walled Lake Western Invitational and placed ninth at the Oakland County meet. Took fifth at regionals and placed 10th at the Division 1 state meet in 15:31.

John Black, Brother Rice — Consistency was trademark with runner-up finishes at the Catholic League and Catholic Central meets, fourth at the Oakland County meet and fifth at the Brother Rice Invitational to go with his regional title. Capped season by taking 17th at the Division 1 state meet in 15:37.

Amol Huprikar, Novi — Improved during season, taking 14th at the Oakland County meet, fifth at the Kensington Valley Conference meet, seventh at regionals before a 13th place finish at the Division 1 state meet in 15:33.

Matt Chumbley, Rochester — Stepped into the leader's spot this year by helping pace Falcons to share of OAA I title — he placed third — and was regional champ. Was third at the Holly Invitational and placed 25th at the Division 1 state meet in 15:41.

Donnie Richmond, Oxford — Broken leg cut short his season but not before he won Flint Metro, Brandon Invitational and Catholic Central Division II race titles. He was runner-up at the Brother Rice Invitational, sixth at the

All-County boys cross country team

FIRST TEAM

Name, School	Year	Season Best
John Black, Brother Rice	Junior	15:37
Matt Chumbley, Rochester	Senior	15:41
Dan DeRusha, Milford	Senior	15:26
Amol Huprikar, Novi	Junior	15:33
Mark Moore, Novi	Junior	15:31
Neal Naughton, W.L. Western	Senior	15:14
Donnie Richmond, Oxford	Senior	15:25
Mike Quick, Lahser	Soph.	15:09
Justin Switzer, Kettering	Junior	15:09
Seth Thibodeau, Milford	Senior	15:23

SECOND TEAM

Name, School	Year	Season Best
Mike Anderson, Milford	Junior	15:52
Bruce Kaczmarek, Lahser	Junior	15:52
Chris Kaczmarek, Troy Athens	Senior	15:53
Ryle Harris, Milford	Senior	15:55
Steve Leonard, Lakeland	Junior	16:00
Chad Murray, Milford	Junior	16:04
Sky Peterson, Lake Orion	Junior	15:25
Dana Piroch, Milford	Junior	15:47
Mac Rose, Lahser	Senior	15:57
Colin Orr, West Bloomfield	Junior	16:02

HONORABLE MENTION: Jordan Racz and Jason Day (Rochester); Keith Maglo (Lake Orion); Jeff Tachart (South Lyon); Andrew Kennedy (Lahser); Mike Bell (Brother Rice); Eric Joseph (Novi); Brooks Cowan (Troy); Luke Mubins (Southfield Christian); Tim Wilks (Milford).

Oxford Invitational and eighth at the Oakland County meet. A three-time league champion.

Mike Quick, Bloomfield Hills Lahser — Was Spartan Invitational Division II runner-up and added regional and OAA II titles. Finished 10th at the Oakland County meet and placed 22nd at Division 2 state meet in 15:59.

Coach of the Year

Brian Salyers, Milford — His commitment to a top-flight program is evident with the Mavs production in the last three years. After two straight runner-up finishes at state, Milford won the state title this year in addition to Oakland County, regional and its third straight Kensington Valley Conference title. The Mavs also won their second straight Midwest Meet of Champions title in Hilliard, Ohio. For much of the past decade, Salyers has maintained a boys and girls program competitive with most in the state.



Salyers

Novi boasts eight All-State athletes

All-State honors is something that I never had the chance to accomplish in my high school career. Does that mean I was a bad athlete? Of course not. It just means I wasn't elite.

Out of all of the years my high school has been competing in sports, I don't believe there was ever an All-State-caliber athlete. Novi, on the other hand, has eight — and that was just in the fall sports season.

Brad Simpson, a senior soccer player, earned the highest honors this year as he not only made First-Team All-State, but was also selected to the best-of-the-best even among his All-State peers by earning a Dream Team nod.



Sam Eggleston

Brockman, a senior, and Emily Holt, a junior, were selected as First-Team All-Staters as well. Their accomplishments in tennis are nothing to scoff at, especially considering they were part of the All-State selections last year as well. Their talent and determination paid off as they made a lot of noise this year and were honored for their efforts.

Mark Moore and Amol Huprikar played a major role in the success of Novi cross country this year — heck, they've been playing a major role since they first started running in the sport. This year, however, both earn All-State nods thanks to their performances at the state finals meet — a performance that found the 'Cats finishing in the top-10 yet again.

Brandon Cigna is a name that pretty much every high school golfer in Division I is aware of. He has one of the best drives at this level and can put together scores that make college players envious. His skills on the links was awarded this year as he and his fellow 'Cats made

another run at the state title.

Josh Buck and Mike Hart had the pleasure of being named to the All-State teams in the most competitive field of sports in Michigan — high school football. The names that make the All-State team in this sport are almost always sought after by Division I or Division II teams and these guys aren't any different. Thanks to an undefeated run during the regular season and a post-season display the fell just six-inches short of the state finals, Buck and Hart were both awarded state recognition for their efforts.

It's amazing when you sit back and think about the amount of talent that Novi has on their fields of play. Be it football, tennis, soccer, golf or cross county, the Wildcats are literally fielding the elite of the various sports. Most schools are lucky to have one All-State

athlete, and Novi, like always, is keeping the bar raised by having eight.

Nearly every one of these athletes play multiple sports too, and for those who don't there is another All-State caliber player waiting to fill in for them in the winter and spring seasons.

I'd like to extend a congratulations to each and every one of these eight All-Staters. Great job, and thanks for all the great sports moments you've let me write.

Photo by John Helder

Novi's All-State athletes, from left to right: Mark Moore, Colene Brockman, Amol Huprikar, Brandon Cigna, Mike Hart, Emily Holt, Josh Buck and Brad Simpson.

