

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

555 E Downie St
Alma, MI 48801
(517) 202-1808

www.highschoolsportsscene.com

- Publisher**
Randy Miniard
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com
517-202-1808
- High School Liaison**
Paul Hornak
p1hornak@gmail.com
989-331-1168
- Editorial**
John Raffel
john.raffel@gmail.com
616-894-2936
- Butch Harmon
616-655-9058
- Dave Cook
- Scott Keyes
racinitnews@yahoo.com
989-890-4036

- Photographers**
Skip Traynor, Dana McCann,
Eric Sawatzki, Marvin Hall,
Jaymee Beard, Lynn Munger,
John Raffel, Jason Barden,
James Traylor, Yoland Hayward,
Shari Mandell, Lynne Munger,
Lizzy Neal

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The leaves are starting to fall and that must mean one thing in Mid-Michigan.....It's time for the football playoffs!!!

What a football season it has been so far and the playoffs promise more memorable action. From Division 1 through Division 8 and the eight-man playoff divisions, our area school are well-represented in the playoffs.

There are so many storylines to keep track of this season. Can Rockford make another deep run in Division 1? How far will Mt. Pleasant and Mason go in Division 3 and can DeWitt mount another run to the state title game in D3? Will Freeland go on another memorable run in Division 4? Is this the year Frankenmuth brings home the crown in Division 5? Will Durand continue its magical season in Division 6? Will Ithaca make it back to Ford Field in Division 7. Can Pewamo-Westphalia or Lansing Catholic repeat as state champions? Will Beal City make it back to the Division 8 title game? Can Merrill or Breckenridge reach the state finals in 8-man football? So many questions to be answered. We can't wait for the playoffs to kick off.

Plenty of action in taking place all-across the high school sports world. A big shout out to the Midland Dow tennis team that brought home another state tennis title. A big tip of the cap to the Alma soccer team as well. The Panthers won a district title and added a regional semifinal win to reach the elite 8 in Division 3 soccer. Panther coach Nick O'Neill has done a phenomenal job with the Alma soccer program over the years and reached a milestone with his 200th win as Alma soccer coach earlier this season.

With so much great action taking place what a great time it is to get out and support our local athletes.

A big shout out to all our advertisers and sponsors, who make High School Sports Scene Magazine possible. We would not be able to keep the kids in the news without your help.

See you at the games!

Randy Miniard
Publisher/Owner
517-202-1808
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

Alma Soccer Team Turns In One Of Finest Seasons In Program History

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Alma soccer team has been experiencing some memorable seasons the last couple of years, and this season is taking its place as one of the best ever.

Alma finished the regular season with a 14-3-1 record. The Panthers turned in an 8-3-1 conference record and finished league play second in the TVC 8 behind Frankenmuth. That record earned the Panthers the number-one seed at the district it hosted as well as a first-round bye. Alma took advantage of that ranking and by the Panthers defeated Big Rapids 3-1 in the district semifinals and then captured their second district title in the past three years with a 7-0 win against Clare. The district title was also the third in program history.

Along with winning the district title, the Alma soccer team turned in several more noteworthy accomplishments this season.

"We defeated Mt. Pleasant 6-0

to start the season after taking a pretty bad home loss to Mt. Pleasant last season," said Alma coach Nick O'Neill. "We also won our home tournament and started the season 8-0 before tying Frankenmuth 2-2 on the road. All three of our regular-season losses were also by one goal."

O'Neill himself added a milestone win when he reached his 200th win with the Alma boys soccer program.

Alma forward Leo Richter set a new school record for goals scored in a season. Richter has 35 goals as of the first round of the regional tournament. Those 35 goals broke the single-season goal scoring record of 33 goals that Connor Lemerand set last season.

Along with scoring 35 goals this season, Richter has added 10 assists. Alma has received offense from a variety of sources this season as Daniel Ash has totaled 20 goals and 15 assists, Jack Lemerand has totaled 12 goals and 10 assists and Keegan Crowe has scored six goals along with eight assists.

Lemerand, a freshman, is an attacking midfielder and is part of a strong group of Panther midfielders. Alma's midfield is also receiving big efforts from junior team captain Aidan O'Neill. A defensive midfielder, Aidan O'Neill has scored three goals along with six assists. Senior Aidan Barnes is also a team captain and defensive midfielder who has added three goals and five assists.

