



ALL-COUNTY GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

Runner of the Year KATE MINER

URBANA, SOPHOMORE

■ Miner won titles and paced the Hawks to victory at the Central Maryland Conference, FCPS and Class 4A North meets, clearly proving herself as the strongest runner in the county along the way. After a rough go at the Bull Run in late September, Miner pared down her schedule — which also involves competitive swimming — to get herself primed for the championship season.

■ After taking second in the county race last season as a freshman, she made it a priority to gain that crown this year — and she accomplished the feat just six days after taking the CMC Spires title, sending Urbana to its third straight county championship. To cap the season, her sixth-place run at the Class 4A state meet led Urbana to a program-best second-place finish.

■ Said coach CJ Ecalono, "She loves to compete, loves a challenge and always rises to the moment."



FIRST TEAM

NATALIE BARBER URBANA, SOPHOMORE

■ A returning first-team member, she continued to thrive at the most difficult races and was the county-champion Hawks' regular No. 2 runner. "Quiet but loud in all the right ways," coach CJ Ecalono said of her. "She continued to improve all season and was a key part of our 1-2-3 punch." County: Fourth 4A North: Fourth 4A State: Eighth, 20:13.2

LETICIA DETROW MSD, JUNIOR

■ Embracing the sport and focusing on becoming the best runner possible, she fulfilled that goal this fall by routinely putting up some of the fastest times among county runners. Detrow learned how to push and trust herself at higher levels of exertion. She captured the Maryland 1A Private School state championship with a time of 19 minutes, 13 seconds. Said coach Randall Shank, "She broke her personal record at every meet, showing her determination to improve each time she races — one of her strongest traits."

SIENA FOSTER TUSCARORA, SOPHOMORE

■ She came on strong in her second season of cross-country, logging top-10 finishes in all three of the biggest championship meets to close the fall, including the second-best time at states among all county runners. Coach Chris Babb called Foster "a quiet storm" and "consistent hard worker" who peaked at the end of the season. County: Sixth 3A West: Seventh 3A State: Ninth, 20:04.9

YASMEENA HASSEN FRIESS FREDERICK, SENIOR

■ A returning first-team runner, she took over the Cadets' No. 1 spot, not to mention a leadership position as someone coach Sage Norton said serves as "both the voice of reason and the one that encourages her teammates to set lofty goals." Hassen Friess did so herself, changing her mindset and spurring herself towards the front of the pack. County: Eighth 3A West: Ninth 3A State: 12th, 20:26.72

RACHEL HERBST THOMAS JOHNSON, SENIOR

■ Described by coach Larry O'Hara as the Patriots' emotional and physical leader, she reached her long-term goal at the county meet by running a sub-20-minute 5K. TJ's tone-setter also took the reins by organizing team-building activities. She was a key in helping the Patriots take fourth in the 4A state meet. County: Ninth 4A North: Seventh 4A State: 34th, 21:26.3

HAILEY LANE TUSCARORA, SENIOR

■ A returning first-team pick, the Titans' distance-running standout closed her high school cross-country career with another strong showing, including a runner-up finish at counties. Referred to by coach Chris Babb as an "inspiring leader," he added that Lane "handles the ups and downs of the sport with maturity and positivity." County: Second 3A West: Fourth 3A State: DNF



ELIZABETH LOMBARDO THOMAS JOHNSON, SOPHOMORE

■ After building confidence in last year's track seasons, she entered the fall driven to improve her 5K time from her freshman campaign. Referred to by coach Larry O'Hara as a "consummate teammate [who is] always pushing her limits with her training group and supporting them," she regularly rose to the occasion. Ran a personal-best at counties. County: 10th 4A North: Eighth 4A State: 43rd, 21:42.3

SALMA MAHFOUD THOMAS JOHNSON, JUNIOR

■ The Patriots' consistent No. 2 runner all fall in her first cross-country season, she improved each week before hamstringing issues caused her to drop out of the county meet. She returned for states and ran a strong time. Coach Larry O'Hara lauded her constant competitive spirit and "drive to improve in all areas." County: DNF (injury) 4A North: DNS (injury) 4A State: 21st, 21:01.59

MAYA OSHER URBANA, SENIOR

■ After missing all of the 2024 campaign due to a hamstring injury suffered early that season, she showed resilience commended by Urbana coach CJ Ecalono by helping create a peerless lead triumvirate for the county-champion Hawks in her final fall season. County: Seventh 4A North: Fifth 4A State: 14th, 20:36.9

MADELENEKATE PARTLOW THOMAS JOHNSON, SOPHOMORE

■ Propelled by a strong freshman year, she dedicated herself to training and assumed a mental approach to the sport, coach Larry O'Hara said. She was the county runner-up Patriots' top finisher at every meet. O'Hara said she's "extremely coachable and always looking for ways to improve." County: Third 4A North: Third 4A State: 16th, 20:41.3

SAMANTHA WHITEMAN LINGANORE, JUNIOR

■ A returning first-team runner and one of the county's most consistent finishers, she's become "a dedicated student of the sport" over the past three years, according to coach Steve Musselman. That culminated in her running the fastest time among county competitors at the state meet. She's also accepted a role as one of the Lancers' mentors. County: Fifth 3A West: Sixth 3A State: Eighth, 20:03.2

HONORABLE MENTION

- Frederick**—Danica Arrington, Olivia Gregory, Ivy McWilliams
- Linganore**—Elizabeth Watkins
- Middletown**—Cara Carpenter, Leah Harshman
- Oakdale**—Johanna Mitchell, Annalise Wells, Lizzie Wells
- Thomas Johnson**—Addison Brockey-Rogers, Addie Innocenti, Nina Kirkendall-Plaia
- Tuscarora**—Sydney Bowman
- Urbana**—Briana Barberena, Audrey Borleis, Brenna Davies, Abigail Forster
- Walkersville**—Zoey Funk



Short Takes

from wire reports

Jaguars' Lewis to miss rest of season after foot surgery

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Jourdan Lewis will have season-ending foot surgery, a person familiar with the injury told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the player nor the team has confirmed Lewis' status. Lewis injured his foot in a 34-20 victory at Denver last Sunday. NFL Network first reported Lewis' pending surgery.

