

PBL misses trophy, gains school record

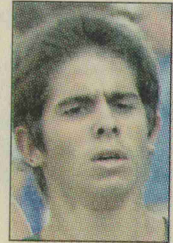
Warstler, Restad deliver all-state performances

By **DEREK BARICHELLO**
For The News-Gazette

PEORIA — When Paxton-Buckley-Loda's cross-country runners first heard the news they had finished fourth at Saturday's Class A state meet, they were upset.

Even though it was the best finish in school history.

"It was disappointing because as a team we would've liked to have done better," David Woolridge said. "But you can't really do anything about it. I know everybody ran as hard as they could."



RESTAD



WARSTLER

and received all-state honors. This year he wanted a better showing but finished 12th in 15 minutes, 29 seconds.

"I'm perfectly happy with my results," Warstler said. "I would've liked to have done a little better and cracked the top five, but I finished the race. I enjoyed it. That's all that matters."

Like Warstler, the Buffaloes did not reach their goal of finishing in the top five. Still, they shared smiles while loading up the bus.

"Our goal was to finish higher than our 2003 team, which finished sixth," G-RF/C coach Tom Kulbartz said. "We didn't finish worse, and we didn't finish better. Everybody had their best times. That's all you can ask for."

The Buffaloes were sparked by Matt Morris (50th), Dalton Lorenzen (82nd) and Reed Morris (112th).

St. Thomas More senior David Restad took all-state honors with a 19th-place finish (15:36).

"I was happy with the results," Restad said. "I expected to finish in the top 25. I also was expecting the time to be a little lower."

"The course was a little slow because of the rain."

Restad was especially happy because he improved upon last fall's 35th-place finish.

"I didn't run freshman and sophomore year," Restad said, laughing. "I wish I would've now, looking back on it. Who knows how far along I would've been?"

In the Class AA meet, Justin Sebens of Mahomet-Seymour finished 124th with a season-best time of 15:38.

Boys' recap

CLASS A

Team Champion

Elmwood

Individual Winner

Matt Feldhake, Effingham
St. Anthony

CLASS AA

Team Champion

Elmhurst York

Individual Winner

Evan Jager, Algonquin
Jacobs

The top three teams are awarded trophies.

But on the ride home, the mood lightened. PBL coach John Overstreet said it was then that it sank in what the Panthers had accomplished.

"We are very happy," Overstreet said.

"They've been taking turns on who'd run first, and today it was Felix Cardoso. They've ran together all year as a pack, and they ran together well in a pretty big meet. They should feel proud."

Cardosa wound up 52nd. Behind him were Tom Pacey (56th), Nick Brehm (60th) and Woolridge (63rd).

Georgetown-Ridge Farm/Chrisman senior Nathan Warstler has been through this before.

Last year, he finished 11th