Along with outstanding offense, Alma has played some solid defense this season. Senior centerback Corey Yates, a team captain, has added three goals. Junior left centerback Collin Helinski has scored one goal this season while junior right centerback Ethan Bailey has scored a goal. Between the pipes, sophomore goalkeeper Noah Vega has totaled 48 saves this season. Vega has recorded 5.5 shutouts and has a 1.10 goals-against average.

"We ran a 3-5-2 formation and moved away from the 4-3-3," coach O'Neill said. "We have athletic and skilled players all over the field and play a very attack-minded brand of soccer. I would say that this team



The Alma soccer team brought home a second district championship in the past three years after defeating Clare 7-0 in the district title match at the Alma district.

has been closer than any team I've been with in my 19 years as a coach. That bond and chemistry has a direct correlation to our success on the field."

With a third district title secured, Alma went on to the regional tournament at Clare. Alma defeated Manistee 3-2 on penalty kicks in overtime in the regional semifinal. Alma took a 1-0 lead in the first half of the regional semifinal when freshman forward Brayden Truman scored his seventh goal of the season with an assist from freshman Jack Lemerand. After Manistee tied the match, Alma took a 2-1 lead into halftime when junior captain Leo Richter scored his 36th goal of the season. Junior Daniel Ash tallied his

16th assist of the season on the goal.

The match was tied 2-2 at the end of regulation and overtime and then went to penalty kicks to be decided. Alma received goals from senior Aidan Barnes, junior Aidan O'Neill, junior Daniel Ash, freshman Jack Lemerand and junior Leo Richter to win the match.

Senior defender Corey Yates along with junior defenders Collin Helinski, Ethan Bailey and Eli Haller played major roles on defense against a talented Manistee offense.

Alma finished the season with an 18-4-1 record after dropping a 1-0 defensive struggle to Elk Rapids (17-7-2) in the regional championship game.

That excitement paid off with the Sharks winning the TVC 10 for the second year in a row.

"This group really seemed to enjoy competition" Biehl said. "It pushed them to improve. Good attitudes were another thing that really stood out. The girls were positive, didn't get down on themselves when they were struggling which is huge in golf."

With the bulk of the team returning next year, the future is bright for the Sharks.

"It's exciting to have my core group back and to only be losing one senior," Biehl said. "Now that they have experienced the state finals as a team, they know they want to work to get back there again. Looking forward to adding a few new invites to our schedule to help better prepare us for next year."



The St. Louis golf team was paced this season by a strong core of juniors including Josie Schrot.

St. Louis Golf Team Ends Season Competing At State Finals

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Led by a talented core of juniors, the St. Louis golf team entered the season with a bright future. That future turned out to be now as the young Sharks earned a trip to the state golf finals for the first time since 2018.

The Sharks were short on numbers heading into the season as well but golfers stepped up and St. Louis won a team regional championship before going on to place 17th overall at the state finals.

"The state finals was a great experience for our team this season," said St. Louis coach Andrea Biehl, "especially with three juniors and one sophomore on the team. We qualified for the state finals in 2018 as well. We had a solid group of senior golfers that year and they were a very memorable team."

St. Louis was paced this season by junior Josie Schrot. Schrot was the first-place overall finisher in the Tri-Valley Conference 10. Schrot also led the Sharks at the state finals shooting a 195 total for the two-day tournament.

Fellow junior Natalee Hoyt also

turned in a big season for the Sharks. Hoyt finished third overall at the TVC 10 tournament and also led the way at the regional where she placed third overall. Hoyt capped the season with a strong second day at the state finals and shot a 218 total for the state meet. Junior Emma Worthy was another solid overall golfer as she placed sixth overall at the TVC 10 meet.

"Our numbers were smaller than we had expected this season but people stepped up and filled in the missing spots," Biehl said. "We took a trip this summer to Garland Resort for a little team bonding and golfing. It got the girls excited for the season."

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Kate Brody named 2022 Miss Golf

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

For four year's Grand Blanc's Kate Brody has made a name for herself on the golf course.

