



**NEENAH'S PAUL MASON** was sixth in the FVA cross country meet last season.

## On the lookout

### TEAMS TO WATCH

**Neenah:** Last year's FVA meet champions have five of their top six runners returning. The Rockets will need that experience to stand apart in a very competitive FVA chase.

**Oshkosh West:** The Indians have last year's FVA individual champ and outstanding depth. The key will be staying away from injuries and illness, which hurt them last year.

**Brillon:** The Lions lost only one runner from last year's team, which was the first Lions' squad to qualify for state in 20 years.

**Little Chute:** The Mustangs lost three runners off last year's sixth-place state meet squad, but depth has always helped them reload each fall.

**Fox Valley Lutheran:** The Foxes seem ready to challenge Appleton, Manitowoc, Roncalli, and Fond du Lac Springs for private school supremacy in the area.

### INDIVIDUALS TO WATCH

**Eric Fischer, Fox Valley Lutheran:** The junior was second at conference and fifth at the WISAA state meet last fall.

After running in the shadow of outstanding Xavier runners the past two seasons this is Fischer's year to move to the top.

**Tristan Rice, Waupaca:** Rice grabbed a sectional title and a fifth-place finish in the Division 2 state meet last year. The senior had the top state meet time of any area runner.

**Paul Mason, Neenah:** The two-time all-FVA selection will lead the Rockets, who are again among the top teams in the conference. Mason was sixth in the FVA meet last fall.

**Tom Vanderhoop, Kaukauna:** The senior was fifth in the FVA meet last year and the best returning runner after members of the FVA's big three of Fond du Lac, Neenah and Oshkosh West.

**Nathan Wolff, Wittenberg-Biramahood:** The junior was 34th at state in 1996 after placing second at sectionals. He is the pre-season favorite in the WVC.

**Ben Gyldenvand, Weyauwega-Fremont:** The sophomore moved into the top 50 in his first varsity season by qualifying for the state meet as a freshman.

Compiled by Dick Knapinski of The Post-Crescent

## BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY CAPSULES

top 50 at sectional, which didn't happen last year.

### NEENAH

**Nickname:** Rockets

**Coach (year at school):** John Morgen (third)

**Returning letter winners:** Paul Mason, Jr., Nick Mason, Jr., Twannyan Carr, Jr., Shaun Albee, Jr., Ryan Lenerz, Jr., Jason Olson, Jr., Allen Henschel, Jr., Adam Christovich, Jr.

### Outlook

The Rockets have a solid nucleus with Mason, Olson, Christovich and Lenerz. The key for Neenah will be its ability to get consistent performances from runners five through seven.

# Cross country season opens for Rockets; Bluejays washed out

## Zephyrs also compete in first run of year

Neenah and St. Mary Central launched their cross country schedules last week but Menasha was rained out in Saturday's Appleton West Invitational.

The Terror meet has been rescheduled for Saturday, which had been an open date for the Bluejays.

Neenah's girls finished second to perennial WISAA leader Waukesha Memorial last Saturday at West Bend.

The Neenah boys placed fourth behind the two West Bend schools and Waukesha Memorial.

There were separate events for runners in each grade, and the scores were based on the combined times of the top five runners.

St. Mary Central opened in the Gibraltar Invitational Thursday, and the boys placed seventh while the girls didn't field a complete unit.

The Menasha's girls' squad is sparked by junior Katie Olander, one of the top distance runners in the area, who won two meets last year, was sixth in the conference, and qualified for state with a third-

place sectional finish.

Other letterwinners are Christel Dalke, Gina Witt, Lisa Olson, Brooke Wiegand and Jody Schmid.

Four-year veteran Nicole Schmidt was the only graduate.

The Menasha boys graduated Keith Hofkens, their top runner of the last two years.

None of the returnees broke into the top 30 in the conference, meet or in the top 50 at the sectional.

Jon Hassell, Erik Hollander, Will McDonald, Dan Van Buskirk and Tom Bloom are the lettermen.

The returnees on the Neenah girls' team are Kristi Morris and Tina Schraufnagel, seniors; Kristine Berg and Becky Probst, juniors; and Kim Steffens and Kate Petersen, sophomores.

Steffens was fourth; Petersen and Probst sixth; Schraufnagel 11th and Morris 15th in their grade levels at West Bend.

Amanda Thompson was third among the freshmen, and Adrienne Dorn placed fourth in the junior run.

Last year's graduates were Danelle Johnson and Heather Michalkiewicz among the regulars and several others who ran junior varsity races.

Neenah also was strong in the lower grades in the boys' event at West Bend with sophomore Evan Bosetti second and freshman Andy Schaller fourth.

