



RI  
HOK  
Aug



[Login / Signup](#)

## DYESTAT IL - BEHIND THE RANKINGS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2016



Published by [DyeStatIL.com](#) [Follow](#)

Yesterday, 2:49pm

[Report](#)



**REGISTER NOW**  
HOKA ONE ONE Postal Nationals 2-M  
Aug 23rd - Dec 15th | #prepare2post

Above: Coach Rob Harvey addresses the Wheaton-Warrenville South Girls team before the start of the race last weekend in Peoria (Mike Newman Photo)

By Michael Newman

DyeStat IL Editor

[mike@dyestat.com](mailto:mike@dyestat.com)

+PLUS highlights

+PLUS coverage

Live Events

[Login / Signup](#)

especially when the conditions are usually similar.

That was not the case the past two weekends when the course took a heavy beating from some unseasonably damp weather in the Peoria weather. The First to the Finish Invitational conditions was one of the worst I have seen on the course. Last weekend's Richard Spring Invitational lucked out in some ways. It was dry most of the week including Friday afternoon's collegiate race on the course. The night before the race almost an inch of rain fell making the course a question mark in some areas. It did not also help that the sun popped out from behind the clouds heating up the weather conditions along with high humidity.

I looked back at previous year's meets as well as the conditions that surrounded those meets. The meet on September 10 was extremely slow as the times reflected that. For the Boys races in that meet, you can subtract 33 to 35 seconds off of race times. In the Girls races, times were 46 to 48 seconds slower per runner. The turns at last weekend's races effected the times along with the course still being a sponge as well as the high humidity. The difference of times were similar in both the Girls and Boys races. Subtract 19-20 seconds in the Girls races, 17 to 18 seconds in the Boys races.

I hope that gives you a better understanding on how some of the teams matched up against each other.

### 3A Boys

Top ranked **Neuqua Valley's** performance at the Richard Spring Invitational gave a text book example of how to run the Detweiller Park course as a team. The Wildcats moved in the final mile to capture the team win. It was only a 21 second split between #1 runner Josh Mollway and #5 runner Matt Milostan. Scott Anderson used the open race as a tempo run running an even paced 16:33 in that race. They will be back at Detweiller on October 1. The race that I am looking forward to is when the Neuqua's pack races against the pack of Downers Grove North at the Naperville Twilight meet on October 5.

It was the first race of the year for **#4 Lake Zurich** at Peoria and it showed in Saturday's race. The good thing is it is only the middle of September. Their third place finish showed the potential that this team has. Brian and Kyle Griffith along with Matt Pereira were in the top five at the mile of the race with Patrick Burns in the front pack. It did not go well after that. Brian Griffith looked strong in winning the race. The split on their top four was 57 seconds. Their overall top five split was 113 seconds. Watch for their split to get closer this weekend at Palatine.

**#6 Hersey** was impressive in their fourth place finish in Peoria even though they did not have top five runner Ryan Thiesen on the starting line. The addition of sophomore Ryan Buch and freshman Josh Methner gave #1 runner Jacob Krupa a boost. Only thirteen seconds separated this front trio. Their overall top five split was 43 seconds. It should tighten up a little more with the addition of Thiesen. **#7 Wheaton-Warrenville South** coach Chris Kuntz did not look satisfied after the race on Saturday but he had not seen the results. His team finished fifth overall with again another tight split on their top group. Only five seconds separated #1 runner Scott Maison and #4 runner Aleksei Sorokin. Their overall split was 38 seconds. If that pack moves up a little closer to the front

[+PLUS highlights](#)

[+PLUS coverage](#)

[Live Events](#)

[Login / Signup](#)

only 38 seconds behind Jacobs. Their #3 to #5 runner pack split was 31 seconds in this meet which should be encouraging to Sandburg coach John O'Malley. The key is to watch that split decrease on five and the gap between that trio to Skucas getting smaller in the next few meets. **#12 Geneva** looked good in their eighth place finish led by Tyler Dau who finished sixteenth overall. Their split on five was 77 seconds which is a little concerning but it is early in the season. Watch that split continue to get smaller over the next few meets.

So why do I have **York** at #11 in the 3A rankings after they finished fourteenth last Saturday? In all of the teams that I look at in the rankings, if there are two levels in a meet, I look at all of the team's runners and not just the varsity. It requires looking outside of the box instead of being narrow minded which I did when finishing the rankings Monday night. It made me feel better after seeing the coach's poll rank the Dukes #11 also. The team looked flat on Saturday as it was the team's first "real" race of the season. Charlie Kern (8<sup>th</sup>) and Sean MacGregor (15<sup>th</sup>) led their team with top twenty finishes. There was a huge drop off after that which they will need to work on. Ethan Kern and Brendan Hill will give this team a boost once they are moved to the varsity level. They finished in the top twenty in the frosh/soph race. Here again, it is only September. That kind of effort in October would have not advanced them to state. Just like any other team, the more races run, the better this team should get.

