

FVA's stop two will be looking out for No. 1

By Dick Knapinski
Post-Crescent staff writer

Physically, Neenah's Evan Bosetti and John LeRoy of Oshkosh North couldn't be much more different.

Inside

Conference outlooks:

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make strong spurts throughout a race.

They find themselves sharing a spotlight this fall, however, as

BOYS

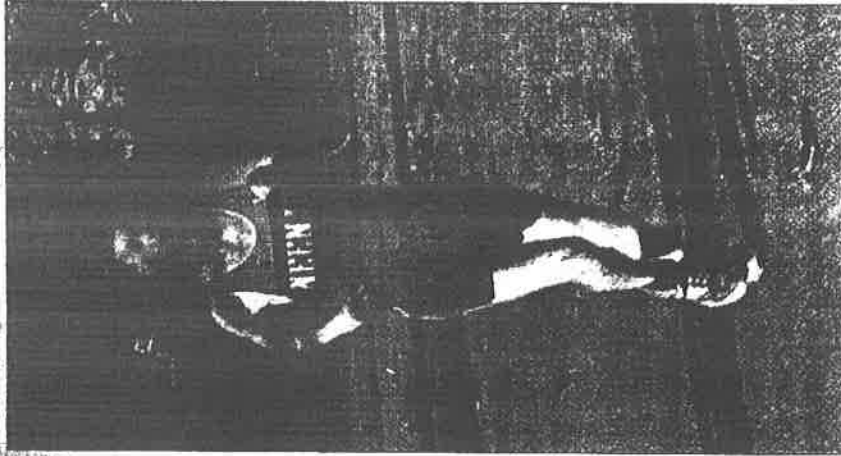
the top two cross country runners in the Fox Valley Association and, therefore, two of the best in the state.

"John and Evan make each other stronger," Neenah coach John Morgen said. "Both runners understand each other's strengths and weaknesses. I think that makes their victories that much more satisfying."

LeRoy and Bosetti each got a piece of that satisfaction last fall. LeRoy beat Bosetti by 16 seconds in the FVA meet. Bosetti returned the favor at the sectional meet, racing to an eight-second victory.

At state, both finished in the

Please see **TWO**, D-4



EVAN

BOSETTI of Neenah finished 22nd in the WIAA state cross country meet last year. He is, however, fighting his way through injuries coming into this season. A quadriceps injury at the end of track season limited summer training, and now a sore knee is keeping him from extensive workouts.

Post-Crescent photo by Dave Pieper

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Boys

TWO: LeRoy, Bosetti elite in area

From D-1

top 25 as LeRoy came in 15th and Bosetti 22nd.

As they return this fall, they know they are expected to be at the front when the big meets come around again in October.

Just don't expect them to spend a lot of time talking about it.

"We don't talk too much," Bosetti said. "It's pretty much 'congratulations' after the race."

"Some guys talk all the time, making jokes during a race," LeRoy said. "I'm all serious. I don't say much. That's just the way I am."

The two top runners in the area will only meet sporadically during the season as Neenah and North run in various invitational and to stay fresh for the final weeks of the season.

"I like it when there's a lot of competition," LeRoy said. "That's good, because I want to run against the best in the state."

First-year Oshkosh North coach Tony Bolz upgraded the Spartans' schedule this fall

expressly for that purpose.

"We'll be running at Verona and at the Kettle Moraine Invitational," Bolz said. "We want to see the top runners."

LeRoy's confidence got a big boost when he won the state 3200-meter title last spring.

Add that to the discipline acquired on the wrestling mat each winter and the senior becomes an intense competitor.

"He's probably the mentally toughest runner I've ever seen in high school," Bolz said. "In wrestling, it's you against somebody else and if that won't prepare you for pressure, nothing will."

Bosetti, a junior, has also become battle-hardened after two straight state meet appearances and two trips to the state track meet.

He also brings his own attributes to the race.

"Evan is very passionate about the sport," Morgen said. "His aerobic capacity is so much greater than most runners. I think he has good speed and it's difficult to train people to be faster."

"It's a totally different side," Bosetti said of his competitive No. 1.

spirit. "Sometimes I get a little greedy. There are other people out there who want to win as badly as I do."

Bosetti, however, is fighting his way through injuries coming into the season. A quadriceps injury at the end of track season limited summer training and now a sore knee is keeping him from extensive workouts.

Morgen will likely keep Bosetti out of some early work and ease him into more work as the season continues.

"Evan probably didn't run as much as we wanted during the summer and that will impact the way we bring him along," Morgen said.

Barring injury, LeRoy and Bosetti realize they enter the season as be the tandem to beat during the FVA season.

Although they share that spotlight, they likely won't share that deep conversation about it.

"We're just two very good runners," Bosetti said. "I'm working as hard as I possibly can in practice,"

LeRoy said, "to hopefully finish

Capsules

APPLETON EAST

Nickname
Patriots
Coach (year at school)
Joe Perez (3rd)
Returning letterwinners
Ken Loomis, sr.; Scott Meyer, so.

Top prospects
Nate West, so.; Eyan Schwab, jr.; Paul Gebheim, so.; Nate Lynch, jr.; Ryan Baxter, so.; Matt Bock, jr.

Our breakdown
The Patriots lost five seniors from last year's varsity squad. Loomis is the best returning runner, but West and Schwab were in the top seven among FVA junior varsity runners in 1998.

APPLETON NORTH

Nickname
Lightning
Coach (year at school)
Annette Jadin (third)

Returning letterwinners
Ryan Gerlach, sr.; Jon Dietzen, jr.; David Donze, jr.; Peter Maves, jr.; Aaron Schwarzenbert, jr.; Tustin Suhonen, jr.; Matt Hare, so.

Top prospects
Matt Barber, sr.; Peter Fernal, sr.; Geoff Fyfe, sr.; Marcus Mclenda, sr.; Josh Hausman, jr.; Kevin McComber, jr.; Darin Mohr, jr.; Justin Pohl, jr.; David Slater, jr.; Neil Smith, so.

Our breakdown
The Lightning is looking to move up from last year's seventh-place FVA finish. North will likely have to rely on pack running unless one or two runners break away this season.

APPLETON WEST

Nickname
Terrors
Coach (year at school)
Terry Gross (eighth)

Returning letterwinners
Chad Koch, jr.; Nick Jacobson, so.

Top prospect
Dan Enger, so.

