



ALL-COUNTY BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Runner of the Year

JAKE BROWN

LINGANORE, JUNIOR, SPRINTS

■ The inspirational and emotional leader for the Linganore boys, who won the county team championship. Almost serves as another coach for the Lancers.

■ Won county and Class 3A West regional titles in the 200-meter (a personal-best 21.42 seconds at regionals) and 400-meter dashes (a personal-best 48.03 seconds at counties) and ran a leg for the Lancers' county and regional champion 4x100 relay team. Also ran legs for the winning 4x400 (3:27.82) and second-place 4x200 (1:30.31) relays at regionals.

■ At the state meet, he placed second in the 400 dash in 48.39 and fifth in the 200 dash in 22 seconds.



Field Athlete of the Year

IAN TUMI

FREDERICK, SENIOR, THROWS

■ Broke through and won his first state titles, first in the Class 3A shot put with a mark of 50 feet, 5½ inches and then three days later in the discus with a season-best distance of 149 feet, 4 inches.

■ At the Class 3A West regional meet, posted his personal-best mark in the shot with a put of 52 feet, 2 inches.

■ A two-time state finalist in wrestling for Frederick High, he will continue his wrestling and throwing careers at Point Park University in Pittsburgh.



FIRST TEAM

OSAHON AIGBOGUN
JUNIOR, SPRINTS, JUMPS
FREDERICK

■ A versatile athlete who was the county champion in the pole vault (13 feet, 7 inches) and the triple jump (44-9¼). At the Class 3A state meet, he placed second in the 110-meter hurdles (14.97 seconds), third in the triple jump (43-6) and fifth in the pole vault (13 feet).



JASIRI BELOTE
SENIOR, SPRINTS
TUSCARORA

■ Proved to be one of the top sprinters in the county once again, winning the Class 3A West regional title in the 100-meter dash (10.69 seconds) before placing second at states in the race. Also placed second at states in the 200 after finishing second at regionals.



SAMUEL COOPER
JUNIOR, JUMPS
TUSCARORA

■ Matched his best height of the season of 6 feet, 8 inches to win the Class 3A state title in the high jump after finishing third at the county meet (6-4) and second at the 3A West regional meet (6-8).



RILEY GALLOGLY
JUNIOR, MIDDLE DISTANCE
URBANA

■ Came from behind on the final lap of the Class 4A 800-meter run to win his first state title in a personal-best 1:52.74. Also won a county title in the 1,600 (4:27.63) and helped the Hawks place second at states in the 4x800 relay (7:56.72).



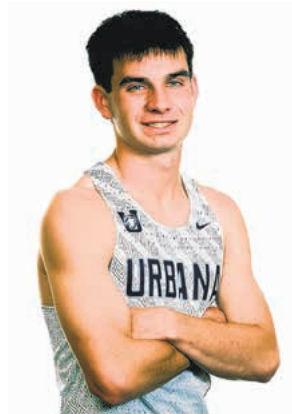
MARK GWYNN
SENIOR, JUMPS, HURDLES
MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

■ A strong and versatile athlete who broke the school record in the triple jump with a leap of 44 feet, 8 inches. Also has the best marks for the Orioles in the long jump (21-11¼), high jump (6-2) and 110-meter hurdles (15.64 seconds) and runs on a leg on their 4x100 relay team.



KOREY KAUFMAN
SENIOR, MIDDLE DISTANCE
URBANA

■ Another terrific season included county titles in the 800-meter run (1:56.56), the 4x400 relay (3:25.38) and the 4x800 relay (8:19.03). Also won regional titles in the 1,600 (4:24.23), the 4x400 (3:25.70) and the 4x800 (7:57.75).



MASIAH MARTIN
JUNIOR, JUMPS
WALKERSVILLE

■ Put together another terrific season in the high jump, winning the Class 2A West regional title (6 feet, 6 inches) before placing second at states (6-4). Also won the regional title in the triple jump (43-6 ½) and placed fifth at states (42-6).



CARL MBELLA
JUNIOR, HURDLES
WALKERSVILLE

■ Capped a dominant season in the 110-meter hurdles with the Class 2A state title in the event. His winning time was 14.62 seconds. In the one 110 hurdles race he did not finish first this season, he ran a personal-best time of 14.45 seconds to place second at counties.



RICHARD POKU
SENIOR, JUMPS
FREDERICK

■ Soared 22 feet, 3 inches to win the Class 3A state title in the long jump. Also cleared a personal-best height of 6 feet, 10 inches in the high jump to win the Class 3A West regional championship before finishing second at states.



BRANDON ROSARIO
JUNIOR, HURDLES
LINGANORE

■ Helped the Linganore boys claim the county team title. Won the county and Class 3A West regional titles in the 110-meter hurdles. His winning time at counties of 14.10 seconds was a personal best. Won the regional title in the 300 hurdles with a personal-best time of 39.63.