The returning lettermen are Paul Mason, Nick Madsen and Twannyan Carr, seniors, and Shaun Albee, Ryan Lenerz, Jason Olson, Allan Henschel and Adam Christnovich, juniors.

Mason and Christnovich both finished seventh in their events in the opener.

Ryan Waterstreet and Brian Koslowski were the only graduates who scored in varsity races.

The St. Mary girls graduated four-year regular Becky Pawlowski, the conference champion as a sophomore, but Amanda Sell and Lisa Swiecichowski are back.

Lettermen Jason Trader led the boys with a 13th-place finish in the Door County meet.

The other returnees are David Roth, Tim Jakubek, Aaron Walter and Tony Steeno. David Drumm was the only graduate.

The returning coaches are Ron Fedenko, Neenah girls; John Morgen, Neenah boys; Janelle Jansen and Tony Simon, Menasha; and Archie Barribeau, SMC.

## Neenah cross country third in conference meet

Kaukauna was the sight for the FVA cross country meet and both Neenah squads performed well. The boys finished third overall out of the ten team meet with 65 points while the girls brought back an identical third-place finish, scoring 73 at the Oct. 16 meet.

Capturing first-place finishes on each side were Fond du Lac for the boys, with 44, and Oshkosh West for the girls, with 47.

Top Neenah runners in the boys' bracket were Nick Madsen, who finished sixth overall with a time of 16:35, Jason Olson (11th, 16:42), and Twannyan Carr (14th, 16:54). Rounding out the top 20 were Paul Mason (16th, 16:59), and Adam Christnovich (18th,

17:03).

For the Rocket girls, Amanda Smith rolled in with an impressive third-place finish, notching a time of 15:11. Jacki Hillstrom (14th), Kimberly Steffens (16th), Tina Schraufnagel (18th), and Becky Probst (22nd) also finished high.

Both sides resume tomorrow in sectional action at Fond du Lac.

The Rocket junior varsity boys' team grabbed a first-place finish with 23 points. Oshkosh West was the runner-up, scoring 54.

Top five runners for Neenah were Andy Schaller (first overall with a time of 17:27), Mike Hillstrom (2nd, 17:38), and Ryan Lenerz (5th, 18:00).

# ON THE RUN

## Cross country

### PREP

FOX VALLEY ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE MEET  
at Countryside

#### GIRLS

OSHKOSH WEST 47, APPLETON EAST 71, NEENAH 73, FOND DU LAC 100, KIMBERLY 136, APPLETON WEST 169, APPLETON NORTH 196, OSHKOSH NORTH 200, MENASHA 229, KAUKAUNA 247.

1. Jackie Munoz OW 14:54; 2. Erin AufderHeide OW 14:57; 3. Amanda Smith N 15:11; 4. Brooke Novak KAU 15:19; 5. Tovah Mendoza AE 15:22; 6. Katie Bauer AE 15:23; 7. Leah Van Roy KIM 15:24; 8. Bridget Kessen OW 15:35; 9. Jessica Agneinell FDL 15:37; 10. Katie Olander MEN 15:39.

Appleton East: 13, Lynne Slattery; 20, Sandra Marquardt; 27, Maggie Rossmel.

Appleton North: 21, Alison Holt; 35, Sarah Goff; 44, Lindsay Heinz; 46, Nicole Smith; 50, Abby Love.

Appleton West: 26, Tina Hickenbottom; 32, Meghan Larson; 33, Nikki Miller; 36, Anna Huber; 42, Amanda Hinken.

Kaukauna: 52, Maria Vanevenhoven; 62, Jenny Kubat; 64, Kim Kubat; 65, Alisia Miller.

Kimberly: 17, Missy Wright; 30, Melinda Wydeven; 37, Jamie Lamers; 45, Jenny Anderson.

Menasha: 48, Gina Witt; 53, Sara Goehler; 58, Christal Dalke; 60, Jody Schmid.

Neenah: 14, Jacki Hillstrom; 16, Kimberly Steffens; 18, Tina Schraufnager; 22, Becky Probst.

#### BOYS

FOND DU LAC 44, OSHKOSH WEST 49, NEENAH 65, APPLETON EAST 73, APPLETON WEST 139, OSHKOSH NORTH 189, APPLETON NORTH 211, KAUKAUNA 227, KIMBERLY 231, MENASHA 289.

1. Matt Lenahan OW 15:49; 2. Scott Gyrog FDL 16:04; 3. Nick Buechel FDL 16:08; 4. Phil Keskinen OW 16:23; 5. B. J. Streater FDL 16:27; 6. Nick Madsen N 16:31; 7. Dave Cameron AE 16:33; 8. Ryan Burwell OW 16:34; 9. Brian Peters

AW 16:34; 10. Brandon Reasmussen AE 16:37.