Our breakdown
The Terrors lost their top two runners, so they will be looking for someone to take over the team's leadership role.

KAUKAUNA

Nickname
Ghosts
Coach (year at school)
Jenny Brien (22nd)

Returning letterwinners
Joe Vanervenhoven, sr.; Luke Hansen, sr.; Paul Vanervenhoven, jr.; Ben Biesterfeld, jr.

Top prospects
Caleb Couillard, so.; Dave Vanervenhoven, so.; Derek Otto, jr.; Andy VanDeHey, jr.; Jeremy Van Schynkel, jr.

KIMBERLY

Nickname
Papermakers
Coach (year at school)
Luke Demerath (third)

Returning letterwinners
Dave Deeg, sr.; Jon Stoffel, sr.

Top prospects
Cory Schultz, sr.; Colt Brown, so.; Kevin Vaughan, sr.; Matt Malleng, jr.

Our breakdown
The numbers game again will make it rough for Kimberly to have a big year in team competition. Deeg's 38th in the FVA meet is the best returning performance.

MENASHA

Nickname
Bluejays
Coach (year at school)
Roger Simon (third)

Returning letterwinners
Paul Spangle, sr.; Tim Sauter, sr.; David Goh, sr.; Nate Boren, jr.

Top prospects
Garnier, jr.; Derek Savala, jr.; Nate Wirth, jr.; Will Mueller, jr.; Josh Fast, jr.

Our breakdown
Four of the Bluejays' top runners return including Spangle, who was a top-25 finisher in last year's FVA meet. Menasha is looking to move into the upper division of the FVA.

NEENAH

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Rockets
Coach (year at school)
John Morgan (fifth)

Returning letterwinners
Ben Johnson, sr.; Pichard Keely, sr.; Evan Bossett, jr.

Top prospects
Bud Marks, sr.; Andy Schaller, jr.; Jason Miller, so.; Rocky Schaffer, so.

Our breakdown
The defending FVA champions must replace four runners who were all-conference picks last year. Bossett won the sectional last year and placed 22nd at state.

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Bob Weimer (fifth)

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Paul Kuehn, sr.; Paul Lotito, jr.; Adam Laird, so.

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Returning letterwinners
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LITTLE CHUTE

Nickname
Mustangs
Coach (year at school)
Dave Janssen (seventh)

Returning letterwinners
Craig Vandenhoevel, jr.; Dave Jansen, jr.; Eric Valentyn, jr.; Pat Rutter, jr.; Ken Meyer, so.; Adam Gloudemans, so.; Brett Hermans, jr.

Top prospects
Barry Vanderloop, jr.; Shane Homensko, sr.; Troy DeBruin, so.

Our breakdown
The Mustangs have one senior, but they start the return of six letterwinners make them the favorites in the Valley Eight this fall.

ST. MARY CENTRAL

Nickname
Zephyrs
Coach (year at school)
Aurèle Barbeau (fourth)

Returning letterwinners
Eric Coopman, sr.; Blake Does, sr.; Kevin Pazdemik, sr.; John Davison, jr.; Pat Martin, jr.; Nate Marx, jr.; Justin Susdorf, jr.

Top prospects
Jason Kossel, jr.; David Bonertz, so.; Brian Collier, jr.; Joey Rasch, jr.

Our breakdown
The Zephyrs finally have some depth to start matching up with teams in their new Olympian Conference slot. Coopman could be among the top runners in the conference.

XAVIER

Nickname
Hawks
Coach (year at school)
Andy Maloney (23rd)

Returning letterwinners
Dan Gall, jr.; Dave Heintz, jr.; Jeff Dens, jr.; Andy Klister, so.; Paul Fleming, so.

Top prospects
Johannes Berkenhoff, jr.; Mark Lee, jr.; Pat Kergan, jr.; Cliff Ritchie, jr.; Robbie Beko, so.

Our breakdown
The Hawks look to be improved, despite not having any seniors on the team. Xavier could be competitive in the new Valley Eight Conference.

By Dick Knapiński, Post-Crescent staff writer

Keep your eyes on...

INDIVIDUALS

Evan Boseiti, Junior, Neenah: One of the state's top runners, with a sectional title last year and a second at the FVA meet.

John LeRoy, senior, Oshkosh

North: Won the FVA title last year, was 15th at the state meet and added a state track title in the 3200 last spring.

Brent Reiter, senior, Shawano: Has been the dominant runner in the Bay Conference for the past two seasons and has a pair of the top-40 finishes at the state meet.

John Streblov, senior, Oshkosh

West: One of the top runners for the team that comes in as a favorite in the FVA this fall.

Seth Gyldenvand, senior, Weyauw-

Jeffremont: The top returning runner in

the CWC, with two state meet performances among his achievements.

James Levash, senior, Brillion: A 12th-place finish at last fall's state meet and a strong running tradition at Brillion puts him near the top of the area's small school runners.

Adam Cmejla, Junior, Chilton:

Placed sixth at sectionals last year and 35th at the state Division 2 meet.

Craig Vandenhoevel, Junior, Little Chute: Ninth at sectionals in 1998 and has been a consistent top finisher for the Mustangs.

TEAMS

Oshkosh West: With Streblov, James Anderson, Adam Klein-schmitt and others returning, the Indians are well-equipped to go after the FVA title.

Conference outlooks

FOX VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Defending champion Neenah and Oshkosh West each appear to have the depth to win the conference title this fall. Fond du Lac is traditionally strong as well. Appleton East, Menasha and Oshkosh North each have solid individuals, but need to find depth to move up in the standings.

VALLEY EIGHT

Little Chute moves into a new conference much in the same position as it were in the East Central Conference — as preseason favorites. Freedom might be the next best with Oconto Falls and Wau-paca also contending. Fox Valley Lutheran, having graduated Eric Fischer, needs a leader to emerge, while Xavier hopes to improve through the season.

BAY

Shawano is in great position to repeat as conference champs, although Marquette and Pulaski are well-stocked to compete with the Hawks. Seymour graduated '98 state qualifier Luke Boehlein and is looking for a top runner to emerge. New London was fourth in the Bay last year and hopes to move up.

OLYMPIAN

Brillon and Chilton are the favorites as each has top runners returning. Wright-stown lost a large group of seniors, while St. Mary Central has additional depth, which should help.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Amherst looks to defend its title and is

EASTERN WISCONSIN

Two Rivers returns sectional champion on Bo Erickson and lost only one senior, Kiel has three top-20 finishers from last year's sectional meet back this fall. New Holstein has several letterwinners back and hopes to improve.

