



ALL-COUNTY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

Runner of the Year JOSHUA ROTHERY

URBANA, SENIOR
■ A tactical master and “true cross-country specialist,” according to coach Jackie Suarez, Rothery paced a loaded Hawks squad all season and regularly turned in phenomenal times that challenged or broke Urbana’s program records. His leadership helped the Hawks capture wins at every postseason event.

■ Masterfully employed a habit of sitting with the lead pack for the first two miles, then making a move to the lead — where he would hold strong. Claimed titles at the Central Maryland Conference and Frederick County championships. His sixth-place finish at the 4A state meet helped Urbana score 53 points to easily capture its first state championship in 22 years (fourth overall) and cap a stellar season in which the Hawks won marquee meets all fall.

■ Suarez said the Hawks’ state win would not have been possible without Rothery, a three-time first-team pick. She also called him “an incredible leader who has helped shape our team culture and lead us to success.” She added, “He loves the competition and he thrives in the high-pressure situations. His motivation comes from doing his absolute best so the team can succeed. Joshua goes into each race with a plan knowing exactly when he wants to make his move to go for the win. He has become known for how hard he can close the last mile.”



FIRST TEAM

**ASHER ADELMAN
BRUNSWICK, SENIOR**
■ A returning first-team selection, he capped a fine career as one of the most reliable runners around and a regular front-of-the-pack finisher. This student of the sport is the “perfect mix of speed and endurance” whose preparation breeds confidence for every race, according to coach Lee Zumbach.
County: Fifth
1A West: First
1A State: Third, 16:44.9

**COLE CLINE
URBANA, JUNIOR**
■ A second-year cross-country runner, his patented hard charge at states helped push the Hawks to the 4A crown. “He has poured his entire soul into it and being his best to help the team,” coach Jackie Suarez said. “He would run through a wall if we told him the team needed him to. He not only dreams big, but he puts in all the work and then more to chase those dreams.”
County: Eighth
4A North: Fourth
4A State: 11th, 16:53.5

**RILEY GALLOGLY
URBANA, JUNIOR**
■ Sideline from August to October with an injury, he attacked rehab, then returned for the county meet, where he put up one of the top 5K times in school history, bolstering the Hawks’ state title run upon his return. “He is talented, dedicated, selfless, and when it comes to racing, a true competitor,” coach Jackie Suarez said, adding he took 17th at states despite illness.
County: Third
4A North: Second
4A State: 17th, 17:07.4

**MILES GHIM
THOMAS JOHNSON, JUNIOR**
■ A former dual-sport fall athlete with soccer, he made big gains after fully committing to cross-country in 2025 and repeated as a first-team pick. He served as the top runner all season for the county runner-up Patriots and was “a great leader by example throughout the summer and the season,” according to coach Larry O’Hara.
County: Ninth
4A North: Fifth
4A State: 12th, 16:55.7

**GARRETT HOWES
MIDDLETOWN, SENIOR**
■ After an injury-marred junior season, he showed his dedication and leadership this year, starting with spearheading the team’s summer training. Then, once races began, he served as the Knights’ No. 1 runner all fall, pacing them to their first state appearance in 14 years. Called a “natural leader” by coach Will Bell.
County: 12th
2A West: Fourth
2A State: Eighth, 17:12.3

**KOREY KAUFLIN
URBANA, SENIOR**
■ A returning first-team runner, he was a crucial cog in the Hawks’ championship team in his fourth season with the program — which didn’t even qualify for states his freshman year. While he’s known more for his track success, he is a team-first cross-country contributor whose top traits are consistency and relentlessness, coach Jackie Suarez said.
County: Fourth
4A North: DNS (injury)
4A State: 16th, 17:07.1



**SIMON LIPCHOCK
URBANA, JUNIOR**
■ A returning first-team runner, he relishes the details of the sport and sees it as a science. He served as one of the 4A champion Hawks’ best role models all season, and made a big push at states to ensure victory. Coach Jackie Suarez said, “In races, he is calculated and collected — he never panics and executes the race just the way he needs to.”
County: 11th
4A North: Seventh
4A State: 18th, 17:08.0

**EVAN MADRAYMOOTOO
URBANA, JUNIOR**
■ Another talented runner in the Hawks’ deep, state-champion group, he continued making gains in his third cross-country season, culminating in a strong eighth-place state finish (Urbana’s second finisher that day). Said coach Jackie Suarez, “His confidence as a racer truly grew this year and you could see him week to week becoming more and more sure of himself.”
County: Sixth
4A North: Sixth
4A State: Eighth, 16:49.0

**SIMON MCGILLIVRAY
BRUNSWICK, SENIOR**
■ Pulled off the race of his life to win the 1A state title for his first championship of any kind, while also notching the fastest time at states among all county competitors, regardless of classification. “He is a patient runner who is an excellent pacer and understands how to peak at the right time of the season,” coach Lee Zumbach said.
County: Seventh
1A West: Sixth
1A State: First, 16:28.0

**NOAH RILING
CATOCTIN, SOPHOMORE**
■ Riling put together a consistent season as the Cougars’ top runner. He exhibited mental toughness and an ability to make solid on-the-fly adjustments during races, according to coach Dave Lillard, who added that the self-motivating Riling is one of the most talented young runners in Frederick County.
County: 13th
1A West: Fourth
1A State: Sixth, 17:14.7

**PATRICK SALTER
OAKDALE, JUNIOR**
■ Made huge strides this fall, taking runner-up at counties, thanks to a dedication that began in 2024 and focused on mileage, form and home recovery, according to coach Zachary Lesieur. It made him one of the state’s top runners. “His positive attitude and desire to always improve drove him to a successful season,” Lesieur said.
County: Second
3A West: Fourth
3A State: Fifth, 16:41.9

HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Griffin Adelman

Linganore— Luke Collins, Kayden Harris

Middletown—Ryan Carpenter

Oakdale—Merrick Collins, Nitish Chikkem, Andrew Gregorio, Brogan Thompson, Sai Vedas Boyapati

Thomas Johnson—Dominic Castillo, Vaughn Ditching, Scott Rudy, Erasmo Sanchez, Dashiell Wexler

Urbana—Matthew Rodrigues

Walkersville—Lawrence Proulx



The voice of prime time football: Michaels, 81, is still going strong

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

Al Michaels has achieved many milestones during his Hall of Fame broadcasting career. The one he has reached this season, though, may stand the test of time — 40 years as the play-by-play announcer for one of the NFL’s primetime packages.

