



Meets On Tap: Sectionals



TONY JONES

Oct 30, 2015

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It's do or die time on Saturday (Steven Bugarin photo)

1A

MileSplit Illinois will have on-site coverage at all five 3A sectionals.

Check for us for additional footage at Lake Park.

First thing first. It is "real cross country time" if you happened to run into a so-called

Sectional - Decatur (St. Teresa)

Hickory Point Golf Course; Decatur, IL
Oct 31, 2015
Boys-



or cool winds, rain, and cloudiness. Remember it's late October and that's

Teams: #1 Tolono (Unity), #2 St. Joseph Ogden, #4 Shelbyville, #5 Robinson, #6 Monticello, #7 Carlinville, #10 Paxton-Gridley-Loda, #16 Urbana University High

Alex G's Outlook: This is easily the toughest sectional in the state and it might as well be the state championship because at least two teams here are virtually guaranteed to go home with a trophy next weekend.

Tolono Unity- The unbeaten Rockets won the PBL regionals 32-73 over SJO, and do not look to be beaten anytime soon going into sectionals and state!

St. Joseph Ogden- Considering who they are up against, second place is not a bad place to be for the Spartans, both now at PBL and these next two weeks

Shelbyville -The Rams won their home regional very convincingly 26-46 against Carlinville, and definitely look to be a major trophy contender come state. They're going to need a good day from their fifth man, though

Robinson- This team comfortably won their home regional 35-82 over Marshall. But considering they are ranked fifth as a team, the Maroons actually do not look too comfortable trying to qualify out of a stacked DST sectional!

Monticello- I cannot believe I'm saying this, but the sages are cutting it close in terms of qualifying state. They did finish four points behind SJO in the PBL regional, which does seem promising

Carlinville- Lost to Shelbyville pretty badly in their regional, but part of that might have been an intentional move by front runners Cory Landon and Nolan Krepe to not go all out in order to rest up for the sectional brawl that lies ahead.

Paxton- Although the PBL Panthers finished fourth in their home regional, they are nevertheless major contender for to qualify out of the DST sectional.

Urbana University-It will take even more than late season magic (like last year) for these Illineks to qualify out of the very Decatur St. Teresa Sectional that has seven of the top ten ranked teams!

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1A Sectional - Elmwood



Maple Lane Country Club;
(Elmwood, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Teams: #3 Elmwood-Brimfield, #8 El-Paso Gridley, #9 Eureka, #17 Pleasant Plains, #19 Bloomington Central Catholic

Alex's outlook:

Elmwood -Olumski and McCoy are an established 1-2 punch for the Trojans, as we saw at regionals where they won by 36 points over El-Paso. But something tells me we haven't seen the full potential of the pack behind them.

El-Paso Gridley-The titans finish second in the Eureka Regional, and look to take second place honors again at sectionals.

Eureka- Eureka's pack has been good in the early season, and has gotten phenomenal as we hit the late season. The hornets should make some noise at the Elmwood Sectional!

Pleasant Plains-The Cardinals pretty easily clenched the Franklin Regional over Liberty 60-84, and shouldn't have too much of a tough time qualifying out of their Elmwood Sectional assignment

Bloomington Central Catholic- Don't let a fourth place regional finish fool you! The Saints will be looking to qualify out of the Elmwood Sectional this Saturday!;

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1A Sectional - Lisle



(Lisle, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Key teams: Kankakee McNamara, Beecher, Prairie Central

Outlook: Not a strong section but several quality teams have an opportunity to make a name for themselves and vie for a top 20 finish the following week at state. One of those teams is Bishop Mac of Kankakee. Their times overall were not fast at regionals but a 16 second scoring split means alot for a regional winner no matter where they are from.

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1A Sectional - Metro-East Lutheran



SIU-Edwardsville CC Course (Edwardsville, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Key teams: #20 Breese Mater Dei, Pinckeyville, Nashville

Breese Mater-Dei- With all the parity in the Edwardsville Sectional, it should be interesting to see who qualifies to state. As the late season approaches,

the Knights look like a viable bet!

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1A Sectional - Oregon



Oregon Park West (Oregon, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #11 Johnsburg, #14 Rock Falls, #15 Sterling (Newman Central Catholic), #18 Galva

Johnsburg- Losing to Elgin Harvest Christian Academy 57-56 was quite the upset at regionals. But with Matt Stalmasek's low score making a bigger impact in bigger races, they still go into Oregon as the sectional favorite; 13) Elgin Harvest Christian Academy [0]-The lions really rose up to the competition as the Winnebago regional champions! All eyes are on them at the Oregon sectional.