■ **By Dick Knapinski, Post-Cres-**

cent staff writer

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up, this season.

last fall, the Mustangs are poised to move

from a team that was third at sectionals

runners return from that team.

in 1998, but only 24 points from first. Five

team that was seventh at Division 3 state

year.

Amherst: Another traditionally strong

second at sectionals and 10th at state last

runners returning from a team that was

championship.

good chance of defending their FVA

depth comes through, it could have a

are very strong and if Neenah's traditional

Neenah: The Rockets' top runners

Rockets squads have look of FVA contenders

Experience and depth fuel excitement for Neenah girls' varsity members

When you chat with Neenah girls' varsity cross country coach Ron Fedenko about the upcoming season, you get the feeling he's a bit anxious to get things under way.

And when you look some of the names that grace his roster, it's easy to see why.

With a strong group returning from last year's WIAA Division I state sixth-place finisher, Fedenko is expecting another banner season this season.

"It's hard to say (how we will do in the Fox Valley Association)," said Fedenko. "You never know. But I would think that we would be in the running for the conference championship. We should be a contender."

That's pretty much a given after the Rockets won the FVA last year and finished first at sectionals.

Leading the returnees is sophomore Betsy McDonald, who burst onto the scene last year and quickly cemented herself as one of the area's best runners.

"She's dedicated," said Fedenko. "She has a never-say-die attitude about her. I think she'll be one of the top runners in the (FVA). There are some tough ones, but I would hope she could be at least in the top-10."

Another strong runner coming back is senior Jenna Smith, who Fedenko also said has the talent to finish in the top-10 in the conference.

"Both Jenna and Betsy have

put a lot of time in," he said. "I'm hoping Jenna will be right up there, too."

Senior Kate Petersen and junior Amanda Smith round out Fedenko's top four returning runners, giving the Rockets some outstanding experience.

"I'm really hoping all four of those runners will be in the top-10," said Fedenko. "All four are very good."

Depth shouldn't be a problem for Neenah this year since Fedenko will welcome back some strong runners.

Returning are junior Jackie Hillstrom — who was injured most of last season — and sophomores Becky Ray and Emily Burns. Freshman Jill Winkler will also be watched closely as someone who could give Neenah some valuable points here and there.

Unable to participate this season will be senior Kim Steffens, who tore an anterior cruciate ligament in her knee over the summer.

"We have some good depth," said Fedenko. "Right now, we look pretty decent. We really have a solid core of runners back, and I'm excited to see how the kids time on Saturday at (the) West Bend (Invitational). We'll see what happens."

As for the boys' squad, Neenah coach John Morgen was unavailable for comment.

However, if the past is indicative of the future, expect the Rockets to again challenge for the FVA title this year.



Neenah girls' cross country coach Ron Fedenko is looking for big things from many of his returners who helped the Rockets finish sixth at the WIAA Division 1 state meet a year ago.



With a large group out, not to mention some talented runners, look for the Neenah boys' cross country team to keep its place among the Fox Valley Association's top teams and vie for a WIAA Division 1 state berth.

Neeenah cross country runners deserve shot to compete at home

The latest coaches' poll ranks the Neeenah High School boys' cross country team 11th in the state and the NHS girls' team eighth.

The teams have been powerhouses for years, but to know that you either have to be a religious reader of the sports pages or you have to follow the teams around the state.

You won't see them run competitively in Neeenah because Neeenah has no home cross country meets. It hasn't for five years. The closest invitation for Neeenah this year is at Menomonee Park in Oshkosh. The next closest is the Fox Valley Association meet at the Countryside Golf Club in Kaukauna. The other meets are at West Bend, Shawano, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac and Port Washington.

It's a shame Neeenah's talent and effort aren't showcased locally. Seniors like Ben Johnson and Bud Marks have sweat for the team for four years but have yet to run competitively on home soil. It shouldn't be that way. The athletes deserve more. Parents deserve more. Fans deserve more. The sport deserves more. John Morgen, the NHS boys'



DUKE BEHNKE
NEWS-RECORD
STAFF WRITER

cross country coach, said home meets were eliminated when FVA schools did away with Tuesday triangular and quadrangular meets, preferring to focus on larger invitationals, which typically are held on Thursdays or Saturdays.

Morgen and James Smasal, Neeenah's athletic director, have discussed the idea of staging a Neeenah invitation, but none is imminent.

Smasal said Memorial Park, the site of past NHS meets, isn't challenging enough to draw elite teams away from other invitationals that might be held on a chosen date. The park, he said, is too flat and too bland for a top-notch, 10- or 15-team invitation.

"If we are going to do it, just like everything else we do, we want to do it right," Smasal said. So Neeenah waits, hoping the improvements planned for Memorial Park during the next seven

years - trails, berms, a pond, etc. - will make the terrain more interesting, or that a golf course, perhaps the West Ridge Golf Club under construction on U.S. 45, will welcome a cross country meet.

In the meantime, runners like Johnson and Marks will complete their careers almost unnoticed by the Neeenah community. Instead, they shine at the likes of Shawano, whose invitation has thrived for decades on a course similar to Memorial Park - flat, near the high school and through a woods Menominee Park in Oshkosh. For that matter, also is void of any gradient. Memorial Park at least has one hill.

The NHS football team, volleyball team, girls' swim team, boys' soccer team and girls' golf team each have at least five home games or meets this fall. Even Shattuck and Horace Mann middle schools have a home cross country date with their annual invitation at Riverside Park.

Neeenah High School should find a way to have one, too.

■ You can e-mail Duke Behnke at duke.behnke@hommews.com

Spirit moves runners from Neenah High

By Duke Behnke

Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH - The Neenah High

School boys' cross country team traveled to Appleton Tuesday to bring

home some genuine school spirit in a remarkable display of endurance.

The team, which totals about 50 runners, ran 13 miles from Appleton West

High School to Neenah High School carrying a football and two large

Neenah flags to demonstrate support for Neenah's homecoming festivities.

The team will run the football into Rocket Stadium and present it to the

referee just before Neenah's game against Appleton West on Oct. 8.

"Everyone gets to see us run for a change, as opposed to our cross country meets," senior Ben Johnson said of

the stadium crowd.

