

No Longer Just a Game

Men's Cross Country is a Way of Life

By: Kelsey Kiley

THINK ABOUT IT. Cross country is not a game, like football or soccer. It is a sport. Only the best and most unique individuals can do it, and do it with happiness. The boys on the cross country team knew this. They did everything for cross country, and for the love of racing. It was a feeling of pride, exhaustion, and exhilaration. When a runner finished, he either displayed extreme unhappiness, knowing he did not push himself as far as he could go, or jubilantly collapsed, realizing he had gotten the best time in his entire career of racing.

Running can not leave the soul. It is a part of who a person is. Boys cross country recognizes this. They sacrificed lazy summer mornings in bed for sweat and pain and future victories. The team woke up at ungodly hours to run endless miles, even during the school year. These boys ran after tiring school days, ran on Friday mornings, ran over the weekends, they ran for the sake of running. Cross country ate nothing but pasta on Fridays, drank water constantly, and it was early

to bed, early to rise for the weekends, knowing they had a race in the morning. Still, these guys did it willingly, and so their aching muscles and sore legs were healed with laughter and jokes, smiles and friendship.

All their hard work and effort paid off when the team blasted through their meets, placing first and second in a majority of races, showing the power of the team, and the strength of the runners. GMC's were an excellent show of the mighty force that was Boys cross country, beating 8 other teams on what could easily be called the roughest course of the season. It was hilly, hot, and challenging. The guys had run with passion, and continued on to Districts, at the Voice of America course. There, because of the luck of the draw, they were pitted against some of the toughest teams in their division, and ended up placing fifth, missing Regionals.

In spite of this, one individual shined through, and ran a great personal race, qualifying to run at the next level. **Jules Rosen, 11**, had placed

4th in his GMC race with a time of 16:36. Districts went even better, with a finishing time of 16:24, and 6th place. From there, he ran in Troy, Ohio, with a 5k time of 16:19, ranking 13th. Rosen then progressed to State, in Columbus, Ohio, on Halloween weekend. Saturday morning, November 1st, Jules Rosen was a runner in the State race, the fourth straight year the Cross Country Posse (CCP) has sent a runner to state.

However, Rosen was not the only star runner. **Alphonse Harris, 9**, with 17:05, **Yavuz Inanli, 10**, with 17:26, **Brian Weber, 10**, with 17:29, **Ben Sage, 11**, with 17:38, **Grant Sperry, 12**, with 17:46, and **Taylor Williams, 9**, with 17:48 all moved up in rank or landed on the list of all-time best 3.1 mile times in men's cross country. Before this season, the team was unranked, and at the end of this spectacular season, they were seventh in the city. The guys knew this; that seventh place came from their sweat and desire.

Team Photo



Row 1: from left to right Luke Bryce, 10, Dennis Jiang, 12, Taylor Williams, 9, Zak Gilbert, 9, Mike Apke, 9, Reggie Philpott, 12, Brian Weber, 10 **Row 2:** Alphonse Harris, 9, Tony Semones, 10, Jeff Cohen, 10, Ben Nava, 10, Grant Sperry, 12, Tianlai Lu, 12, Alex Herbe, 10 **Row 3:** Sam Cole, 10, Max Glassner, 10, Jamie Fishman, 10, Andy Ng, 11, Joe Bloom, 11, Sean Wright, 11, Michael Lanner, 10 **Row 4:** Mark Myers, 12, Jack Pryzwara, 9, Todd Whitman, 10, Jules Rosen, 11, Ryan Abitz, 10, Elliot Skopin, 10, Ben Sage, 11, Kyle Fitch, 11, Nick Hatfield, 12, Coach Jim Smanik