14) **Rock Falls**- With Hamblen and Williams going 1-2, and the Oregon Sectional not as stacked as it was last year, the Rocket's qualifying chances this year this time look very optimistic, even with Galva once again knocking on their front door!

15) **Newman Central Catholic**- It is very clear who has the most depth going into the Oregon Sectional, as they win the Bureau Valley regional in 46 points. But their pack needs to be closer to Chris Ahlers in order to win sectionals.

18) Galva- A clutch late season bid once again for the wildcats as they tie with Rock Falls in the Bureau Valley Regional! Will be one of the major contenders for top five position in the Oregon Sectional.

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2A Sectional - Chicago (University)



Washington Park (Chicago, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #13 Fenwick, Fenton, Deerfield, Chicago U High, Chicago Mather

Fenwick should win comfortably here followed by Deerfield. Jacob Meyer of U High should be the favorite

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2A Sectional - MacArthur



Hickory Point Golf Course (Decatur, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #5 Springfield, #6 Chatham-Glenwood, Charleston, Mt. Vernon

It should be a nice rematch between Springfield and Chatham-Glenwood. Springfield won by two at the Jacksonville Regional. There will be more implications of course this time. Last weekend's individual winner Ben Flowers of Jerseyville had a breakout race and will be doing his best job in getting his team on to Peoria. Springfield senior Heath Warren should be ready to roll now.

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**2A Sectional -
Normal University**



Maxwell Park; (Normal, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #1 Mahomet-Seymour, #7 Normal UHigh, #9 Metamora, #10 Peoria Notre Dame, #15 Rock Island Alleman, #16 Danville, #20 Lincoln-Way West

The toughest sectional bar none and the degree of difficulty in advancing to state is going to be crazy. Of course Mahomet is one of the best teams in Illinois regardless of classification. The Bulldogs are on a mission and now it is prime time for them to seize this moment before heading into Peoria. Normal U High should be a safe bet for second as well as Metamora and PND. It will be a toss up for the fifth and final spot to state. Alex Keeble took second to Jack Franklin of Normal UHigh. They will duel again for top honors.

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2A Sectional - Wheaton Academy



Kress Creek Farms; (West
Chicago, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #3 Yorkville, #4 Hinsdale South, Wheaton Academy, Chicago Lindblom, Marist

This sectional was super last year but that doesn't mean it will be any less thrilling. Defending state champ Yorkville has something to prove and will need every bit of Trevor Wills and company in defeating Hinsdale South. The Hornets have built their program from the ground up on the strength of Charlie Nodus and Roman Drabchuk. Wheaton Academy has an opportunity to finish a disappointing campaign on a great note with a state berth.

Girls-

#1 Yorkville will be locked and loaded for the first time since the Naperville Invite. This will be a dress rehearsal for the state meet.

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2A Sectional - Woodstock North



Emricson Park (Woodstock, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #2 Grayslake Central, #8 Belvidere North, #11 Crystal Lake Central, #12 Maple Park (Kaneland), #14 Vernon Hills, #17 Rockford Christian, #18 Dixon, #19 Crystal Lake (Prairie Ridge)

This sectional may actually be deeper top to bottom than Norman University but regardless some teams will be watching from the sidelines next weekend. All the better in seeing a deep race where there is no breathing room. Jack Aho and his Grayslake Central squad will be the spotlight squad. Belvidere North has won sectional and state titles in the past. Coach Troy Yunk will lean on his son Eryk in getting the job done.

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3A Sectional - Hinsdale Central



Katherine Legge Park (Hinsdale, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #1 Sandburg, #4 Lyons Twp., #5 Hinsdale Central, #12 Downers Grove South, #17 Plainfield South

The top ranked team in the country will cruise here. Lyons and Hinsdale C should fight for second and third place. Look for five Eagles in the top 10 even

with a solid field such as this.

Girls-

Key teams: #8 Lyons Twp, #11 Hinsdale Central, #13 Lockport, #22 Benet Academy, #25 Downers Grove South

Lyons and Hinsdale Central have regrouped. They will battle a solid Lockport team along with a renewed Benet Academy who were off the grid for several years. Downers South should earn a ticket to Peoria.