The ritual of running a football from

Please see **RUNNERS, B-4**



Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

ANDY SCHALLER (left) carries the Neenah High School flag and Jason

Miller holds a game ball Tuesday on a run from Appleton West to Neenah.

Neenah runners defend Shawano meet laurels

Twin City sports squads will be

busy this Friday and Saturday at

invitationals and other multiple-

school events.

The Neenah swimmers will

launch the weekend competition

with Friday's D.C. Everest Invita-

tional at Schofield.

The Rockets were led by Sue

Shelley, first among the juniors,

sophomores, in last year's grade-

level meet.

The Neenah boys' and girls'

cross country teams will defend

their championships in Saturday's

Shawano Invitational. The

Menassha teams also will be in the

field.

Both Neenah teams have won

eight straight Shawano tourney

titles. The boys tallied 37 points

and the girls scored 36 last year.

Evan Bosetti edged Oshkosh

North's John Leroy for individual

honors in the boys' meet. Both run-

ners are back.

Last year's Neenah girls' team

RUNNERS: Cross-country team finds route to headlines

From B-1

the turf of Neenah's homecoming opponent was begun three years ago by coach John Morgan, who was looking for ways to market cross country.

"It's really not a front-page sport," Morgan said. "We were trying to think of ways in which we could make it a part of the mainstream sports."

Two years ago the team also ran from Appleton West. Last year it ran 18 miles from Kaukauna. All but the last segment of the run is done well in advance of homecoming night so it doesn't interfere with the cross country team's late-season training schedule.

Steve Mentzel, the Neenah football coach, is supportive of the effort.

"It's a nice gesture," Mentzel said. "It's nice to see the school spirit."

Morgan said he looks forward to when Neenah will play Fond du Lac for homecoming.

"We're kind of excited about the opportunity (for a 30-mile run)," he said. "We are definitely going to do it. We might have to do it in two days and camp out or something."

The team drives to the opponent's school in cars and vans. All of the runners start together, and all of them finish together. Some of the younger runners hop in a support van and ride for a bit, but the core group completes the route unassisted.

Morgan said his runners take pride in finishing a 13-mile run.

"Not a lot of people do that when they are in high school," he said. "Some are a little disappointed it's not farther."

Senior Prichard Keely, who ran from Appleton with a red "N" drawn on his chest, said the response from onlookers, though



Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL cross-country runner Andy Beltz douses himself with water at the halfway mark of a run to his school from Appleton West, Neenah's opponent for football homecoming.

minimal, has been positive.

"We don't see too many people, but they usually honk, wave or smile and are pretty happy to see us," Keely said.

The coaches shoot a video of the run, which then is played, complete with music, on a big-screen TV in

the school cafeteria during homecoming week.

The boys know they are being filmed and ham for the camera.

"I think it's a nice way to add something to the season and break up some of the routine," Morgan said.

Rockets show off at Marquette

Kate Petersen was 16th (16:25.09), and Jill Winkler was 20th (16:34).

JV: In Neeah junior varsity Saturday's Milwaukee Marquette Invite, while the boys earned runners-up honors.

The Neeah girls wound up posting just 21 points and were led by Emily Burns, who finished first individually with a time of 17:13.

Chad Prusse paced the Rockets boys, who picked up 53 points, with a fourth-place finish in a time of 18:48.

Both Johnson and McDonald finish third

Rockets cross country

Other top Rockets boys' runners included Prichard Keely (14th in a time of 17:34.20), Jason Miller (15th in a time of 17:34.48), and Bud Marks (17th in a time of 17:44.51).

As for the girls, Jenna Smith finished seventh (16:00), Michelle Miller was 12th (16:21), Tara Schraunagel was 14th (16:24.13).

Neeah's Ben Johnson and Betsy McDonald each finished third in their respective divisions to pace the Rockets boys' and girls' varsity cross country teams at the Milwaukee Marquette Invite last Saturday.

Johnson crossed the line in a time of 16:52, while McDonald wound up completing her run in a time of 15:01.

Team-wise, both Neeah squads finished third, as well, with the boys picking up 70 points and the girls grabbing 50.

BOYS

WHO: Bud Marks

SCHOOL: Neeah High School

SPORT: Cross country

WHAT HE DID:

The senior has been finishing in the fourth or fifth spots this year on the cross country team, providing a strong boost to the squad during its exceptional season. He has steadily improved during his running career. He is a strong leader and has shown a willingness to work with younger runners.

WHAT THE COACH SAYS:

"He works hard in practice and he is extremely considerate and conscious about the other guys on the team to



MARKS

make sure they're doing OK and that they're concerned about being met. The team can't go anywhere if we didn't have five athletes who perform well. Bud is one of those kids who has come forward to answer challenges made at the beginning of the season.

-Head coach John Morgen

Cross country: The Neeah boys' and girls' teams both finished

third in Saturday's Marquette Invitational at Milwaukee. The boys chalked up 70 points and the girls netted 50. Marguerite won the boys' meet with 35 points and Waukesha West finished first in the girls' event with 45.

The leading Neeah runners were Betsy McDonald, third; Jenna Smith, eighth; and Michelle Miller, 12th for the girls, and Ben Johnson, third; Bud Marks 17th and Andy Schaller 21st in the boys' race. The Menasha boys took fifth place in the New London run with 182 points and the girls were 13th with 332.

Ninth-place Paul Spangle finished in the top 10 for the second time this season to lead the boys and Meghan Quinn's 31st paced the girls.

The Bluejay boys were sixth and the girls seventh at Schofield earlier last week.

St. Mary Central's girls took 12th place and the boys were 14th in the St. Lawrence Invitational at Mount Calvary. Eric Coopman, 56th, led the boys and Jacinda Sell, 79, paced the girls.

Golf: Neeah-Menasha lifted its

Invite: Neneah wins girls' title

FROM PAGE C1

nenth with 194 and Oshkosh North was eighth with 210.

Despite a slower pace, McDonald overwhelmed a talented girls' field to beat second-place finisher Laura Devine of Ripon by 12 seconds.

"I didn't feel like I was really running my fastest. That's why I think the course maybe felt a little short," McDonald said. "At state last year, I had a 14:56, and I got a 14:32 here. I didn't feel like I was running as fast as state.

"The end came up really fast. I thought I had a lot more to go coming around that backstretch but by the time I turned the corner I was already done."