However this year not only has Brody made a name for herself, she left a lasting impression on the entire golf community rewriting the Michigan High School Athletic Association record books, while becoming one of the most prolific golfers to ever come out of the state of Michigan.

Brody wrapped up her high school career winning her second individual championship earlier this month at the Division 1 state tournament at the Bedford

Valley Golf and Country Club in Battle Creek.

Now she can add Miss Golf to her already impressive resume. On Oct. 28 the Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association announced that Brody has won the 2022 Miss Golf award.

Brody has been the best player in the state since her first match this season, winning eight of nine 18-hole tournaments and averaging 68 shots in those nine matches.

Her scores include a course-record 10-under-par 62 at The Fortress in Frankenmuth, a pair of 65s and she's carded 68 as well. Earlier in the summer Brody also carded a 62 at a junior event.

But if anyone who knows golf around Mid-Michigan knows shooting a 62 at the Fortress knows its no small feat, but on that day

Brody made it look easy.

"Going into that day at the Fortress I went into the tournament with no expectations of going that low," Brody said.

"Last year I shot a 67 at the Fortress and I think my goal heading into that tournament was to beat that. I didn't think I was going to go that low, but when I realized that I was six under through eight holes I knew I had a real shot at going low on the day."

As far as seeing if the 62 is an all-time low in the record books for the regular season, Grand Blanc coaches called the MHSAA, but unfortunately the MHSAA doesn't keep regular season records for girls golf, but most think that score is an all-time best for the high school ranks.

Even if it can't be confirmed most think that the score is one of the best-ever in the history of girls golf in the state. She did go on and

break the scoring mark at Grand Blanc High School and the Fortress not to mention blowing away the field at the regional.

She won the regional by 17 shots with a score of 65 at El Dorado Golf Club in Mason and has been practicing hard at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, where her dad Doug is the head professional.

"Honestly at regionals I knew my team was going to have to do pretty well if we were going to make state as a team, so I wanted to try and shoot really low so my team would have a chance," Brody said. "I made eight birdies and a bogey. I was playing really solid that day. I wanted to give my team a good chance of making it to the tournament, but unfortunately we came up a little short."

Brody will continue her golf career next fall at the University of Wisconsin.

Pumford, Freeland Golf Moving In Positive Direction

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Not only did Averie Pumford break the Freeland scoring record this season shooting a 74 early in the



season, she came right back less than a week later and fired a 71 to better her previous score.

Not bad for the 15-year-old Pumford, who is only a sophomore for the Falcons.

"I guess coming into this season breaking the school record I knew I could do it," Pumford said. "But I can honestly say I never go into a tournament thinking that is my main goal. I honestly didn't know what the school record was until this year."

To her surprise the school

Freeland's Averie Pumford set numerous school records for the Falcon's this season. Freeland advanced to the Division 3 finals for the fifth straight year.

record of 75 was held by her sister Olivia, who went on to play collegiately at Saginaw Valley State University.

"Like I said when I knew I broke the school record I had no idea Olivia held it so that makes it pretty cool," she said. "We have a little sibling rivalry going now and that makes it pretty fun out there."

Pumford admits she has watched her game evolve over the last year, but she knows hard works pays off in the end. Nothing seems to phase her on the links, but we she saw Grand Blanc's Kate Brody shoot a course record 62 at the Fortress earlier this year she couldn't help to be amazed by

that score.

"A 62 is just nuts," she said. "When I saw that score post I couldn't believe it. Shooting that low is one thing, but to do at the Fortress is simply incredible. I know how hard she works on her game and she deserves all the positive things heading her way in the future."

Pumford has been equally impressive in her own right this season.

She spent the summer golfing with her dad, who played at Michigan State and is the assistant coach at Saginaw Valley State University. Pumford also joined the Calloway Meijer Summer Tour, playing in the 16-18 age division.

"I'm only 15, but I wanted to play from the longer tees," Pumford said. "I did OK. But I wanted to compete with the



older players, who play from the teens in the back. I know I'm pretty long off the tee, so I wanted that challenge."

Pumford estimates her average drive is 250 yards.

At the end of the day Pumford helped lead Freeland to its fifth straight trip to the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division

3 finals at Forest Akers East in East Lansing.

