This is the second year of our look at the teams that made the top 25 in the ILXCTF rankings in each class. It will give you some idea how teams are slotted into the spots that they are in. It will also give you a view of the team from my eyes.

This is a series that runs until the beginning of October. By that point, we should how good (or bad) some teams are.

The first weekend brought seven new teams into the top 25 in each of the three classes. The most difficult to decide on was Class 3A. There are six teams that we could have also put in the top 25. They are so close together this early in the season. Through the next few weeks of Peoria meets, that picture should become a little clearer.

**Class 2A**

There is not much to look at from the top two teams in this classification from last week. Defending state champion **Mahomet-Seymour** seemed to run a tempo race keeping their pack within 17 seconds of each other but still winning ahead of **#4 Danville** at Charleston. The Bulldogs will get a test from Mundelein this Saturday in Springfield. #2 **Normal University** held their top runners out of the Normal Open. They should be at full strength Saturday in Peoria.

I knew that **#3 Chatham-Glenwood** was a good team. With their second-place finish and only 17 points behind 3A Edwardsville last Saturday, then keeping an eye on the Titans is a must. **Dathan & Drey Maton**along with **Cooper Peterson** finished within nine seconds of each other at Granite City. Add in the fact their split on five was 43 seconds. How will that compare against Mahomet-Seymour? That is a question that will be answered in Springfield Saturday.

The team that has been a surprise so far has been **Mascoutah** who enters the rankings at #9. Their win at SIU Edwardsville on August 26 was against a field that was mainly 1A schools. They had a 46 second split on five in that race. They finished sixth at Granite City, but did finish ahead of **#7 Springfield** and #**8 Marion**. Their split in that race was down to 42 seconds. They face **Marion** again this Saturday at Belleville West.

The Sycamore Invitational was the big “2A-meet” of the week. #5 Sycamore finished in third nine points behind Kaneland, we moved Sycamore up one spot while Kaneland moved two pots to #6. Part of that reason was that Sycamore did not have their top runner **Stephen Poorten** in the lineup. **Kaneland** also competed at Crystal Lake South where they finished third as well as the top 2A in the field.

**Rock Island Alleman** and **Mt. Zion** were the two other teams besides Mascoutah to enter the top 25. #20 Alleman, led by **Spencer Smith**, enters the top 25 after their third-place finish at Galesburg behind Dixon and Metamora. **#23 Mt. Zion** has looked strong so far this season. Their third-place finish at Charleston put them into this top 25 led by **Mason Jones**. The junior has started out strong by winning two weeks ago at Normal West and then second last weekend. Mt. Zion’s 20 second split on their second through fifth runners makes them a team to watch. **Grayslake Central**, **Woodstock**and **Dunlap** dropped out of the top 25.

16 ranked teams will toe the line in the 2A race this Saturday at Peoria. There could be some changes in next week rankings.