Rounding out the top five for Neneah was Jill Winkler in fourth (14:50), Jenna Smith in sixth (15:06), Amanda Smith in seventh (15:17) and Michelle Miller in ninth (15:32).

Ripon overcame a field largely dominated by Division I teams to finish third in the girls' competition. Laura Devine led the Tigers, finishing second in 14:40, while Allison Shattuck fought pneumonia to finish fifth (14:52).

"We came against some really tough Division I schools and we placed third," Ripon coach Chris Gatzke. "Our goal was to beat Little Chute."

"We still have room for improvement all the way through. We now have the endurance, we just have to put some speed in the end with it."

Inexperience was a key factor in Oshkosh North's eighth-place effort in the girls' event. The Spartans were paced by Melissa Minerath, PR in that and I felt pretty good," Johnson said. "I felt a little sick in the end. I knew they (Marshfield) would be there. I took off the best I could. I heard them behind me and I tried to stay ahead of them but they took me."

Freshman Nick Revello guided Ripon to a third-place finish by taking fourth in 16:26.

"We tried some different things with the guys," Gatzke said. "We tried to go out a little hard with some people but some of them may have gone out a little too hard. But I'd rather have them do that



KEVIN KRECK/OF THE NORTHWESTERN
RIPON'S CHRIS STEIN, left, sprints to the finish line with Green Bay Southwest's Kirk DeWindt during Thursday's Spartan Invite, at Menominee Park. DeWindt was seventh and Stein took eighth.

now, than at the conference or sectional meet."

Chris Stein ran to eighth place in 16:32 for Ripon, while Joel Bier (17:03) was 20th.

Menasha scored 172 points, and was led by 15th place Paul Spangle, who finished in 16:43.

Oshkosh North, who were rested their varsity runners for a weekend competition finished 10th with 296 points. Ryan Winkler led the Spartans in 54th with a time of 18:34, followed by Josh Juedes (18:51), Cory Pieper (19:18), Charlie Piette (19:36) 66th and Dave Follett (20:21) 68th.

"We had a couple of guys who took a leadership role who aren't even seniors," North boys coach Tony Bolt said. "I think they (JV team) handled the situation very well. I was impressed with Ryan Winkler, he's really coming on."

"I set up our season so that we improve each week. I think we did take step forward and whether we are first place or in the middle somewhere as a team, as long as our individuals improve each week, we'll be OK."

Carlos Munoz may be reached at (920) 426-6658.

Prep runners experience highs and lows

In sports, and in life, there are no guarantees. Sometimes, it turns out as well as anyone could expect. Sometimes, it does not.

Take two of the area's most promising prep cross country runners - Kaukauna's Brooke Novak and Neehan's Evan Bosetti, both juniors.

Last year, Novak won the girls division of the Fox Valley Association as well as the Division I sectional meet at Manitowoc. She placed third in the WIAA state meet.

Novak missed Kaukauna's first two meets this season due to an upper leg pull. Then, she was off to the races.

The Galloping Ghost won every meet she entered, including invitations at Shawano, Manitowoc, Ashwaubenon and Seymour. And last Thursday at Kaukauna's County Side Golf Course, she repeated as FVA champion with a time of 14 minutes, 33 seconds, and is looking forward to Saturday's Beaver Dam sectional.

"I feel I'm a better runner than when I was a sophomore," she said. "I trained all last summer, and went to a running camp in Madison."

While Novak has exceeded all expectations, it's been a heart-breaking season for Bosetti.

Last year, Bosetti finished second, 16 seconds behind Oshkosh North's John Leroy in the FVA meet. Then, the six-foot, 145-pound runner came back to edge Leroy by eight seconds for the Division I sectional title at Manitowoc.

Bosetti finished 22nd at state last year. He was the second sophomore to finish.

Expectations soared a few months ago when the cross country season began. Bosetti's success this year was all but guaranteed. Due to a knee injury, Bosetti will remember the 1999 prep cross country season as the season that wasn't.

"I first noticed the injury during preseason practice," he said. "I was running, and I felt a pain. Later that evening, there was a sharp bend it.

pain in my knee, and I couldn't

"There have been a lot of different ideas on what my problem could be," added Bosetti, who has more tests scheduled next week.

"Inflammation of the inside of the kneecap or a strained right quad I suffered toward the end of last track season that has led to a knee problem. I had big goals this season, and I thought they were reachable goals. I wanted to break 16 minutes in a cross country meet this season."

To his credit, Bosetti gave it everything he could in cross country. He tried to run in two events. "I entered two meets with tap-

ing on my knee and both were very difficult," he said. "I ran in the Fond du Lac Relays (Oct. 2) and Port Washington Invitational (Oct. 7) and finished them both," he said.

While Bosetti had the intestinal fortitude to finish both events, he didn't fare well. In fact, after enduring a large hill at Fond du Lac, he battled tears near the finish line.

"I started to cry," he said. "The pain was more like a burning sensation. The pain inside the kneecap got worse with every step. I started to cry because there were a lot of mixed emotions. I was sad, I was upset. It was a bunch of things, and they all came down at once."

It wouldn't have been so hard for Bosetti if he wasn't so attached to running. He started running at age 5 and, since his freshman year, it has been the focal point of his life.

"The injury has been hard for us," said Evan's mother, Deb. "I lost some weight over it. These things come along in life. You can't control them. You have to live with them."

On the plus side, Bosetti, like Novak, has one year of prep cross country remaining. Bosetti is hoping that, instead of being a spectator, he can be among the leaders.

Only time will tell, though, because life doesn't come with guarantees.

■ You can e-mail Dan VanderPyl at dan.vanderpyl@thomnews.com



NHS wins tennis, relays

PREP ROUNDUP

second, and Jenna Smith, sixth, in the race for first, second and third runners.

Amanda Smith was the winner with Becky Kay, third, for fourth, fifth and sixth runners, and Tara Schraufnagel won with Kate Petersen, second, and Nicki Smitty third, for seventh, eighth and ninth runners.

The Neenah boys were third in 1:37.33, trailing Oshkosh West (1:25.44) and Sheboygan North (1:28.5).

Ben Johnson was sixth for the Rockets, with Jason Miller, 12th, and Bud Marks, 18th, for first, second and third runners; Justin Michalkiewicz, sixth; Eyan Bosen, eighth, and Rocky Schafer, 18th, for 4-5-6 runners; and Chad Prusse, ninth, Brad Smith, 14th, and Pat Weyenberg, 16th, in the 7-8-9 group.