Pumford led the way for the Falcons finishing all-state after firing an 81-79 over two rounds to finish ninth overall. Zoey Markey, Reese Conlee, Sophie Maxwell, and Lilly Spencer along with Pumford helped Freeland finish 16th in the 18-team field.



Alma Girls Are Regional Champs, Boys Are Second

John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma girls and boys cross country teams have both qualified for the state meet.

The girls were regional champions for the first time since 1988. In the regional meet at Alma had a 55 compared to 67 for second-place Frankenmuth.

For Alma, Ezgil Kurt (18:59.1), Joy Evans (19:15.5), Hannah Raglin (19:46.3), Jenna Overla (20:09.4) and Jordan Cleveland (20:57.6) took places second, third, seventh, 16th

and 27th.

"The girls did what they have been doing all year," LeBron said. "They had a great race every meet from the get go they're doing so well. Even though they're fairly young they're racing like veterans. Week in and week out they rally around each other and put up great performances. It's nice to see them coming together the way they are. Four of our top seven are sophomores."

"We're ranked No. 9 in the state right now. A top 10 finish is a goal. The girls are fantastic. They did incredible."

The boys took second despite being seeded fifth.

Thomas Larson was sixth at regionals (16:23.2), Al Kudmani 16th (17:05.2), Lucas Lebron 18th (17:10.5) Bodie Heiss 21st (17:15.8) and Elijah Baitierra 28th (17:37.1).

"We have four ninth graders in the top seven," Gene LeBron said. "We have a sophomore and two juniors. For having four freshmen, what they did was incredible."

Ithaca boys won their regional while the girls took third and both qualified for the state meet.



Both the Alma boys and Girls cross country teams qualified for the state meet in 2022.

Breckenridge Girls Take Regional Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been quite a fall for the Breckenridge girls cross country team has had quite a season.

"The girls won the first cross country conference championship in school history," coach Kurt Gulick said. "They won regionals by nine points and haven't won in nine years. "It's a young young squad and always ready to strike when it matters most. They are very fun to watch and coach. Their hard work in the off-season is paying off and they are having fun seeing that payoff as well."

Breckenridge had a 481 followed by Sacred Heart (74) and Michigan Lutheran Seminary (116)

Leaders for Breckenridge were Ally Schmitz (21:28.08) Avery Westall (21:43.10), Danica Aldrich 11th (22:25.15), Tori Most 12th (22:29.05) and Areyell Weiss in 22nd (23:41.0) and Nataly Vine 23rd (23:45.51).

The boys team took second in the regional and will be going to the state meet. Sawyer Stoneman was fourth (17:36.13) Isaac Humm sixth (17:59:52) Jaden J Strander 12th (18:42.0) and Aimon Humm 24th (20:27.64).

Breckenridge edged traditional state power Mcount Pleasant Heart in all three MSAC meets.

In the final jamboree for Breckenridge, Schmitz (2203.13), Westall (22:2009), Most (22:40.12) and Aldrich (22:42.50) took spots five through eight.



The Breckenridge girls cross country team qualified for the state meet for the first time in nine seasons.

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Freeland Runners Putting In Work During Solid Season For Both Girls, Boys Teams

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's another solid season for Freeland cross country coach George Drown.

The boys have had a spectacular season. They were St. Johns large school Invite champions, John Bruder Invite champions, Cadillac Invite Champions, TVC-8 Division champions, TJ Hansen TVC-8 individual champion, and Braydon Honsinger TVC-8 individual runner up. Braden Klein and Camden McLeod were first team all- TVC8 and Sam Nemeth honorable mention all- TVC 8.

The girls team was St. Johns Invite Champions, and third in the TVC-8.

For the boys, TJ Hansen "broke our school record with a time of 15:41 previously held by teammate Braydon Honsinger," Drown said. "He is our No. 1-2 runner on the team. Braydon Honsinger rebroke our school record with a time of 15:34 previously held by TJ Hansen. Braydon is our No. 1-2 runner on the team."