The only team that enters this week is **#17 Lincoln-Way East**. Even though the Griffins finished eighteenth at Peoria, if you put Frosh/Soph race winner Brett Gardner in the varsity race, it boosts this team into the top ten. Noah Healy was the top runner on the team running 15:08. The freshman Gardner would have been the team's #2 runner. It would give the team a 47 seconds on their first four runners. Their top five split of 100 seconds is something that needs to be worked on.

**O'Fallon** stays in the rankings at #25 just nudging out Highland Park for the final spot. The Panthers finished sixteenth at Peoria but did it without #2 runner Kyle Dismukes who did not run in this meet. Having him in would have boosted O'Fallon to around 10 to 12 overall. Highland Park had a good race at Libertyville finishing second. It was the team overall time that O'Fallon would have had with Dismukes in the lineup being nine to eleven seconds faster than what Highland Park ran the week before.

### 3A Girls

There is not much else we can say about **Glenbard West** that we already said. The top ranked Hilltoppers rolled to the team championship at the Richard Spring Invitational behind the 1-2 finish by Kayelynn Hart and Lindsey Payne along with a top ten finish by Katie Hohe (7<sup>th</sup>). Their split still stays between 90 to 93 seconds. In this meet, their split was 92 seconds.

The next two teams in the Peoria race were attention getters. **Wheaton-Warrenville South** moved from #11 to #5 by finishing second placing their top four in the first thirty-six. Allison McGrath (10<sup>th</sup>) and Sara Atkins (12<sup>th</sup>) finished within four seconds of each other. The Lady Tigers received a big boost from #3 runner Laurel Moneysmith who finished seventeenth overall with cross country newbie Amanda Obrist nineteen seconds behind her teammate (36<sup>th</sup>). Their top four split was only 42 seconds. Their overall top five split was 101 seconds. If you add freshman Haley Ansiel (who finished third in the Frosh/Soph race) into the top five, the split for the team drops to 76 seconds.

[+PLUS highlights](#)

[+PLUS coverage](#)

[Live Events](#)

[Login / Signup](#)

seconds. The pack behind them was 40 seconds, but IZZETT STANKIEWICZ, LAUREN SIMONS, and ANNA BUCKSTAFF were separated by only six seconds. **Grant** was also a big mover jumping eight spots to #13 after finishing seventh in Peoria. They were led by top twenty finishes by Danielle Osmon (4<sup>th</sup>) and Eva Cardy (18<sup>th</sup>). **Maine South** jumped into the top ten (#9) after finishing sixth. The Hawks had a strong front two at Detweiller Park with Olivia Niziolek (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Maddie Dingle (5<sup>th</sup>) finishing a second of each other. Their split of 120 seconds on five could hurt this team in smaller meets but watch that come down in the next few meets. Having those single digit numbers up front will help at state series time.

Three teams moved into this week's top 25. **Hersey** steps in at #16 following their eighth place finish at Peoria behind having three runners in the first thirty-five led by the eleventh place finish by Sarah Harden. Their split on three was 34 seconds. Their top five split, however, was 119 seconds. **Oak Park-River Forest** was the other team in the Peoria meet to enter the rankings at #24 after finishing eleventh in Peoria. **Fremd** just missed making into the rankings after a good performance at First to the Finish a week ago. Their dominating win at Warren moves them into #22 at the rankings. Linda Varela led the team with a second place finish. Their ten second split on their #2 to #5 runners will be a difference maker later in the season.

**Schaumburg** was one of the team's that was looked at for the top 25. Other teams that were considered included **Oswego, Lincoln-Way East, O'Fallon,** and **Downers Grove North.**

## 2A Boys

We were waiting for the first race that **Mahomet-Seymour** that was challenged this season. The first two races the Bulldogs ran they were not pushed. They showed what they had when they finished a strong second in Peoria. Mahomet right now should be one of the top five teams in the Midwest Region for NXN. Andrew Walmer led his team with a twelfth place finish. Riley Fortune was the leader of the pack behind Walmer. He was only eleven seconds back. Their overall split on five was twenty seconds with only nine seconds separating their #2 through #5 runners.

**#2 Normal University** finished seventeenth overall at Peoria but ran short handed without top five runner Tanner Gilliam who did not run as well as top five runners Zach Wolford and Josh Nepomuceno who ran in the Frosh/Soph race. Jack Franklin finished fourth overall in the race to lead the Pioneers. Put the two runners from the Frosh/Soph race and the team's five runner split would have been 92 seconds instead of the 119 seconds that they had in the race. As of right now, Mahomet and U-High are the top two teams in this classification and then there is a gap. Then again, we are still in September.