Paul Spangle was seventh to lead the Menasha boys to eighth place at Ashwaubenon.

The Menasha girls were last and didn't place anyone in the top 10. Sheboygan Lutheran (22 points) led the boys and Fox Valley Lutheran (27) took girls' honors in the St. Mary Central Patti Jakubek Invitational.

The St. Mary boys were fourth and the girls took seventh.

Cross country: The Neenah girls, with a total time of 1:17.23, finished almost three minutes ahead of Sheboygan North. Neenah sophomore Betsy McDonald was first, Jill Winkler,

Runners crowned champs at FVA conference meet

By Benjamin C. Doeren
Staff Reporter

The Neenah Rockets cross-country teams narrowly missed a sweep at the Fox Valley Association Conference Meet at Countryside Golf Course in Kaukauna.

Neenah won three of the four divisions and placed second in the other to dominate the competition.

The varsity girls finished first with 30 points, ahead of Kaukauna's 88 points.

Sophomore Betsy McDonald was the top runner for the Rockets, placing second in time of 14.49. She finished 16 seconds behind defending champion Brooke Novak of Kaukauna.

The Rockets then placed five more runners in the top 11 positions. Jill Winkler was fifth at 15:18 and Amanda Smith was sixth in a time of 15:26.

Michelle Miller ended up in eighth spot in 15:36 followed by Jenna Smith's ninth-place finish of 15:44.

Becky Ray and Kate Petersen also placed in the top 15, even though their points were not included in the team total.



photo by Wm Glasheen

Ben Johnson sprints towards the finish line on his way to third place overall in the Fox Valley Association Cross Country Meet at Countryside Golf Course in Kaukauna.

see Runners, page 32



"It was pretty good even though I was looking for a better time," McDonald said. "I was a little nervous and I run better when I'm relaxed. I was trying to catch Brooke and I did my best."

"We worked hard as a team to win this race and now we have to get ready for sectionals."

Miller said that she finished about where she expected in the race.

"It was one of my best times," Miller said. "I'm pleased with my finish. We hope to do well at sectionals against some of these same teams."

Coach Ron Fedenko thought his team had a good chance to win the meet.

"We knew there were some good individuals, but I felt that team wise we stood a strong chance of being successful," Fedenko said. "I thought the girls ran exceptionally well, which is an extension of they way they've been running the last few weeks. I'm very, very happy with all the girls."

"Winning conference was our number one priority and next is to make it to state. We've raced against some of the tops teams during the season, so I think we have the confidence to do it."

The varsity boys' team ended the day runner-up to Oshkosh West. Negenah finished with 48 points, which was 18 points behind West. The Rockets placed their five runners in the top 14, while the five Indians runners finished in the top 11.

Ben Johnson, a senior, grabbed the top spot for the Rockets with a third-place overall finish in a time of 16:38. Sophomore Jason Miller ended the race in sixth at 16:57. Three Rockets then finished in order, from twelfth through fourteenth. Pritchard Keely had a time of 17:13 and Andy Schaller

finished in 17:14. Bud Marks completed the race in 17:22.

The overall winner of the race was John Le Roy of Oshkosh North with a 16:00.

"I was happy with my finish, it was better than last year," Johnson said. "The course was a little wet, but it was also easier than some of the sea-

courses we've run on during the season."

"We really try to run together, that makes us strong as a team in the scoring. We wanted to win today, but we're training hard for the sectionals at Beaver Dam."

Miller knew that it would be a challenge to compete against Oshkosh West.

"They've been ranked high in the state all year and we knew we had to gun for them," Miller said. "We were motivated and prepared coming into the race."

"We have a great team. The only times we have lost this year was ranked teams and we've always been right with them. We've come so far this season."

Keely was happy with his improvement in his running from last season. "I'm extremely pleased with this race and my season," Keely said. "I worked really hard and I'm happy with my training. Hopefully, we'll go back to state this year."

"The boys were trying to win this race and the effort was there. They gave it a heck of a try," coach John Morgan said. "I was happy with the performance of Ben and Jason. We had a nice pack of runners come in, our last runner finished in twenty-fourth."

"We're trying to peak at the end of the season and qualify for state. There's not much more you can do except to fine-tune and get ready for the sectional race."

West, North grab top honors at FVA meet

Indians take title, Spartans' LeRoy captures race

By Al Peissig
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

KAUKAUNA — Russ Hoxtehl has carried home a lot of honors in his 21 years as Oshkosh West cross country coach, but he'd never won a

Fox Valley Association team title — until now.

With five runners in the top 11 finishers, Hoxtehl's team ran away with the boys' FVA crown by scoring 30 points Thursday at the Countryside Golf Club. Neenah was runnerup with 48, while Oshkosh North was an impressive third with 65 points.

"I've got four thirds, six seconds, one first and 10 we won't talk about," Hoxtehl said. "We've won sectional titles, but I think this con-

fidence is tougher.

"I'm so proud of these guys, we had to slow these kids down because they want to work too hard. My assistant coaches, Bill Stenz and Cindy Pahlow, have done such a great job, and the kids really respond to them. You can't do it alone.

"We've been consistent all year. Max Garza, the freshman, taking 11th was incredible. He passed two Neenah guys in the final sprint, and that was really big for us."

The Indians were led by senior John Streblov, who placed second to North dynamo John LeRoy by 33 seconds. Other West runners at the front of the pack were Trevor Johnson (fourth), James Anderson (fifth), Cody Lundquist (eighth) and Garza.

Streblov was in a close battle with Neenah's Ben Johnson most of the 5,000-meter race, but pulled ahead with less than a half mile to go.

FVA, PAGE C3▶



FOOTBALL OF THE WEEK

NEENAH AT OSHKOSH NORTH, 7 P.M.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Neenah is ranked and 7-0. North is 6-1 and in second place alone in the FVA. Both are in the playoffs, but a win for Neenah gives it the conference title outright. A win by North keep the Spartans' hopes alive for the title.

KEYS TO THE GAME

1 North's option
The Spartans showed they could run a true option last week when QB Nick Wara pitched successfully several times to RB Cole Smigeliski, who leads the FVA. Can the third-ranked Neenah defense do as well vs. the option as Oshkosh West did last week?

