



ALL-COUNTY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

Runner of the Year

JAMES PARTLOW

THOMAS JOHNSON, SENIOR

Partlow wrapped up one of the best cross-country seasons by any runner in Frederick County history with wins in every championship race from counties through the Class 4A state meet to repeat as the News-Post's Runner of the Year. His state victory at Hereford High came in 15 minutes, 39.38 seconds, defeating his closest pursuer by 5 seconds.

The state win completed a perfect fall — he won every race he entered during the campaign, including high-profile ones in Leesburg, Virginia, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Utilized a terrific finishing kick that has been developed over four years and has made him nearly unbeatable on the state level. After the high school season, he ventured to Oregon for Nike Cross Nationals, where he finished 16th to earn All-American honors.



FIRST TEAM

JUSTIN BANKS TUSCARORA, SENIOR

Saw a huge payoff after doubling his mileage over the summer and captured his first big title by winning the CMC Spire race in 15:52.9. That success came three years after a rare disease, myositis, left him unable to move under his own power.

County: Second
3A West: First
3A state: Seventh (16:33.60)



WILL LANDON URBANA, SENIOR

Balancing cross-country with being a Division I swimming commit, Landon broke through to that next level this year when the Hawks needed him most. The four-year team member was essential in building team culture during his time with the Hawks.

County: Ninth
4A West: 21st
4A state: 34th (17:26.16)



MALAKAI MEERTENS OAKDALE, SENIOR

After increasing his mileage over the summer with an eye toward making the most of his final cross-country season, Meertens combined his natural speed with improved strength for longer distances to become the Bears' No. 1 runner.

County: Sixth
3A West: Sixth
3A state: 69th (18:02.32)



CORMAC MORONEY LINGANORE SENIOR

One of the county's most reliable finishers, Moroney further established his talent by leading the Lancers all season. Along with TJ's James Partlow, he is the only other repeat first-team selection from last season.

County: Fifth
3A West: Fifth
3A state: 35th (17:28.90)



GABRIEL RILING CATOCTIN, SENIOR

A highly self-motivated runner, he made himself into one of the best runners in the state who was also capable of making his teammates better. Coach Dave Lillard said Riling is "a captain that leads the team by example and consistent work ethic." Paced Catoctin to a 2nd-place finish at IA states.

County: Third
1A West: First
1A state: Second (17:01.16)



JOSHUA ROTHERY URBANA, SOPHOMORE

After showing his potential last year, Rothery proved his ability in his second season. He routinely came up big when the Hawks needed him most, thriving in high-pressure situations and battling until the end of every race.

County: 11th
4A West: 17th
4A state: 46th (17:47)



DAVID TRESSLER OAKDALE, SENIOR

A passionate and focused runner, Tressler finds joy in the many miles required in cross-country, according to Bears coach Zachary Lesieur. He was a model runner, carefully approaching each race to maximize his success for the team.

County: 10th
3A West: 10th
3A state: 32nd (17:21.34)



ANTHONY VERDI URBANA, SENIOR

In only his second season in the sport, Verdi committed himself to summer training and went from running at JV counties last year to a state medalist this year. Called "the heart of this team" by coach Jackie Suarez, his leadership was crucial to the Hawks.

County: Fourth
4A West: Fifth
4A state: 15th (16:48.42)



CANTON WETZEL FREDERICK, JUNIOR

Wetzel stepped into a leadership role for the young Cadets. His dedication and willingness to work with a positive attitude was a strong example as he established himself as one of the best runners in the county.

County: Seventh
4A West: 20th
4A state: 32nd (17:25.19)



HONORABLE MENTION

- Brunswick:** Morgon Corwine, Sammy Joseph
- Catoctin:** Santiago Canadas Fraga, Daniel Hoyle, Dennis Lease
- Linganore:** Victor Cretella, Luke Collins
- Middletown:** Garrett Howes
- Oakdale:** Brogan Dorsey, Sam Skinner
- T. Johnson:** Jonathan Barreto-Luna
- Tuscarora:** Brenden Lane
- Urbana:** Korey Kaufflin, Jackson Foster
- Walkersville:** Akash Hirpara

Short Takes

from wire reports

Celtics send Detroit to NBA record-tying 28th straight loss

BOSTON — Hoping to avoid a 28th straight loss that would match the longest losing streak in NBA history, the Detroit Pistons forced overtime against the league-best Celtics on Thursday night before Boston recovered to win 128-122.

Despite making it to overtime for the first time in the skid, Detroit matched the "Trust the Process" Philadelphia 76ers with 28 consecutive losses. The Pistons need a victory at home against Toronto on Saturday night to avoid breaking the record.

