

Be fast, be furious, B.Web! B. Web, Weblet, also known as Brian Weber, 11, pushed his limits, racing with just one shoe. What is another racer's nightmare is just part of the game for this veteran runner! "I know that the work it takes to be a good runner sucks, but it pays off in the end. Running cross country, you're around a great group of guys, and it makes you feel like you've accomplished something after its over; it makes you feel good about yourself," said Weber.



Always a strong runner, Ben Sage, 12, is also considered a leader of the team. He took advantage of every chance he got to be faster, and when racing toward the finishing stretch, could be counted on to pick up the pace and stay ahead. He worked through a lot in his senior year season, including an ankle injury, but did not let that stop him as he ran with the varsity team all the way to the end at regionals. "I've run cross country since 7th grade, it's a huge part of who I am. So of course I'm going to give it all I've got and push myself to be the best... Because no matter what, whenever I finish, I'm always positive I could have done better, somehow, somewhere. So I work as hard as possible, to be the best I can," said Sage.



The seniors count "1...2...3..." and the rest of the team gathers around to stretch, focusing on the race ahead of them and what they hope to accomplish. Joel Su, 9, Andy Ng, 12, Adam Aleksa, 10, and Joe Bloom, 12, get ready to blast by the competition with their superior racing skills. Each race is another chance to prove abilities and move up in the rankings.

No matter what, Jules Rosen, 12, has what it takes to race with the best. As the fastest runner on the team, Rosen ran the state race in 16:28, finishing 27th out of 152 runners. Even more astonishing, he had mono at regionals and state, yet still ran both races unbelievably fast, ending up in the hospital the night of state. Now that takes dedication. "I run because its fun, and I'm good at it. The cross country team is a really amazing team atmosphere, with pasta parties and hanging out with teammates. Even though its somewhat of an individual sport, the coaches and the other runners make all the sacrifices worth it," said Rosen.



Row 1: Sanjay Choudhury, 9, Patrick Wilsey, 11, Ben Hue, 12, Zachary Wilsey, 9, Will Varwig, 9, Parker Baldwin, 9, Justin Edell, 11, and Mark Szymczak, 9. Row 2: Ben Foley, 9, Joe Bloom, 12, Alphonse Harris, 10, Bobby Garfield, 11, Yavuz Inanli, 11, Michael Apke, 10, Tony Semones, 11, and Adam Trick, 12. Row 3: Jamie Fishman, 11, Michael Lanner, 11, Kevin Semones, 9, Jeff Cohen, 11, Brian Weber, 11, Andrew Ng, 12, Hisashi Nishizu, 11, and Martin Lenon, 12. Row 4: Coach Jim Smanik, George Benson, 10, Tommy Zajdel, 9, Kyle Fitch, 12, Jack Pryzwara, 10, Elliot Skopin, 11, Ben Sage, 12, Jules Rosen, 12, Chris Stamatakis, 12, James Augtrow, 9, and Coach Mike Gutekunst.