Neenah's sweep

2 North has the No. 1 defense in the league and opponents have found it difficult to run between the tackles on either team. But is North strong enough when FB Jackson Emmott (6-2, 234) gets it on the toss sweep or HB Mike Parolini has a convoy leading the way around the corner?

3 Wara vs. Shaw
Wara is mobile and apt to pull the ball down and run. Neenah doesn't throw a ton, but Shaw has a strong arm and makes solid decisions. Wara's option prowess and passing ability gives him the chances for a big play, but the Rockets haven't made it to 7-0 without Shaw's leadership and playmaking ability.

Waggle vs. waggle

4 Both teams run versions of the waggle, a roll-out pass. Wara keeps for good gains if no receiver opens up. Shaw is also good at quick-hitting West Coast offense type passes.



**YANKEES 3
RED SOX 2**
New York leads series 2-0.
Game 3 is 3 p.m. Saturday on FOX.

Yankees mourn rally to topple

NEW YORK (AP) — These New York Yankees aren't just beating up on Boston. They're pushing themselves into the record book alongside Murderer's Row.

Chuck Knoblauch hit a game-tying double in the seventh inning and scored the go-ahead run on Paul O'Neill's single as New York rallied past the Red Sox 3-2 Thursday night for a 2-0 lead in the AL championship series.

With their 12th consecutive postseason victory, the World Series champions tied the record set by the Yankees of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, who swept the World Series in 1927, '28 and '32.

David Cone rewarded all those fans wearing Coneheads on a chilly night with his best performance since his perfect game against Montreal on July 18, and the Yankees won a battle of managerial chess moves in the eighth to send Boston to its 10th consecutive

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Matt Spakowicz, Andy Wilson, Matt Steiner and John Schneider all had single, unassisted goals for West which tallied 20 shots on goal.

Green Lake's Jesse Norton finished 15th with a time of 17:59 to lead the Lakers.

FVA: Oshkosh North's LeRoy

Wins league cross country crown

FROM PAGE C1

go. He then pulled away to convincingly secure second.

"I was just staying close, making sure that if I got the opportunity I'd try and take it," Streblov said. "I thought (Johnson) let up a little there, so I took advantage of it."

"Our team really likes to run as a pack, so we can push ourselves. This was a really good performance for us."

There were a lot of close battles throughout the race, but one of them was not for the No. 1 card. LeRoy pulled out from almost the start and steadily increased his lead to over half a minute, finishing in 16 minutes.

The senior, who won the 3,200 in WIAA State Track Meet last spring has run off an impressive string of cross-country victories this fall. A three-year member of the Spartans wrestling team, he is a legitimate challenger for the state title, as he's grown in size and strength.

"I stayed with the leaders for the first mile, and picked up the pace on the second mile," LeRoy said. "My time last year was faster, but I don't think it was because of the conditions."

"One of my goals is to win at state again, and I want to run in college. I've gotten a lot stronger — lifted a lot of weights — and I think wrestling has helped me."

LeRoy's first-place finish also helped his team finish a surprising third. Freshman Alex Docta placed ninth, while juniors Matt Rege and Willie McEntroe were 15th and 17th, respectively.

"John ran a real smart race — he was a little conservative the first mile and ran really quick the last two miles," North coach Tony Bolz said.

"We had a freshman in the top ten, which is awesome, but all year we've looked at sectionals. "It'll probably be between us, Neenah and Sheboygan North for that last spot at state, and I'd like to think we could make a push."

to the boys, but it was Neenah that had the balanced team effort while Kaukauna's Brooke Novak was the individual star.

The Rockets won the team title with 30 points, followed by Kaukauna (88), Appleton North (102) and Appleton East (105). Oshkosh West was fifth with 147, while Fond du Lac (192), Oshkosh North (203) and Menasha (278) were at the bottom of the ten-team competition.

Neenah had six runners in the top 11. Sophomore Betsy McDonald was runner-up, followed by Jill Winkler (5th), Michelle Amanda Smith (6th), Michelle Miller (8th), Jenna Smith (9th) and Becky Ray (11th).

Novak, much like LeRoy, outclassed the other-runners and could also be in line for bigger things before the season is over. She finished the 4,000 meters in 14:33, 16 seconds ahead of McDonald.

Jackie Munoz once again paced the Indians by placing fourth. The senior has been a constant threat at conference and sectional races each of the last four years.

"I was very happy with my race," Munoz said. "Last year I went out way too fast in the first half mile and it really burned me. This is the one place I really wanted to have a good run in my last year, and that's what I got."

"I think just about every girl on our team got a personal best, and that was very important." Sara Bradley finished 15th for the Indians, while Hoxtell singled out Jesse Langkau's 35-place as helping West finish fifth as a team.

"We've had a lot of success with the girls over the years, but this group has worked hard all year," Hoxtell said.

"Jackie's had a great career for us, and what a likeable kid. I don't have any daughters, but she comes as close to it as anyone could."

Al Peissig may be reached at (920) 426-6658.

long
style
your
part

1999 Fox Valley Association Boys Conference Honors

First Team All Conference

Name	School	Grade
John Le Roy	Oshkosh North	12
John Streblov	Oshkosh West	12
Ben Johnson	Neenah	12
Trevor Johnson	Oshkosh West	11
James Anderson	Oshkosh West	11
Jason Miller	Neenah	10
Andy Van De Hey	Kaukauna	09
Cody Lundquist	Oshkosh West	11
Alex Docta	Oshkosh North	09
Ken Loomis	Appleton East	12

Second Team All Conference

Name	School	Grade
Max Garza	Oshkosh West	09
Prichard Keely	Neenah	12
Andy Schaller	Neenah	11
Bud Marks	Neenah	12
Matt Rego	Oshkosh North	11
Nate West	Appleton East	10
Willie Mc Enroe	Oshkosh North	11

Honorable Mention

Name	School	Grade
Rocky Schafar	Neenah	10
Paul Spangle	Menasha	12
Matt Harer	Appleton North	10
Nick Jacobson	Appleton West	10
Justin Michalkiewicz	Neenah	10
Tom Fraser	Fond du Lac	12
Paul Gebheim	Appleton East	10

Novak, LeRoy put race in cruise contr

Jim Oskola
Crescent staff writer

WIAA DIVISION 1 CROSS COUNTRY

BEAVER DAM - Hopefully, all

runners at the WIAA Division 1 Beaver Dam sectional cross country meet introduced themselves to Lukana's Brooke Novak and Oshkosh North's John LeRoy before the race because once the lion started on Saturday, all that could be seen of Novak and LeRoy were their backs.