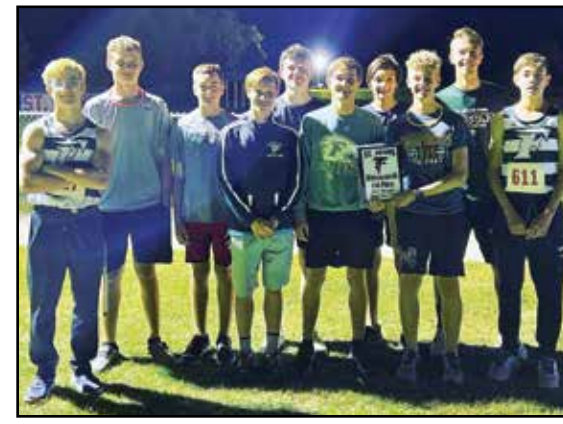
For the CC-C girls, Jada Prescott "In her first season (a freshman) is our No. 1-2 runner with a season best time of 19:50," Drown said. "Karie Keefer in her first season (sophomore) is our No. 1-2 runner with a season best time of 20:00."

The boys "have the best 1-2 punch in with Braydon Honsinger and TJ Hansen," Drown said. "The girls lost our No. 1 runner to vasovagal syndrome

and our No. 2 girl did not come out this season. Pair that with the addition of three other varsity girls making their high school season debuts and we really needed to get to know each other and care about each other first, and I think we have succeeded in that.

"We have two boys towards the front in the 15s and we had one in the 17s and two in the 18s. Right now we currently have two in the 15s and three in the 17s, so we just need to continue to work on that. The girls just need to continue to be students of the sport, learn something new about cross country and about what our bodies are capable of one race at a time. I think if we can do that we will be happy with our season at the end."

The Freeland boys and girls cross country teams have had championship success this season.



Beal City Girls Runners Have Championship Expectations

John Raffel Sports Scene

Beal City cross country coach Griffin Bohannon has been watching some excellent runners on his side all season.

The boys were runner-up at the Beaverton Invitational. The girls were champions at the Early Season Warrior Invitational, Beal City Invitational and Windmill Invitational. They were runner-up at the following: Apples to Apples Invitational, Oiler Invitational; currently in first place in the Highland Conference. The boys' top athlete has been Owen Gross.

"Owen is a senior and has been a great athlete all four years of high school," Bohannon said. "He qualified for the state meet as a freshman and junior and finished 49th last year. He is also a three-time all-conference performer and has a personal best time of 17:20 which he ran this season.

"For the girls, our top athlete is Kaylee Locke. Kaylee is a senior and is a two-time All-State athlete. She is also a three-time All-Conference performer and has won two rRegional titles. Kaylee has already clinched the Highland Conference title this season and she is also the reigning

conference champion in the 100m dash and 400m dash. It's not too often that you have a girl win the league in the 100m and in cross country." The boys team has a lot of depth.

"We have a clear top 3, but beyond that are 4, 5, 6, 7 are very close together," Bohannon said. "If one of them struggles on the course, someone else is there to pick up the slack. Our girls are a very competitive group that runs to win. Their mindset is their biggest strength.

"Our boys team could use a little work on focusing on our easy days.



The 2022 Beal City Cross Country Team.

For workout days, everyone takes the work seriously and does their job. However, some of the athletes take their recovery days a little too easy. The girls race very well when they are mentally pumped up, but sometimes struggle if they are not in the right headspace." The girls were hoping to clinch first in the conference on Oct. 18 in a home meet.

"Our girls are looking to win the conference title and potentially win the Regional title," Bohannon said. "It would also be nice to achieve a top 10 finish at the state championship. For the girls, the key is getting everyone healthy and on the starting line. If we get the full squad healthy and ready to compete, I am confident we will reach our goals."

CC-Crystal Runners Enjoying Another Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Having as many All-State cross country runners as possible, that's the goal for Carson City-Crystal cross country coach Grant Woodman this season.

It's been an outstanding season

for Woodman's boys team.

Highlights so far have been being Josh Lott Memorial Invitational champions, first place at the MSAC Jamboree No. 1 and 2, and third place at the Evert Invitational. Beal City is currently ranked 13th in Division 4.

Top runners have been Deegan Bodell, Kristian Coon, Jacob Stevens and Carter Clark,

Strength of the team, Woodman said, "Our pack and first to fifth man split is consistently around a minute and 20 seconds which is good. What do we need to work on is moving the pack closer to the front of the races. Our goals at the beginning of the season are to contend and win the MSAC, be top three, win regionals and get the team to the State meet and get as many to the All-State level as

possible.