According to research from the 506 Sports Archive, the Christmas night game between the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs on Prime Video will be his 779th NFL broadcast.

“I mean, it’s been a fantastic ride. I mean, it’s unbelievable because it came out of nowhere back in 1986,” Michaels said. “I’m thinking 40 years, you don’t think in those terms when you’re 40 years old, but here we are. It’s hard to believe, but I am blessed and thankful.”

Except for two years in 1974 and ‘75, when Michaels did afternoon games for NBC and CBS, Michaels’ broadcasts have been mostly in prime time. He has also called 11 Super Bowls, tying him with Pat Summerall.

Michaels was the play-by-play voice for ABC’s “Monday Night Football” from 1986 until 2005. He was then traded to NBC when it launched “Sunday Night Football” in 2006, and he called that package until 2021. This is his fourth season doing Prime Video’s “Thursday

Night Football.” Michaels is the dean of NFL announcers in terms of games called. CBS’ Kevin Harlan is the closest among active announcers, with 542, and would need at least 13 seasons to catch Michaels whenever he decides to retire.

Michaels, who turned 81 in November, has shown no signs of slowing down.

“We’ve all done so many big games at this point, but he truly gets excited when he has the opportunity to do a big game. And you can’t say that for a lot of people in our business,” said Fred Gaudelli, who was Michaels’ producer for 23 seasons. “After a certain amount of time, you lose that fire in your belly to really do it, and he’s never lost that.”

Kirk Herbstreit, who is in his fourth season as Michaels’ partner, said he has grown to appreciate Michaels’ ability to manage a broadcast.

“I’ve always noticed that the bigger the moment, when you really feel urgency as a broadcaster, Al gets calmer and just waits for the right time to bring his voice to that crescendo,” he said. “I’ve just been blown away by how he does his job, how organized and prepared he is, and how much he loves it. That’s what really comes across to me. He is completely dialed in, loves the sport, and loves telling stories.”

Michaels has worked with eight analysts. Cris Collinsworth worked



Associated Press file photo

According to research from the 506 Sports Archive, the Christmas night game between the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs on Prime Video will be Al Michaels’ 779th NFL broadcast.

with him the longest, at 13 seasons, while his seven years with John Madden rank among the best booth pairings.

ABC Sports executive Dennis Swanson decided to bring Michaels aboard and move Frank Gifford to the analyst spot on “Monday Night Football” after firing O.J. Simpson and Joe Namath.

Michaels had worked for ABC since 1976 and was best known for his baseball coverage and the U.S. hockey team’s run to the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics.

Gifford had been the main announcer from 1971 through ‘85, but Swanson wanted a more traditional play-by-play announcer at the helm of what was then the NFL’s signature package.

In 1987, “Monday Night Football” returned to a three-man booth when Dan Dierdorf joined from CBS. He, Michaels and Gifford worked together for 11 seasons, including three Super Bowls.

“Frank and I got along great, but I think the feeling was from Swanson and the people at ABC is that Frank had been out of the game so long that they needed to or felt they needed to bring somebody more contemporary in,” Michaels said. “Dan was an easy fit for us. I mean, a three-man booth is never easy, and it is rough around the analysts because they have to decide who’s coming in at what point, but it was a natural flow.”

The most unique booth was the 2000 and ‘01 seasons when Michaels was paired with Dan Fouts and comedian Dennis Miller. It also created an interesting dynamic for Michaels.

Michaels has been part of a two-man booth since 2002, when Madden came over from Fox to join “Monday Night Football.” They worked together for seven seasons, including the move to NBC in 2006 when “Sunday Night Football” started.

Their first broadcast together was the 2002 Hall of Fame game. By the second commercial break, Michaels felt their partnership was already natural.

Michaels’ hardest season was 2005, the last on ABC before “Monday Night Football” moved to

ESPN. Madden went to NBC, as did producer Gaudelli and director Drew Esocoff. After Super Bowl 40, Michaels was traded to NBC in exchange for the rights to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, Walt Disney’s precursor to Mickey Mouse that had ended up in NBC’s control.

The “Prime Video” broadcasts have subtly celebrated Michaels’ long career with a segment called “The Al-Manac,” where a key moment from a great game that Michaels has called is shown, and he gives his memories of the play or the game.

Mark Teitelman, the lead game producer for “Thursday Night Football,” said Michaels’ history of calling big games and storytelling ability made it a natural addition.

“There’s a pretty good chance if it’s a game you remember, Al called that game,” Teitelman said.

Michaels’ favorite game remains Super Bowl 43 in 2009 when the Pittsburgh Steelers rallied to beat the Arizona Cardinals. Besides Antonio Holmes’ 6-yard TD catch with 35 seconds remaining, the game also included James Harrison’s 100-yard interception return on the last play of the first half.

Prime Video is averaging 14.96 million viewers, making it the most-watched season since a regular Thursday night package started in 2006. That is a 13% increase over last year’s average and a huge leap from 9.58 million average during Prime Video’s first year in 2022.