Detroit opened a season-high 21-point lead in the first half only to trail 106-100 in the final two minutes of regulation. Jaden Ivey scored six straight points to erase the deficit, then Bojan Bogdanovic made a putback with 4.6 seconds left to send it to OT.

But Derrick White scored 10 of his 23 points in the extra period and Kristaps Porzingis had six in the overtime — dunking after a full-court pass from Jayson Tatum and then sinking a pair of free throws to make it 125-117. Porzingis had 35 points — 11 in the fourth quarter, and eight of those during a 10-0 run that turned a four-point deficit lead into a 106-100 lead.

Tatum had 31 points and 10 assists for Boston, which won its fourth straight and its ninth in the last 10 games.

Cade Cunningham led Detroit with 31 points and nine assists. Ivey had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Jalen Duren had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

The Pistons set the NBA record for most

consecutive losses in a season Tuesday night with their 27th in a row, a 118-112 loss to Brooklyn. The Sixers' streak stretched over two seasons, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Alabama coaches don't want players watching film on tablets

LOS ANGELES — Alabama is covering every angle when it comes to preparing for Monday's College Football Playoff semifinal game against Michigan at the Rose Bowl.

That includes making sure their equipment and films do not get hacked in the wake of the Wolverines' sign-stealing allegations from earlier this season.

Wide receiver Isaiah Bond and running back Jase McClellan said Thursday that watching film has been restricted to only as a group and with coaches at team facilities.

McClellan also said that players are not receiving practice film directly on their iPads, and that only coaches are receiving it.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh was suspended for the final three regular-season games by the Big Ten Conference due to a sign-stealing scheme.

Harbaugh denied any role or knowledge in the scheme. Connor Stallions, a former Michigan staff member, was considered one of the leaders of the operation and resigned.

The NCAA does not prohibit sign stealing. However, it does not allow in-person scouting or the use of electronic equipment to steal signs.

"The app where we record film off of practice and stuff like that, and they were I guess like looking at other people's play calls, their

hand signals the first eight games or something like that," Bond said.

Quarterback Jalen Milroe said he was still watching film on his iPad despite the warnings.

"I watch tape all over the building. That's what I'm doing right now. I'm going to be prepared for the game," he said.

Offensive coordinator Tommy Rees didn't want to discuss Michigan's controversies and noted the focus was more on the Crimson Tide's preparations and less on the Wolverines.

Alabama and Michigan use the same company software for their film viewing and data analysis.

Bond added that the Crimson Tide change signals almost every game, and that any concerns about sign stealing might be a little overblown.

Vikes turn to Jaren Hall again in latest spin of QB carousel

EAGAN, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings have switched starting quarterbacks for the fourth time in nine weeks, handing the offense again to rookie Jaren Hall with two must-win games left for making the playoffs.

Coach Kevin O'Connell announced Thursday that Hall will start Sunday against Green Bay, benching Nick Mullens after his six interceptions in two games doomed the Vikings (7-8) to defeat despite passing for 714 yards. Mullens was picked off four times last week against Detroit in a 30-24 loss.

Hall was the first sub summoned for Kirk Cousins, who tore his Achilles tendon on Oct.

29 in the fourth quarter of a 24-10 win at Green Bay. Hall, a fifth-round draft pick from BYU, started the following week at Atlanta with Mullens sidelined by a back injury. Hall suffered a concussion in the first quarter that put Joshua Dobbs into action. Dobbs made four starts before a healthy Mullens took over.

Hall, who is 8 for 10 for 101 yards passing and one sack plus four rushes for 10 yards this season, took about two weeks to be cleared for full activity after taking that hit to the head. Dobbs, who arrived in an emergency trade with Arizona after Cousins was hurt, had given the Vikings a clear spark in his first two appearances so there was reason to believe Hall wouldn't get another chance.

"Never a worry. Just trust the process," he said before practice Thursday.

The Vikings need to win their last two games and have either the Rams or the Seahawks lose once to get the last wild-card spot in the NFC. In part to further Hall's development with more practice time and meaningful preparation, O'Connell made the rookie the backup to Mullens the past two weeks and had Dobbs as the emergency third quarterback.

"What made me feel comfortable with this is knowing how Jaren's put in the work throughout this time," O'Connell said.

Hall had two concussions in college, both in games in 2019, and he missed the entire 2020 season for BYU because of a hip injury. His mobility and awareness help make him a threat to run, but as evidenced by his first NFL start that can also make him vulnerable.