"All of those goals are still within reach. We are in excellent position to win the League title and we are going to have a fight to win the Regional, but it will definitely be possible. By doing that, we should get the boys team to the state meet (Nov. 5) in Brooklyn (at the Michigan International Speedway)."

Deegan Bodell is having great season for Carson City Crystal's cross country team.



Rockford Girls Team Works For State Ranking

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ben Watson has had a strong season with his Rockford girls cross country team.

"The team has improved consistently throughout the entire season," he said. "We have gone from unranked to honorable mention

status and now are ranked 10th in the state."

Freshman Trinity VanderWoude "has been our top finisher in each meet she has raced in," Watson said. "Her personal record of 18:45 places her as the 25th fastest girl in school history and fourth fastest freshman in school history."

Sophomore Natalie Lewis "has a personal record of 18:55 which is

an incredible improvement from racing a 20:03 in her freshman year. Her 18:55 is the 33rd fastest in Rockford school history," Watson said. "The strength of the team is a competitive spirit and drive to become as fast as we possibly can become. This group is very competitive and works every day to make themselves as fast as possible.

"Over the championship season; last three weeks, we need to work on getting great sleep and eating properly. We are between third and fourth in the conference which features four of the top 15 ranked teams in the state. The OK Red is

the toughest and deepest women's cross country conference in the state of Michigan."

Watson likes his team's potential "Goal No. 1 is for all the Rams to continually improve till their last race of the season," Watson said. "If we do this we can accomplish other team

goals like qualifying for the state finals by placing top three in

our regional championship race. The key is staying motivated and focused on taking care of our bodies; sleeping and eating properly in addition to training properly."



Trinity VanderWoude (left) and Natalie Lewis share a special moment for Rockford's cross country team.

St. Louis Boy Runners Eye Third Straight Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Jay Puffpaff's St Louis cross country teams have usually done well during the post season and hope to do it again in 2022.

The boys team has won two straight Division 3 state titles.

"We have had a solid season," Puffpaff said. "The team has come together and worked extremely hard striving to reach our end of season goals.

"Ben March taken a big step forward this season. He put in a lot of quality work in the off season and that focus on the process is evident in his performances. Jaiden Dickman is really coming into her own here at the end of the season. She has run her best in the championship phase and has set herself up to have a big end to the season."

Things have gotten better for the Sharks as time has progress.

"The team has really done a

great job staying focused on the process of continuing to improve through the season," March said. "Their attitudes, actions and behaviors have stayed aligned with the performances and team that they are striving to become. After graduating a big group from last season we were a little inexperienced at the start to the season but our upperclassmen have done a great job leading and setting the example that our younger runners have responded to."

The boys were TVC 10 Champions. The girls were TVC 10 runners-up.

"Our goal as always is to perform our best in the championship phase of the season,"



The St. Louis cross country teams have put together another strong season in 2022.

March said. "Our boys will be trying to capture their fourth regional championship in a row

tomorrow while our girls will be trying to qualify for the state finals as a team once again."

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Chippewa Hills Runner Eyes All-State Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

In his very first high school cross country race in 2019, Chippewa Hills' Jake O'Neil was the third fastest freshman in what was a very large field.

This year as a senior, O'Neil is getting closer to realizing his dreams as being one of the top runners in the state in Division 3

"Jake has been a great kid to have out," Chippewa Hills coach Zach Hatfield said. "He strives to do his best. He works hard and is a positive member of the team. He looks out and helps the younger guys. I have enjoyed having him on the team and in the program for many years."

O'Neil's track season last spring was cut short when he developed breathing problems, which he

was told initially could be life threatening. But he got the go ahead from his doctors over the summer to train for the 2022 cross season and it's been a good one.

He started with a 17:43.2 in the early season Warrior (Invitational on his home course and then cut it to almost a minute two weeks later with a 16:45.6 at the Shepherd John Bruder classic. Next was the Michigan State Spartan Invitational with a 17:40.4 for 16th place. He opened the CSAA conference season with a 16:31.8 and then took his first victory of the season

with a 16:51.4 at the Grayling Invitational.