Appleton East: 10, Brandon Reasmussen; 13, Dan Wolf; 20, Brian Furst; 23, Adam Koepsel.

Appleton North: 35, Brian Molenda; 41, Lance Hoh; 42, Jonathan Dietzen; 44, Ryan Gerlach; 49, David Donze.

Appleton West: 17, T. J. Schmidt; 28, Matt Zimmerman; 37, Greg Baptist; 48, Chad Koch.

Kaukauna: 30, Rob Vanderloop; 40, Josh Manders; 45, Luke Hansen; 54, Paul Vanevenhoven; 58, Ben Schuh.

Kimberly: 38, Cory Schultz; 38, Joe Sieler; 43, Pete Rothe; 51, Jon Stoeffel; 62, Kevin Vaughan.

Neenah: 11, Jason Olson; 14, Twannyan Carr; 16, Paul Mason; 18, Adam Christovich.

## RUN: Lenahan cruises to win

### From D-1

goal, finishing 24 seconds better than that on the slowly rolling hills of the Countryside course.

Novak, also a freshman, said she didn't set her goals too high for the meet.

"I said, 'top five' and I'm pretty proud of myself," said Novak, who finished ahead of more experienced runners Tovah Mendoza and Katie Bauer of Appleton East, Leah Van Roy of Kimberly and Katie Olander of Menasha.

Novak, who had not run against Munoz or AufderHeide during the season, wasn't sure what to expect for a pace.

With that in mind, she made a conscious decision not to worry about what they were doing.

"People have been telling me that they're really good, so I thought just stay with my pace," said Novak, who set a personal record with her time of 15 minutes, 19 seconds.

The boys' race was dominated by Matt Lenahan of Oshkosh West.

He, along with teammate Phil Keskinen and Fond du Lac runners Scott Gyrog and Nick Buechel, broke from the pack early.

Lenahan then pulled away from those three runners, cruising to the win with a course-record time of 15:49.

"This whole season I really haven't taken the lead early," said Lenahan. "That's what I did today. I felt great all the way through. I never felt like I was tightening up. I just felt loose."

"I don't think anybody really believes that they can come close to him anymore," said Hoxtell. "He's a man among boys right now at this level."

The top area finisher in the boys' race was Nick Madsen of Neenah, who finished sixth.

"I ran really well," Madsen said. "It was about 55 seconds faster than any other time I've had."

The pace that Lenahan set for the field didn't bother Madsen.

"I was concentrating on just running my race and just staying up there," he said.



MUNOZ

# Neenah, Menasha cross country teams enter Fond du Lac sectional

The boys' and girls' cross country teams will attempt to take the first and only step on the road to the WIAA state tournament when they compete in Saturday's WIAA sectional at Fond du Lac.

The Division 1 meets will be run at the Rolling Meadows Golf Course, beginning with the girls' run at 11 a.m. and followed by the boys' race at 11:40 a.m.

The boys run 5,000 meters and the girls race on a 4,000-meter course.

The first two teams and the top seven finishing individual runners will qualify for the state run at the Ridges Golf Course at Wisconsin Rapids on Nov. 1.

The Fond du Lac field consists of Appleton East, Appleton North,

Appleton West, Fond du Lac, Kaukauna, Menasha, Neenah and Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West from the Fox Valley Association; Ashwaubenon, New London, and De Pere from the Bay Conference; and Manitowoc, Sheboygan North and Sheboygan South from the Fox River Valley Conference.

Fond du Lac and Appleton East were last year's team qualifiers in the girls' meet, and Fond du Lac and Neenah finished one-two in the boys' run.

Oshkosh West's Bridget Kessen was the girls' winner, followed by teammate Jackie Munoz and Menasha's Katie Olander. All are back.

The top three finishers in the boys' race were Ken Gretz of Man-

itowoc; Oshkosh West's Matt Lenahan and Sheboygan North's Gabe Garcia.

Lenahan is the only returnee from last year's top three.

Munoz won the FVA championship last week with teammate Erin Aufderheide second and Neenah's Amanda Smith third.

Oshkosh West, Appleton East and Neenah were the three leading teams.

Sheboygan North won the girls' title in the FRVC meet, and Jenny Dreschler of Sheboygan South was second individually.

De Pere finished third and Ashwaubenon was fourth in the Bay Conference meet.

Please see **RUN**, Page 15

## RUN: Neenah teams third in conference

From Page 12

Fond du Lac, Oshkosh West and Neenah were the top three teams in the FVA boys' event, with Lenahan and Scott Gyorog and Nick Buechel, both of Fond du Lac, second and third.