Jacksonville placed Lewis on injured reserve and signed cornerback Keith Taylor to fill his spot on the 53-man roster. Taylor has played for Carolina, Kansas City and Atlanta over five seasons.

Lewis is the team's second starting cornerback lost for the season, following rookie Travis Hunter (knee).

Lewis, Hunter and Tyson Campbell opened the season as the team's top three cornerbacks. Now, all are gone for Jacksonville's playoff run. The Jaguars swapped starting cornerbacks with Cleveland in early October, sending Campbell north for Greg Newsome II.

Newsome, Montaric Brown and Jarrian Jones will be counted on to handle the workload down the stretch, beginning at Indianapolis on Sunday, and in the postseason.

Lewis started 12 games this season after signing a three-year, \$30 million contract in free agency. He had 39 tackles, two interceptions and a fumble return with Jacksonville.

He spent the first eight years of his NFL career in Dallas.

The Jaguars (11-4) also expect to be without two starting offensive linemen — center Robert Hainsey (groin) and right guard Patrick Mekari (back) — against the Colts (8-7).

College Football Playoff ratings drop with NFL competition

Last weekend's first round of the College Football Playoff averaged 9.9 million viewers on ABC, ESPN, TNT, TBS and truTV, according to ESPN and Nielson. That is a 7% drop from last year.

A big reason for the drop was that the final game, James Madison versus Oregon, was on TNT, TBS and truTV and not on ABC and ESPN, along with an NFL game in prime time.

The Chicago Bears' 22-16 overtime victory over the Green Bay Packers on Fox averaged 21.3 million viewers while Oregon's 51-34 win over James Madison drew 4.4 million. Last year's Ohio State-Tennessee game on ABC/ESPN averaged 14.3 million, plus it did not go up against an NFL game.

The most-watched CFP game was Alabama's 34-24 comeback victory over Oklahoma, which averaged 14.9 million on a Friday night on ABC/ESPN. Not only was that the highest-viewed CFP first-round game in the two years of the expanded 12-team field, it was the fifth-most watched game of the season. Six of the top 20 most-viewed games this year involve Alabama.

Last year's CFP opener between Notre Dame and Indiana averaged 13.4 million. Miami's 10-7 win over Texas A&M averaged

14.8 million on ABC/ESPN on Saturday afternoon and more than doubled the 6.4 million that tuned in for the SMU-Penn State game in the same time slot on TNT/TBS and truTV.

The Hurricanes' victory was the sixth-most watched game of the season.

Ole Miss' 41-10 rout of Tulane averaged 6.2 million on TNT/TBS and truTV, down from the 8.6 million average from last year's Texas-Clemson game in the same time slot and networks.

The Saturday middle CFP game has had competition from the NFL the last two years. Philadelphia's 29-18 win over Washington on Fox averaged 15.5 million, the same audience that tuned in for last year's game between Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Hawaii stuns Cal in Hawaii Bowl

HONOLULU — Backup quarterback Luke Weaver threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Nick Cenacle with 10 seconds left, and Hawaii rallied for a 35-31 comeback victory over California in a thrilling Hawaii Bowl on Wednesday night.

Weaver entered the game after Micah Alejado took a hard hit on the previous play. With the Rainbow Warriors (9-4) in range for a tying field goal, coach Timmy Chang took a shot at the end zone, and Cenacle got between two defensive backs and made the contested catch.

"How amazing is that?" Chang said. "It's a program that is built out of faith and these guys deserve it, man."

Chang, Hawaii's fourth-year coach who had a record-setting career as the Rainbow

Warriors' quarterback from 2000-04, led his program to its first nine-win season since 2019 — when Nick Rolovich, currently Cal's interim coach, guided Hawaii to a 10-5 record.

Alejado finished 32 of 46 for 274 yards and three touchdowns, helping Hawaii rally from an early 21-0 deficit. Pofele Ashlock had 14 catches for 123 yards and two TDs for the Rainbow Warriors, who scored 22 points in the fourth quarter.

Cal (7-6) pulled ahead 31-28 with 1:57 left on a 1-yard touchdown run by Hawaii-born freshman quarterback Jaron-Keawe Sagapolutele, who finished with 343 yards passing and a touchdown.

Washington receiver Boston declares for NFL Draft

SEATTLE — Washington wide receiver Denzel Boston plans to enter the NFL draft, he announced Wednesday on social media.

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound Boston had 62 receptions for 881 yards and 11 touchdowns this season as a junior, earning third-team All-Big Ten honors. Last year, he had 63 catches for 834 yards and nine touchdowns.

In Washington's 38-10 win over Boise State in the LA Bowl on Dec. 13, Boston caught six passes for 126 yards, including a 78-yard touchdown.

The 22-year-old is from South Hill, Washington, 45 miles south of Husky Stadium.

"Every time I stepped on that field," Boston said, "it was for the city that raised me and the people who supported me from day one."