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2020 IHSA Class 2A Boys Sectional XC Previews

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2020 IHSA Class 2A Boys Sectional XC Previews

By Michael Newman

mike@dyestat.com



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The one thing to watch other than the individual races in this sectional is the setup of the sectional races at each venue. We have gone from small races at the beginning of the season with teams running together to wave races separating that team racing aspect of the sport. The key this weekend is which team adapts to one or two runner per team racing in the individual race. That team will end up with the team win. You will also get a better idea of how the runners adapt from running in the middle of the race to actually leading in the front.

Here is a look at each of the sectional meets. You can find meet information on the [IHSAA site](#).

Olney Richland County Sectional

Teams — **Chatham-Glenwood** entered the season as the team to beat in Class 2A. After a season of triangular and dual meets and a convincing win in their regional, the Titans should be tough to beat in Saturday's sectional races. Glenwood only had a 29 second split on their top five scoring only 20 points in their win. Just a good race with a 30 second top five split could get the win on Saturday. **Aidan Peterson** and **Thomas Herbst** give the Titans a strong top duo in the front. **Mahomet-Seymour** is the top "best of the rest" teams in this field and could challenge for the second-place spot. **Kyle Nofziger** is the team's top runner. The team's top five split was close to 90 seconds last week with a two through five split at 49 seconds. Getting second-runner **Joseph Scheele** within 15 seconds of Nofziger is something to watch for in this race. **Rochester** could challenge for the second spot led by **Matt Herren**. Their split of 38 seconds off second runner Adam Gribbins could position Rochester in second. **Mascoutah** is a team to watch after they won last week at Highland. **Lance Miller** led a 45 second split on their top five. **Springfield** finished six points behind Rochester in their regional race. The Senators could finish as high as third led by **Ethan Sommers**. **Marion, Richland County, and Carbondale** are teams to watch that could finish in the top five.

Individuals — **Chris Cherry** of Taylorville edged **Kyle Nofziger** of Mahomet-Seymour by three seconds last week at Taylorville. Both runners will challenge for the win on Saturday. **Alex Partlow** of Carbondale is having a great comeback season after missing almost all of 2019 due to injury. Partlow won at Highland last Saturday and could win again at Olney. **Matt Herren** of Rochester is a runner that will be in the front with the Chatham-Glenwood duo of **Aidan Peterson** and **Thomas Herbst**. **Dylon Nalley** of Marion and **Brock Davee** of Mattoon should also compete for a top five finish.

Chicago Latin School Sectional

Teams — **St. Ignatius Prep** was looked at in the beginning of the season as one of the top teams in Class 2A and the deepest. The Wolfpack are the favorite ready to make this their statement race of the season. The team swept the first seven spots last week on this course at Lincoln Park. That will not happen this week. The point total will stay low most likely under 30 points. **Zach** and **Nick Kiley** are the team's top runners. The split was 20 seconds in that race. A split

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Individuals — This race is wide open. **Michael Schumacher** of St. Viator and Yasir Hirsi of Mather were within five seconds of each other in the regional race. **Julian Watson** of Hinsdale South won in Wheaton and should be among the front runners. St. Ignatius Prep **Zack** and **Nick Kiley** are also in the mix. So will **Niklas Anderson** of Benet Academy.

Peoria Notre Dame Sectional

Teams — Two of the top five teams in Class 2A will head this field that gets to finish their season racing at Detweiller Park. Morton edges Metamora by six points last week at Metamora. Even though there will be more runners in this race, the point total could be near or under 10 points if both squads run their same race. **Morton** only had a 63 second split in last week's race led by freshmen **Josh Weeks**, **Yonas Wuthrich**, and junior **Cade Zobrist**. The pack led by Wuthrich only had a 36 second split. That kind of racing Saturday gets the team a sectional title. **Metamora** will have the power in the front led by **Ian O'Laughlin** and **Hunter Roedell**. Metamora's fifth runner was right with Morton's last week. The key was that Morton had four runners in ahead of Metamora's third. That needs to change this weekend in order for a Metamora win. **Lemont** is one team that I would keep an eye on as they seem to be peaking at the right time. Their split was 66 seconds last week off their top runner **Nicholas Kania**. **TJ Polen** was just 14 seconds behind his teammate. Their top four split was only 34 seconds and is comparable and will be close to the two Mid-Illini Conference team. Moving their fifth runner closer to the front give Lemont the advantage and possibly the win. **Geneseo** was juts 10 points behind Lemont last week and could play a factor for the team title. **William Plumley** is the team's top runner. Their split from the second to fifth runner was only 21 seconds. **Brother Rice** had a nice 1-2 finish from **Eddie Burke** and **Mikey Corcoran** to win last week at Agricultural Science. Their split on five of 88 seconds could keep them out of the top three teams but still able to finish in the top five. **HL Richards** had a 22 seconds on their top three led by **David Olmos**. They finished five points off Brother Rice and could surpass them if their top five split can stay under 70 seconds. **Limestone** and **Peoria Notre Dame** have the talent to surpass the two Chicago area schools.

Individuals — We said that **Wilson Georges** of Limestone was the solid favorite in his regional race. In reality, Georges only won by two seconds ahead of Metamora's **Ian O'Laughlin**. We suspect Georges was saving himself for this week at Detweiller Park. The two have finished farther apart in most races. It could be close again. We will see how far under the junior from Limestone goes under 14:40. **Eddie Burke** of Brother Rice could be among the top five runners in this race along with **Josh Weeks** of Morton, **Mikey Corcoran** of Brother Rice, **William Plumley** of Geneseo, and **Nicholas Kania** of Lemont.

Lake Villa Lakes Community Sectional

Teams — The Boys team race at this meet is wide-open. The defending Class 2A State Champion **Kaneland** is peaking at the right time. **Isaiah Dallal** finished third last week and is the top runner for the Knights. Their pack behind Dallal is strong with only 15 seconds separating the next four runners. The overall split was 47 seconds. That could be good enough for the team win. **Crystal Lake Central** ran a strong race in winning at the Fox Valley Conference. They won last week at Belvidere without their top runner **Thomas Landt** who did not run. The senior should be in the top five. Central will have **Karson Hollander** be among the top ten runners. Central keeping their split near 65 seconds could get their team the win. **Hampshire** will also be in the mix led by **Isai Morales**. **Grayslake Central**, led by **Bryan Vale** who could be in the first ten, will rely on a tight pack to challenge for the team title. They will need to keep their top five split under 60 seconds. **Burlington Central** and **Sycamore** also have the talent to win. Do not be surprised if the top six teams are separated by 25 points or less.

Individuals — The one runner to watch in the championship wave is **Peter Walsdorf** of Marian Central Catholic. The senior won at Belvidere last week by 31 seconds ahead of **Karson Hollander** of Crystal Lake Central. He is one of the top runners in Class 2A. He has the stuff and the talent to challenge for a state title. Too bad we do not advance an extra week to Peoria. **Cadyn Grafton** of Dixon was all-state last year and won last week at Kaneland. He could challenge for the individual win. **Isai Morales** of Hampshire, **Thomas Landt** of Crystal Lake Central, **Isaiah Dallal** of Kaneland, **Robert Perry** of Burlington Central, **Luke Chaffin** of Marengo, **Bryan Vale** of Grayslake Central, and **Will Gelon** of Prairie Ridge all have the ability to challenge for a top five finish.