Sheboygan North was runner-up to Green Bay East in the FRVC boys' meet, and the Golden Raiders' Adam Augustson was third.

De Pere's fourth place was the

boys' best of the three Bay Conference schools in the sectional.

**FVA MEET:** The Neenah boys scored 65 points to trail Fond du Lac (44) and Oshkosh West (49).

The Rocket girls tallied 73 points behind Oshkosh West's 47 and Appleton East's 71.

The Menasha girls took ninth with 229 points and the boys were 10th with 269.

Smith's third place was Neenah's best finish since Christy McCutcheon's third in 1993.

Olander led the Menasha girls with a 10th place.

Nick Madsen was sixth and Jason Olson 11th to lead the Neenah boys.

Menasha's top finisher in the boys' race was Tom Bloom in 47th place.



# Patriots hit their stride

By Jim Oskola  
Of The Post-Crescent

FOND DU LAC - Appleton East cross country coach Joe Perez was nearly speechless Saturday after watching his boys' and girls' squads at the WIAA Division 1 Fond du Lac Sectional.

The girls' team, buoyed by the fourth- and fifth-place finishes of Tovah Mendoza and Katie Bauer, finished second with 66 points behind champion Oshkosh West and their 54-point total.

Then came the Patriots boys' team, which used three top-10 finishes to overpower the field. They totaled 49 points and easily beat second-place Oshkosh West, which finished with 67 points.

"The way my boys' team ran, I'm absolutely shocked," said

## PATRIOTS: East boys' and girls' teams to state

From C-1

Perez. "I am absolutely in shock.

"We've had certain kids run well from time to time but never put five together. Today we did. At the conference meet, we weren't that bad (fourth place), but what we did today was absolutely amazing."

Oshkosh West's Matt Lenahan won the boys' race, breaking from the pack six minutes into the race and crossing the finish line in 16 minutes, 27 seconds to beat teammate and second-place finisher Phil Keskinen by 10 seconds.

Lenahan said he wanted to break from the pack before the halfway mark of the race.

"I tried to pick up the pace," he said. "I wasn't sure with the conditions today if I was going to go for an all-out effort for time or just try and win it. I had it in my mind to put a little bit of a gap in there to split things up a little bit."

"It wasn't the time I was looking for but I didn't feel like having an all-out effort today."

Fond du Lac, which finished a distant third in the boys' race after winning the Fox Valley Association meet a week ago, had the third- and fourth-place finishers in Scott Gyrog and Nick Buechel.

Brandon Rasmussen then led the pack of Patriots runners across the finish line, coming in fifth.

Rasmussen was followed by Dave Cameron in sixth, Dan Wolf in eighth, Joel Schroeder in 13th and Adam Koepsel in 17th.

Perez said his team usually runs as a group "but never that far up."

"For us to put three in the top 10, we couldn't even do it in our conference meet and we do it here in a larger field with tougher kids. I'm in shock. Absolutely amazing."

"Positive thinking was the key," said Cameron. "We had our minds set on winning this thing. We just went in and did our best, I guess."

Koepsel's finish was the key to the final point differential.

Through the first four runners for each team, Oshkosh West held a two-point lead.

Koepsel's strong run more than offset the Indians' number five runner, Cody Lundquist, who finished 36th.

Another key for the Patriots was ignoring Lenahan when he made

### WIAA state cross country qualifiers

**WHAT:** WIAA State Cross Country meet  
**WHERE:** The Ridges Golf Course, Wisconsin Rapids  
**WHEN:** Saturday, 11 a.m.

#### AREA TEAM QUALIFIERS

**Girls:** Division 1 - Oshkosh West, Appleton East. Division 2 - Little Chute, Chilton. Division 3 - Hilbert.

**Boys:** Division 1 - Appleton East, Oshkosh West. Division 3 - Marion.

#### AREA INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

**Girls:** Division 1 - Brooke Novak, Kaukauna; Tovah Mendoza, Appleton East; Katie Bauer, Appleton East; Amanda Smith, Neenah; Erin AufderHeide, Oshkosh West; Jackie Munoz, Oshkosh West. Division 2 - Dana Thuecks, Brill; Sarah Gruber, Chilton; Leah Van Roy, Kimberly; Abby Hurst, Little Chute; Kara Vosters, Little Chute. Division 3 - Melissa Hipp, Hilbert.