Right now, it is close between the next three teams. **Chatham-Glenwood** moved up to #3 based on their performance at Peoria. Chris Durr has stepped up as the team's #1 runner. The pack behind him has a split of 47 seconds. The gap right now between Durr and the Maton brothers (Dathan and Drew) is 36 seconds. The overall split needs to drop to 60 to 65 seconds for this team to be in the trophy hunt. **#5 Grayslake Central** was in the hunt for the title at Warren last Saturday behind Jack Aho's course record of 14:13. Their top five split dropped from 152 seconds at Peoria on September 10 to 120 seconds at Warren. The split dropping to 90 to 95 seconds puts them in the same discussion with Mahomet-Seymour and Normal University.

[+PLUS highlights](#)

[+PLUS coverage](#)

[Live Events](#)

[Login / Signup](#)

seconds of each other.

**Dunlap** was the only team to enter the top 25 after winning their own invitational last Saturday. The Eagles did not run a great race at First to the Finish, but bounced back to defeat ranked **Rock Island Alleman** by four points.

## 2A Girls

Not much change in this classification. Top ranked **Belvidere North** won easily at Kaneland ahead of #4 **Crystal Lake Central** with Jenna Lutzow back in the lineup winning the individual race. #2 Dunlap won easily in their own invitational placing five runners in the first seven with only a 25 second split on that pack.

**Mahomet-Seymour** was the biggest mover in this classification even though they split their lineup at Peoria. Three of their top four ran on the Frosh/Soph level with Megan Churm and Brisa McGrath finishing in the top ten in that race. Their overall split on their top five runners in the meet would have been 96 seconds. The same can be said about #13 **Carmel Catholic**. This was their first race of the year and they kept some of their runners in Frosh/Soph race. With the addition of freshmen Abigail Kuderna and Ezzie Posner on Varsity, Carmel would have had a four runner split of 18 seconds and ahead of Grayslake Central. It will be interesting to see how Carmel runs this Saturday at Grant.

Two teams enter the top 25 this week led by **Kaneland** and their fourth place finish at their home invitational. Freshman Rachel Richtman led four runners in the first thirty in that race to put them at #20 in the rankings. **Wheaton Academy** used an 88 second split off of top runner Julia Robleski to finish 34<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Spring Invitational and to move them into the rankings at #25.

## 1A Boys

**St. Joseph Ogden** and **Monticello** moved up in the rankings because of good performances at the Richard Spring Invitational. St. Joseph-Ogden only ran four runners in the race putting #3 runner Isiah McCune in the Frosh/Soph race. Add McCune's time to the four varsity runners led by Justin Phillips, you get a split of 124 seconds. That's not bad considering that Phillips is one of the top runners in 1A. Their team time after course adjustments was 20 seconds faster than what Rockford Christian ran the week before. The Spartans move up to #3 this week. Alex Helmuth ran 15:44 to lead Monticello at Peoria with Garrett Dixon 24 seconds behind. Even though their split was 124 seconds on five, it just moves them ahead of Tremont at #5.

**#2 Harvest Christian** had another strong performance finishing fifth at the Eddington Invitational in a meet with mainly 2A and 3A schools. They had a fourteen split on their top three pack led by Andrew Dobrescu's nineteenth place finish. Their overall 51 second split looks good especially in September. It should be a good matchup with the top two 1A teams Rockford Christian and Harvest Christian racing at the Charger Classic this Saturday at Aurora. **Illinois Valley Central** moved just ahead of **Elmwood-Brimfield** in the rankings after winning at Bureau Valley by one point (85-86). The #8 Ghosts were led by the fourth place finish by Owen Habberger. **Sterling Newman** moves up to #16 finishing third in the meet.

[+PLUS highlights](#)

[+PLUS coverage](#)

[Live Events](#)

[Login / Signup](#)

**Dei.** Robinson stays in the rankings at #24. Tuscola had a strong race in their home invitational finishing second behind #15 Shelbyville. They step in at #25 this week.

One thing to keep an eye on is the performance of **Tanner Chada**. The senior transferred to Hinckley-Big Rock from Aurora Christian for his senior year. He finished eighteenth last week at Peoria running 15:19. Chada could be Rock Falls **Brayden Hamblen's** chief competition when we get to the 1A state series this October. Remember, he finished third in the 1A state meet as a sophomore.

## 1A Girls

There were not that many changes in this classification. Just like with their Boys' team, **St. Joseph-Ogden** split their team up on the Varsity and Frosh/Soph levels. Faith Houston ran 18:43 to lead their team in the Varsity race. Adding Cassidy Bagby from the Frosh/Soph race gives the team a split of 58 seconds on five. Tolono Unity and Liberty have yet to race on Detweiller Park this season. Out of all the teams that have run on the course, St. Joseph-Ogden has the fastest team time by close to five minutes.

**Illinois Valley Central** bounced back from a sub-par race at Peoria coming back to finish second at the Bureau Valley Invitational behind #7 Eureka. IVC enters the top 25 at #18. **Westmont** finished sixth at Bureau Valley without one of their top five runners Lily Arndt. With her in the top five, their point total drops 100 points in that meet putting them into third place just behind Illinois Valley.