

RACING AHEAD

CCP born to run

By: Kelly Wills

Although running six miles in the intense heat of the afternoon might not sound like the ideal after school activity to most students, but for the runners of the Cross Country Posse (CCP) it was the highlight of the fall season. While many appreciated the running aspect of being on the cross country team, almost all agreed that team bonding was most rewarding.

"I enjoyed the brotherhood and companionship of the CCP," said **Gregory van Amerongen, 11**.

Among many different bonding experiences, the annual camping trip and weekly pasta parties became the two favorites.

"My favorite part of cross country is celebrating with the team when we win a meet, or when someone makes a big drop [in time]," said **Alphonse Harris, 11**.

With their first ever ranking in the Midwest and two invitational championships the varsity top seven had a lot to celebrate. One of those championships took place at the Portage Invitational in Michigan.

"The varsity team beat the top two teams in that state and the tenth team in

the Midwest," said **Coach Jim Smanik**.

Taylor Williams, 11, led the top seven with a personal best 5k (3.1 miles) time of 16:00 minutes making him the 4th fastest cross country runner in school history. Of the 38 runners on the team there were six runners with times under 17:00 minutes, and five more under 18:00 minutes. **Williams, Harris** and **Yavuz Inanli, 12**, all achieved First Team All-GMC awards, while **Brian Weber, 12**, and **Benjamin Foley, 10**, received Second Team All-GMC honors.

The season ended on a bittersweet note. Despite being ranked 10th in the state the varsity runners failed to qualify for the state meet as a team. **Williams**, however, qualified to run in the state championship as an individual after a 6th place finish at the Regional meet.

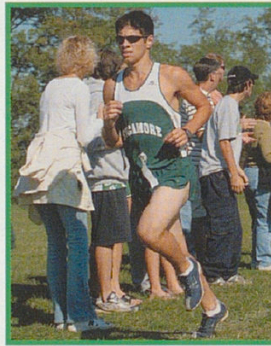
"I wanted to go up as a team, but I was proud to represent Sycamore at the State Meet," said **Williams**.

The many individual and team accomplishments made for another strong season for the CCP. For some, being a part of such a close-knit team was enough to keep running year after year.

FAST TIMES OF '05

TAYLOR WILLIAMS- 16:00
YAVUZ INANLI- 16:25
ALPHONSE HARRIS- 16:27
BRIAN WEBER- 16:34
BENJAMIN FOLEY- 16:39
JOHN STUCKER- 16:54
HENRY GEER- 17:21

Robert, Garfield 12, races to the finish at the St. Xavier Invitational. **Garfield** came in first for the JV team running an 18:11. His fastest time this season and for his career was 17:41.

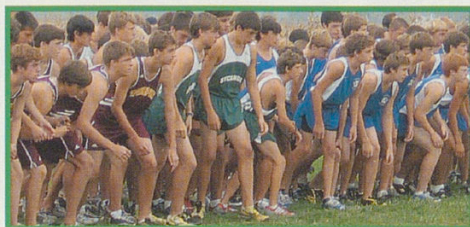


The open runners head towards the starting line at the Harrison Invitational. At this meet there were ten JV runners who finished under 20:00 minutes. The team also finished second at the St. Xavier Invitational and third at the Eaton Invitational



Row 1: Parker Baldwin, 10, Andrew Popp, 11, Paul Zajdel, 9, Denis McCormick, 9, Gus Klofta, 9, Colin Beck, 9, Henry Geer, 9, and Lauri Reponen, 11. **Row 2:** John Stucker, 9, Mark Szymczak, 10, Ryan Cummins, 12, Tony Semones, 12, Patrick Wilsey, 12, Allen Streck, 10, and Joel Su, 10. **Row 3:** James Austrow, 10, Benjamin Nava, 12, David Harmon, 11, Yavuz Inanli, 12, Taylor Williams, 11, Alexander Herbe, 12, Sanjay Choudhury, 10, and Benjamin Foley, 10. **Row 4:** Coach Jim Smanik, Michael Apke, 11, Brian Weber, 12, Jamie Fishman, 12, George Benson, 11, John Pryzwara, 11, Elliot Skopin, 12, Kevin Semmones, 10, Thomas Zajdel, 10, Adam Aleksa, 11, Robert Garfield, 12, and Coach Mike Gutekunst.

Waiting for the gun, the open runners are ready to race. Many runners were allowed to race, but only the top five scored for the team. The team with the lowest score won.



BOYS VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Fairfield Inv.
2nd of 19

Mason Inv.
5th of 16

Harrison Inv.
1st of 15

Portage Inv.
1st of 32

District Meet
3rd of 16

State Meet*
67th of 150

Lakota Inv.
2nd of 15

Alliance
Inv.
4th of 20

St. Xavier
Inv.
4th of 18

GMC Meet
2nd 10

Regional Meet
6th of 16

*Taylor Williams

Most Valuable Runner: Taylor Williams

First Team All-GMC: Taylor Williams, Alphonse Harris and Yavuz Inanli

Second Team All-GMC: Brian Weber and Benjamin Foley