But the best was yet to come for O'Neil. He clocked a 17:04.5 at Lakeview in the second conference jamboree of the season.

But next up was the 2022 Portage Invitational on Oct. 9 in one of the biggest XC meets in the state. O'Neil was eighth in his division but had his personal record of 16:18.09.

After this, he continued to stay below 17 minutes with times of 16:47.5 and 16:57.0.

Chippewa Hills' Jake O'Neil is looking to be an all-state runner this season.

Lansing Catholic Girl Runners Having Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Lansing Catholic cross country coach Tim Simpson has enjoyed watching his cross country teams this season.

His boys teams were runners-up in 2016 and state champs in 2015. His girls were runners-up in 2016.

Last season his boys were third in the state but six of their top seven runners graduated. The only returning runner is junior Stephen Fair.

It's a different story for the Lansing Catholic girls team.

"We have easily won the three jamborees and will win the conference for the 11th consecutive year," Simpson said.

All but one runner returns from a 2021 team which was fourth in the Division 3 state meet. Juniors Hannah Pricco, Cc Jones, Emmie West, India Doerr and Zee Simpson were in the top seven along with junior Tessa Rowe.

Lansing Invitational finishing ahead of her teammate Hannah Pricco.

"CC has run the workouts as intended and has been ready when it's time to race. She enjoys the big races in XC and is confident when she goes into them. Her running is very important to her and it shows in her preparation and approach to each day. She will finish highly in the big races. She is drawing

interest from numerous Big Ten and other D1 programs and is still in the process of deciding where to run in college."

For the LC boys in the final CAAC jamboree, Lucas Gates was seventh in 18:23.4. Fair was 13th in 18:51.4.

For the girls team, "our strength is that our top-three is the best in D3 and one of the best in the entire state," Simpson said. "We have a chance to do well in any meet because of those three finishing so high. We just need to keep developing our 4-to-7 runners. We have some freshmen and some seniors that are continuing to improve."



Lansing Catholic runners were conference champs and the boys were very competitive.

For the boys team: "The strength has been team work and the boys

really trying to help each other get better and have a shot at qualifying for the state meet," Simpson said.



Congratulations To The Midland Dow Tennis Team On Winning Your Seventh Division 2 Title In 14 Years



DOW IN CHARGE!

Wins Seventh Boys Tennis Title In Last 14 Seasons

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

The Midland Dow boys tennis team took home the hardware in front of the home crowd Oct. 16 winning the Division 2 championship Oct 16 at the Midland Tennis Center.

The win was the Chargers seventh D2 title in the last 14 seasons, but first since 2016. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, which made a late charge; Mattawan, Birmingham Seaholm and Birmingham Groves all were in the mix.

Dow finished with 32 points, followed by Northern with 27 and Seaholm at 22.

This win was extra special for coach Terry Schwartzkopf, who has guided the Chargers in each of their championship runs through the years, but this one was extra special.

"After coming in third last season we knew the kind of team we had coming back this year and we knew it was a special group," Schwartzkopf said.

"To watch everything play out on the court was pretty cool. It was awhile since we brought another title back to Dow, but I couldn't

be prouder of a group of kids. Every time you win one of these its special. We are going to let the kids enjoy this one and get right back after it with hopes of winning it again."

Dow lost semifinal matches at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles. But sophomore and top seed at No. 4 singles Nima Patel clinched the championship for Dow with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 victory over Sebastian Madlangbayan of Forest Hills Northern.

"Once I knew I won my match I knew we won the title," Patel said.

Dow junior Aaron Li, who won the No. 2 singles championship, got the ball rolling in the finals with a win.

Grosse Pointe North's Connor Stafford won No. 1 singles by defeating GR Forest Hills Central's Sammy Yin, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1. Mattawan's Nolan Ackerman took No. 3 singles.

Seaholm's Alex Lewis and Zane Chutkow swept Birmingham Groves' Dylan Wolf and Jake Rosenwasser in No. 1 doubles. The other champs: Dow's Roofy Elsaadany and Aiden Tanis (No. 2); Forest Hills Northern's Kyle Cornell and Tanay Shenoy (No. 3) and Seaholm's Ricky Sparby and Nick Kelley.



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