**Boys:** Division 1 - Brandon Rasmussen, Appleton East; Dave Cameron, Appleton East; Matt Lenahan, Oshkosh West; Phil Keskinen, Oshkosh West. Division 2 - Seth Gydenvand, Weyauwega-Fremont; Nick Hansel, Freedom. Division 3 - Mark Nolan, Manawa; Brian Ovanin, Amherst; John Natzke, Marion; Matt Overdahl, Iola-Scandinavia.

his break from the pack.

"We all know that he's going to be the first runner (to break away), so we just try to do our best as a team and not worry about him," said Cameron.

The girls' race saw Erin AufderHeide and Jackie Munoz break out in front early and not be threatened the rest of the race.

"I was trying to push it to the finish line because at the conference meet, I ran out of gas," AufderHeide said. "My goal for this meet was to try to have a better surge at the end."

Kaukauna freshman Brooke Novak finished strong, coming across in third place after being stuck in sixth place at the race's mid-point.

Neenah's Amanda Smith qualified for the state meet based on her seventh-place finish.

#### GIRLS

OSHKOSH WEST 54, APPLETON EAST 66, NEENAH 72, FOND DU LAC 126, SHEBOYGAN NORTH 145, DE PERE 193, APPLETON WEST 206, ASHWAUBENON 245, OSHKOSH NORTH 252, APPLETON NORTH 258, MANITOWOC 280, SHEBOYGAN NORTH 287, MENASHA 316, KAUKAUNA 334, NEW LONDON 446.

State qualifiers: 1, Erin AufderHeide OW 15:00; 2, Jackie Munoz OW 15:10; 3, Brooke Novak KAU 15:24; 4, Tovah Mendoza AE 15:25; 5, Katie Bauer AE 15:26; 6, Julie Stephenson DP 15:26; 7, Amanda Smith N 15:32.

Other Appleton East runners: 11, Lynne Slattery; 17, Sandra Marquardt; 29, Stephanie Brown.

Other Neenah runners: 12, Jackie Hillstrom; 14, Kim Steffens; 18, Tina Schraufnagel; 21, Kate Petersen.

Appleton West runners: 20, Tina Hickinbotham; 30, Megan Larson; 51, Nikki Miller; 52, Anne Lucas; 53, Amanda Hinkens.

Appleton North runners: 33, Alison Hoff; 44, Sarah Golf; 55, Lindsey Heinz; 66, Abby Love; 70, Sonya Schlicher.

Menasha runners: 11, Katie Clander; 63, Gina Witt; 78, Sara Goehler; 79, Jody Schmid; 88, Theresa Engelman.

Other Kaukauna runners: 68, Maria Vanevenhoven; 83, Jenny Kubat; 85, Alesia Miller; 95, Kim Kubat.

New London runners: 56, Amber Otto; 89, Jackie Bruetle; 99, Angela Kopien; 100, Lindsey Helgeson; 102, Tanya Ritchie.

#### BOYS

APPLETON EAST 49, OSHKOSH WEST 67, FOND DU LAC 82, NEENAH 97, SHEBOYGAN NORTH 146, SHEBOYGAN SOUTH 146, MANITOWOC 187, OSHKOSH NORTH 235, APPLETON WEST 253, DE PERE 269, NEW LONDON 332, KAUKAUNA 346, APPLETON NORTH 365, MENASHA 415, ASHWAUBENON 428.

State qualifiers: 1, Matt Lenahan OW 16:27; 2, Phil Keskinen OW 16:37; 3, Scott Gyrog FDL 16:49; 4, Nick Buechel FDL 16:51; 5, Brandon Rasmussen AE 16:52; 6, Dave Cameron AE 16:58; 7, Pele La Violette SS 17:00.

Other Appleton East runners: 8, Dan Wolf; 13, Joel Schroeder; 17, Adam Koepsel.

Neenah runners: 12, Jason Olson; 15, Nick Madsen; 16, Paul Mason; 26, Twannyan Carr; 28, Even Bosetti.

Appleton West runners: 14, Brian Peters; 27, T. J. Schmitt; 43, Matt Zimmerman; 80, Chad Koch; 89, Mike Fourness.

New London runners: 54, Jeremiah Bettlie; 64, Josh Goller; 68, Mike Steffek; 70, Chns Heidemann; 76, Aaron Ferge.

Kaukauna runners: 37, Rob Vander Loop; 55, Josh Manders; 81, Luke Hansen; 83, Paul Vanevenhoven; 90, Ben Schuh.

Appleton North runners: 51, Brian Molenda; 73, Jonathan Dietzen; 75, Matt Barber; 78, Ryan Gerlach; 88, Darin Mohr.

Menasha runners: 74, Chris Seiding; 77, Noah Edelslein; 84, Will McDonald; 86, David Groh; 94 Tom Bloom.