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3A Sectional - Lake Park



Lake Park CC Course; (Roselle, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key Teams: #3 York, #6 New Trier, #7 Oak Park-River Forest, #8 Whitney Young, #10 Maine South

This field is not as deep as one would have thought. York will look like superstars and serious state contenders with another dominating performance. The Dukes smashed OPRF last weekend and they beat Hinsdale Central, Lyons and more in recent weeks. New Trier has good enough depth to maintain the second spot. The battle for top 5 will be furious despite some highly ranked teams entered. Individually, Irwin Loud of OPRF was seething after getting outkicked by York's Charlie Kern Jr. Expect him to go into turbo mode from the gun.

Girls-

Key teams: #2 Glenbard West, #5 Wheaton-Warrenville South, #6 New Trier, #14 Maine South, #21 York

Glenbard West may be the second best team in the state on paper and results but they will have a tough fight on their hands. New Trier is running as well as anyone in the state with a great pack. WWS is solid too. Lindsey Payne should dominate the race.

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**3A Sectional -
Normal**



Maxwell Park (Normal, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #21 Lincoln Way North, #25 Minooka, O'Fallon, Illiana Christian

Look for LWN and Minooka to duke it out for the title. The jump to 3A for Illiana Christian has turned out well and they should be awarded for a great season.

Girls-

Key teams: #3 Minooka, #24 Edwardsville, O'Fallon, Lincoln Way Central

Minooka is clearly the favorite here and the Indians should steamroll the competition. Maybe working on a closing #4 and #5 runners is something the team can prepare for leading into state.

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3A Sectional - Schaumburg



Busse Woods Forest Preserve (Schaumburg, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #9 Buffalo Grove, #11 Lake Zurich, #13 Prospect, #14 Hoffman Estates, #19 Highland Park, #22 McHenry, #24 Stevenson

There is no definitive favorite here just straight up scrapping on the course. Prospect may very well sneak in and win the title with their fleet of middle-distance runners. However, a consistent betting man is going to go with either Buffalo Grove or Lake Zurich. Why? Buffalo Grove has Kevin Salvano and a solid supporting cast behind him. Lake Zurich has a strong trio led by Matt Pereira. Salvano and Pereira haven't dueled yet this season despite their teams clashing several times. They will meet for sure on Saturday and may the best runner win. Hoffman Estates is an underrated team ready to move on state. They won their regional last weekend with a 43 second scoring split. Additionally, look for Brett Davidson (Highland Park) and Jared Borowsky (Stevenson) to apply pressure on the leaders.

Girls-

Key teams: #7 Lake Forest, #9 Prospect, #10 Barrington, #15 Palatine, #20 Schaumburg, #23 Grant

Some pre-season favorites are going to go home unhappy and some surprises are going to happen in a big way. Lake Forest for example moved up from 2A and have done extraordinarily well. Prospect bounced back into the premier program they were accustomed to being. Barrington is back as well. Now on the flip side, Palatine will be fighting for a spot to state. The Lady Pirates were once a shoe in now will have to run moderately well to get to Peoria. Individually, Brooke Wilson (Prospect), Isabelle Sparerro (Stevenson), Jocelyn Long (Barrington), Caitlyn Shepard (Lake Zurich) and Kelly O'Brien (Palatine) are the key favorites.

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3A Sectional - West Aurora



(Stuart Sports Complex, IL)

Oct 31, 2015

Boys-

Key teams: #2 Neuqua Valley, #15 Huntley, #16 St. Charles East, #18 Marmion Academy, #20 Geneva, #23 Oswego

Neuqua Valley remains the big favorite despite having to manage without their top two runners. Aiden Livingston has stepped up like a senior is supposed to and before him was Jake McEneny. The Wildcats have too much firepower to be reckoned with.

Girls-

Key teams: #1 Naperville North, #4 Batavia, #12 Geneva, #16 Neuqua Valley, #17 Metea Valley, #18 Plainfield North, #19 Oswego

A load of good teams anchored by the top team in all of Illinois. Speaking of top team, Naperville North will be loaded with senior star Judy Pendergast back in the cockpit. Pendergast took off last weekend and the Huskies still dominated. Batavia beat a short handed Naperville North earlier in the season. There is no chance of that happening now. They will be gracious settling for second in this affair.

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