ALEX SIMMONS
JUNIOR, SPRINTS
WALKERSVILLE

■ His dominant season in the 100-meter dash included a county championship in 10.71 seconds. Posted his personal-best time of 10.69 in winning the race at the Don Boyer meet. Also shined in the 200, winning the CMC small-school title (22.29) and placing second at the county meet (21.85).



JONAS SPARKS
SENIOR, POLE VAULT
OAKDALE

■ Capped his outstanding high school career with a third outdoor state title in the Class 3A pole vault and fifth overall, counting his two during the indoor season. His winning height was 14 feet, 6 inches, about six inches shy of his personal best.



KYLER VALLEY
SENIOR, THROWS
OAKDALE

■ Earned the county title in the shot put (a personal-best 55-8¾) and the discus (131-3) before finishing second at the state meet in Class 3A in the shot put (50-4 ½).



HONORABLE MENTION

- Brunswick**—Asher Adelman, Tyler Mashburn, Simon McGillivray, Thomas O'Leary, Adam Parde, Kassey Tetteh
- Catoctin**—Konner Dodson, Owen French, Noah Riling
- Frederick**—Nicholas Cherry, Jayden Parsley, Bobby Waters II
- Linganore**—Jacob Araujo, Quinton Dodds, Brady Duvall, Kayden Harris, Ricky Johnson, Vance Lalli
- Maryland School for the Deaf**—Carson Brunson, Josiah Lockhart
- Middletown**—Levi Derr, Garrett Howes, Colten Lawson, Dean Peterson
- Oakdale**—David Nguete Etaba, Joshua Gaskill, Andrew Gregorio, Patrick Salter, Tyler Spencer
- Thomas Johnson**—Avery Clements, Miles Ghim, Gideon Mensah, Prince Mvutu Mpunga, Dashiell Wexler
- Tuscarora**—Enoch Adeyemi, Collin Basford, Aidan Koffa, Sam Oji II
- Urbana**—Stefan Behrsing, Cole Cline, Ben Hart, Finn Hines, Simon Lipchock, Evan Madraymootoo, Miles Thomas
- Walkersville**—Owen Ansong, Cameron McNiesh, Isaiah Triesh, Benjamin Walker, Kaleb Williams

■ **Editor's Note:** Our All-County teams are selected by News-Post sports staff members based on observations, statistics and consultation with county coaches.

Norway's fun-first youth sports contrast with US factory model

By HEIDI TAKSDAL SKJESETH AND GILES TURNER
Bloomberg

While the American youth sports machine has morphed into a \$40 billion-a-year private industry fueled by early specialization, Norway has chosen a less intensive path.

Norway's grassroots approach prioritizes enjoyment over winning and favors multisport participation. Star football striker Erling Haaland, 25, grew up playing a variety of sports, including handball and track and field, despite his

father's football career in the English Premier League.

The model has drawn attention following the men's national team's first-ever run to the World Cup quarterfinals, highlighted by a 2-1 victory over five-time champions Brazil. With 5.6 million inhabitants, Norway has the smallest population among the eight nations remaining in the World Cup.

Decades of Norwegian sports culture have focused on promoting widespread participation, deferring early selection and reducing pressure on youth, offering a sharp contrast to the

elite-driven model found in countries like the US and UK.

Across Norway, the results of child sports games and tournaments aren't registered before the age of 13, according to the Norwegian Football Federation's guidance. Children can take part in local football events from the year they turn 6, and NFF says all players in children's football should play approximately equal time.

Even for winter sports, where Norway regularly dominates the Olympic medal rankings, children are only allowed to compete

in regional competitions from the year they turn 11.

The equal play philosophy doesn't come without ambitions.

"I want to play on the national team," 12-year-old Patrick Myre said in an interview in Oslo while visiting with his family. Both he and his 9-year-old brother, Isak, were sporting sold-out national football jerseys.

"That's all they are wearing these days," said father Geir Ole Myre. Although both of his sons love football, the focus remains entirely away from winning during children's games.

"We never register the score when the kids play matches," he added. "They know who wins, of course, but it's not important and we don't talk about it."

The contrast with the US is hard to miss. American youth sports have become a vast private market. Aspen Institute Project Play estimates that parents now spend more than \$40 billion a year on children's sports activities, while the average US sports family spent roughly \$1,000 in 2024 on one child's primary sport, up 46% since 2019. Roughly 20% of US kids ages 6 to 17

play in a private club.

In the US, parents often travel across the country for youth tournaments. Programs offer everything from mindfulness training to video-taped analysis. At New York Empire Baseball, based in Manhattan, baseball training is tiered to age and skill level for kids as young as 18 months. Roughly 1,000 kids play baseball at Empire, which offers programs ranging from one-time \$100 day-camp experiences to \$300-an-hour private lessons to full-season competitive team options that can cost as much as \$3,000.