

PrepReport

Prep primer

State cross country meet

Where and when: Peoria's Detweiller Park, Saturday
Start times: Class 1A girls - 9 a.m.; 1A boys - 10 a.m.; 2A girls - 11 a.m.; 2A boys - noon; 3A girls - 1 p.m.; 3A boys - 2 p.m.

Class 1A qualifiers

Central Catholic: No. 10-state ranked sophomore Alex Van Hoof, 23rd a year ago, was the upset girls winner of the Decatur St. Teresa Sectional.

Delavan/Hartsburg-Emden: No. 6-ranked Maddison Zimmer, a sophomore, is hoping to improve on last year's 24th-place finish.

El Paso-Gridley: No. 1-ranked sophomore Julie James finished ninth as a freshman. Joining her in the lead pack will be Freeburg twins Kristen and Caitlin Busch, who placed second and fourth, respectively, last year. EPG freshman Karly Miller advanced eighth from the Elmwood Sectional.

Eureka: The No. 7-ranked Hornet girls, fourth a year ago, are making their 13th consecutive state trip. They are led by junior Kalla Gold, who ran fifth as a freshman and eighth as a sophomore. She is the reigning state 400-meter dash champion.

Fieldcrest: No. 19-ranked freshman Maria Baldwin is Fieldcrest's first state qualifier since Mollie Springer made the last of four state trips in 2005. Springer finished a school-record 37th in 2004.

Heyworth: Junior Zach Quinn earned his second state berth by placing 10th in the St. Teresa Sectional. The best finish in school history was 20th by Zach Bowling in 2006.

Illini Central: Senior Steven Ingersoll advanced eighth from the Elmwood Sectional.

Lexington: Junior Kaley Ummel, 56th a year ago, has been advised this fall by retired Illinois State coach John Coughlan. She took seventh in the St. Teresa Sectional.

Olympia: The Spartans are making their seventh state trip and first since 2006. Their best finishes were second in 2002 and third in 2003.

Olympia took fifth in the St. Teresa Sectional where junior Christine Wigginton led the way in 11th.

Tremont: The No. 6-ranked Turk girls, 11th each of the past two years, are making their fourth straight state trip. Seniors Hannah Booker and Jamee Holmes are four-time state qualifiers. Tremont was led in the Elmwood Sectional by freshman Jade Holmes, who placed seventh. The unranked Tremont boys, 11th in 2009, are making their seventh straight state appearance. Their leader is junior Cole Dill, 42nd a year ago.

Tri-Valley: Sophomore Athena Kulb and freshman Jess Clarke finished a second apart in 14th and 15th, respectively, in the St. Teresa Sectional.



Central Catholic's Alex Van Hoof

3A. Belvidere North topped U High for last year's title, 77-119. Sectional champion Rm Rutherford of U High placed 17th a year ago. The Pioneers are shooting for their seventh state trophy since 1999.

The top-ranked U High girls came within three points of not advancing from the East Peoria Sectional where they're fifth. No. 15-state ranked senior Emily Clay, 22nd in 2007, led the way in title. The best finish in school history was 16th by Cassy sister, Rebekah, in 2004. Sydney Billingsley led the shoe at the start of sectional, but still managed 33rd as her team's second finisher. The best girls team finish in school history was third in Class A in 1994.

Class 3A qualifiers

Normal Community:

Sophomore Carly Pedersen, slowed by an iron deficiency last spring, has looked strong this fall. The Big 12 Conference champion hopes to improve on last year's 24th-place finish when she was sixth among freshmen in 17:55.

Normal Community West:

The Normal West girls, 25th a year ago, are making their seventh state trip. The No. 19-ranked Wildcats are led by all-state candidate Emily Brelsford, fifth in last spring's state 3,200-meter run. She has run 17:32 at Detweiller Park, which would have placed ninth a year ago. The No. 22-ranked Normal West boys, 24th a year ago, hope to see seniors Drew Kerschietter and Bryce Basting crack the top 25.

— Compiled by Randy Sharer

Class 2A qualifiers

Mahomet-Seymour: Senior Brittany Bohn, 38th in the state a year ago, placed 10th in the East Peoria Sectional to help her team advance fourth. This is the Bulldogs' seventh state trip since 2001 and ninth trip in school history. Mahomet-Seymour is ranked 10th. The lone Bulldog boy qualifier is junior Lucas Prather, who was 13th in the sectional.

University High: To move up, the No. 2-ranked Pioneer boys will need an off day from top-ranked Belvidere North, which has beaten the best teams in