Novak captured the girls' race or the windswept Beaver Dam course with a time of 14:51. 15 seconds faster than runner-up Betsy McDonald of Neenah.

LeRoy, meanwhile, won the boys' race in even more impressive fashion, clocking in at 16:27. 31 seconds ahead of second-place Adam Auguston of Sheboygan North.

With five runners in the top 10, menah won the girls' title with 32 points compared to Sheboygan girls' 66.

In the boys' race, Oshkosh West finished with 45 points and four of

the top-10 finishers to take first, while Neenah got a strong showings from Ben Johnson and Jason Miller to finish second with 67.

The first- and second-place teams and top seven runners from each race advance to the state meet on Saturday at the Ridges' Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Novak, who took the lead early in the girls' race and maintained it the entire race, said that she was not happy with the pace she set at the beginning.

"I was having a hard time getting started because of the wind and the hill at the start of the course," said Novak, who did a little pecking over her shoulder to see where McDonald was.

"I always do that," Novak said. "My coaches yell at me every time because if I take a turn, I'll look over my shoulder to see how much I have to accelerate or to see exact-

ly where I am."

McDonald said she wasn't interested in trying to run at Novak's pace.

"I try to run my own race," McDonald said. "It's nice to keep contact with her, but I don't want to kill myself. If I tried to run her pace and kill myself right away, it's just not going to work out."

LeRoy said that his win was his best race of the season, when the strong wind and winding course were factored in.

"I felt real good today," said LeRoy, the area's only boys' individual qualifier. "I just sucked off the leaders for the first mile and then I made my move after the mile mark. My plan was to just go with the leaders for the first mile and then hammer the last two as fast as I could."

Rockets girls' coach Ron Fedenko said his team's total of 32 points and having all seven runners among the top 18 was impressive and attributable to the Rockets' style of running as a pack.

"They're a good group, hard-working, enthusiastic," Fedenko said. "Hopefully, we can make a statement at the state meet. I'm anxious to see how we're going to do there. I think we've got a very good team. It should be fun."

"We pack up quite well. When you have a runner that's near you, you can work with that person and that makes you a little bit stronger. You don't want to give up so that you drop back."

The Rockets' second-place finish in the boys' race was possible because of the depth on the team.

While both the Rockets and third-place Sheboygan North had two runners in the top 10, the Rockets also had the 12th, 22nd and 25th runners in Andy Schaller, Rocky Schafter and Pritchard Keely, respectively.

"People like Rocky Schafter stepped up, and Pritchard Keely ran well even though he wasn't feeling good," Rockets boys' coach John Morgan said. "Jason Miller took fifth place. He's a sophomore and

had a fantastic race. Ben Johnson had a very good race. For the first time this year, he beat John Streblov. A lot of small victories led to this accomplishment."

Johnson said that a top-three finish and beating Oshkosh West's Streblov was the goal going into the meet.

"He caught me in the conference meet and I was kind of upset about that," Johnson said. "Today, I figured I should try and come back and run with him."

BOYS

OSHKOSH WEST 45, NEENAH 67, SHEBOYGAN NORTH 96, OSHKOSH NORTH 115, PLUMOUTH 119, BEAVER DAM 209, SHEBOYGAN SOUTH 235, MANITOWOC 249, APPLETON WEST 282, KAUKAUNA 297, ASHWAUBENON 290, APPLETON NORTH 297, FOND DU LAC 333, MENASHA 338, APPLETON EAST 381.

1. John LeRoy ON 16:27, 2. Adam Auguston SN 16:58, 3. Ben Johnson NE 17:07, 4. John Streblov OW 17:14, 5. Jason Miller NE 17:19, 6. Dale Koiber SN 17:27, 7. James Anderson OW 17:27.

Other area finishers

Appleton East: 32, Nate West 18:23, 74, Evan Schwab 19:23, 84, Ryan Barker 19:50, 91, Matt Brock 20:18, 100, Nate Lynch 21:00.
Appleton North: 37, Aaron Schwartzenhan 19:31, 43, Matthew Hayer 18:39, 45, David Ouellet 19:57, 65, David Dorze 19:53, 87, Dan Mohr 19:57.
Appleton West: 19, Dan Enger 18:05, 39, Nick Jacobson 18:32, 57, Chad Koch 18:54, 65, Jim Pleuss 18:12, 73, Jason Hevelo 18:23.
Kaukauna: 11, Andy Vandenberg 17:43, 40, Mike

Markowski 18:34, 67, Jeremy Van Sol 18:59, 70, Joe Van 19:30, 18:53, Derek Sauter 19:20, 75, Matt 19:54.
Neenah: 12, Andy Sauter 17:44, 22, 18:11, 25, Pritchard Keely 18:14, 24.
Oshkosh North: 15, Alex Doda 1 Ppt 18:10, 23, Willie McEneaney 18:12, 18:50.

Oshkosh West: 8, Trevor Johnson 18:50, 16, Kevin Springmont 18:18, 19:50.
NEENAH 32, SHEBOYGAN NORTH 109, APPLETON EAST 139, APPLETON ASHWAUBENON 184, OSHKOSH APPLETON WEST 219, OSHKOSH NORTH 219, SHEBOYGAN SOUTH 219, SHEBOYGAN WEST 219, MAITOWOC 249, KAUKAUNA 297, ASHWAUBENON 290, APPLETON NORTH 297, FOND DU LAC 333, MENASHA 338, APPLETON EAST 381.

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Kaukauna: 11, Andy Vandenberg 17:43, 40, Mike

W I A A B O Y S ' S O C C E R P L A Y O F F S

Experience pays off for Patriots in win

Ed Byrne
Crescent staff writer

WIAA boys' soccer

DIVISION 1

Saturday's regional finals
Green Bay Preble 5, Appleton North 2

If you are a senior, there is little chance in knowing that this season has been one of laying a foundation for the future.
And yet, that was the focus



Menasha lose a heartbreak

By Tim Spencer
Post-Crescent staff writer

STEVENS POINT - Jim Nash, a man who has spent most of his life playing and coaching the game

DIVISION 1

was either tackled off the the game, was unable to finish with a pass