

# Expectations running high for NHS team

By Duke Behnke

News-Record staff writer

NEENAH - How many boys at Neenah High School relish running 5,000 meters, or 3.2 miles?

Apparently 54 of them.

That's the number of athletes who joined the NHS boys cross country team this year.

"We have the largest team in the history of Neenah High School," said head coach John Morgen. "We are very, very excited about that."

Traditionally, Neenah has been a power in boys cross country, finishing first or second in the Fox Valley Association in nine of the last 10 years and qualifying for the state meet in four of the last five years.

The Rockets, driven by a strong senior class, again have high expectations this year.

"We looked at the schedule, and there really isn't any meet that we consider ourselves out

## Record number of boys turn out for cross country squad

of," senior Jason Miller said.

"We have a strong team," added senior Justin Michalkiewicz. "We always have plenty of guys coming out. We have the depth that other teams might not have."

Only eight runners on the team qualify for a varsity meet, however, so the attraction figures to go beyond winning, particularly when athletes have so many other opportunities before them, including strong NHS football, soccer and volleyball programs.

Morgen thinks he has the answer to the increasing participation.

"They are having fun," he said.

Morgen goes to great measures to create a sense of team

and belonging among the runners.

In each of the last five years, he has taken the team on a four-day retreat to Camp Onaway near Waupaca to prepare for the season.

The boys train in the morning and then participate in team-building exercises in the afternoon. The activities include canoe races, obstacle courses and swimming relays.

Forty of the 54 runners gathered at Onaway this year. Participation is voluntary.

"It's just a good opportunity to get to know the guys, not only as athletes but their personalities," Michalkiewicz said.

The team also has pasta parties and runs a football from the campus of Neenah's homecoming opponent to Rocket Stadium. This year, the team will carry the football from Appleton East High School.

See **TEAM**, Page 10

# West Bend 2001

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>1 Mile</u>	<u>2 Mile</u>	<u>Final</u>
Paulson	Mark	9	6:02		15:24
Busch	Matt	9	6:01		15:43
Lashbrook	Eric	9	6:03		15:45
Johnson	Ted	9	6:03		15:56
Hinkley	Scott	9	6:14		16:30
Rueth	Greg	9	6:36		17:03
Kierstead	Matt	9	6:16		17:18
Westphal	Nick	11	5:25	11:10	17:39
Miller	Jason	12	5:24	11:04	17:44
Arronowitz	Alex	9	6:44		17:54
Burns	Tim	10	5:40	11:44	18:27
Culhane	Dave	9	6:42		18:31
Deleeuw	Adam	9	6:41		18:31
Olson	Kane	9	6:55		18:33
Michalkiewicz	Justin	12	5:35	11:52	18:46
Sharpless	Nick	9	6:53		18:46
Swanson	Adam	12	5:46	12:07	18:57
Balisteri	Jonas	9	6:51		18:58
Steffens	Craig	12	5:46	12:11	19:13
Dorn	William	11	5:55	12:27	19:33
Schafer	Rocky	12	5:52	12:27	19:58
Main	Ben	9	6:54		20:30
Schuchhardt	Matt	9	7:28		20:32
Kittel	Steve	9	6:58		20:58
Zoromski	Tim	9	7:17		20:58
Oliver	Josh	10	6:09	13:15	21:00
Peterson	Kyle	10	5:57	12:49	21:00
Heyn	Toby	10	6:24	13:33	21:34
Umland	Craig	11	6:17	13:37	21:38
Fruhworth	Brandon	10	6:31	13:45	21:43
Borsecnik	Andrew	10	6:53	14:00	21:46
Abney	Vince	10	6:28	13:49	21:59
Stier	Brett	11	6:26	14:00	22:16
Crockett	Daniel	11	6:39	14:02	22:21
Lemmers	Chris	11	6:47	14:42	22:43
Klima	Jered	11	6:33	14:36	23:15
Aronowitz	Brent	12	6:49	14:41	23:42
Dobbins	Shawn	11	6:51	14:50	23:54
Klingenberger	Ian	10	7:00	14:45	23:58
Woolwine	Shane	10	7:10	15:15	24:00
McGinnis	Colin	11	6:39	14:53	24:17
Vorland	Colby	10	7:10	15:17	24:22
Dooley	Dan	10	6:54	14:59	24:29
Staelens	Sean	11	6:37	14:49	24:31
Boche	Jason	10	7:09	15:15	24:40
Ross	Eric	11	7:07	15:36	26:12
Kordus	Daniel	12	6:59	18:59	29:14