

High school weekend

CROSS COUNTRY | RUNNERS TO WATCH

**Adam Behnke****Lutheran South junior**

Finished fourth at the Missouri Class 3 state meet in 16:32, the fastest sophomore time in any classification. After playing soccer as a freshman, and

basketball as a sophomore, Behnke now has focused on running as he prepares to make a bid for a state title.

**Chelsea Chrisman**
Eureka sophomore

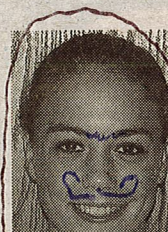
Was 12th at the Class 4 state meet (19:40) as a freshman, rebounding from a 34th-place finish at sectionals (21:20). She took sixth at districts (20:09).

The improvement over the final three weeks of the season could be a sign of things to come. "As long as she runs relaxed, she has the ability to perform like last year or even better," coach Kally Fischer said.

**Josh Eickmeier****O'Fallon senior**

Came in 123rd at the Illinois Class AA state meet in 15:48 over the 3-mile course. Also took 13th at sectional and second at regional. Has already posted two sub-16 minute runs

during the team's intrasquad meets. He will be pushed by fellow senior Dan Dunbar, who eclipsed his school-record time of 15:54 by two seconds in August.

**Mary Goldkamp****McCluer North senior**

Finished 10th at the Class 4 state meet (19:36) after capturing first at both sectionals (19:27) and districts (20:30). Goldkamp, fourth at state as a freshman, is a three-time conference,

district and sectional champion. A soccer player in the spring, coach John Hall said, "She's very fit. She's in the best shape she's been in."

**Eric Fernandez****Parkway West junior**

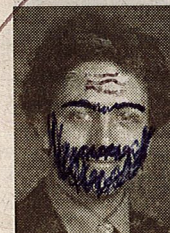
Took 11th as a sophomore at the Class 4 state meet in 16:33, improving from 76th as a freshman. Captured second in sectionals (16:44) and third at districts (16:39). "When

he got to the state meet, he ran with the main body for 2¼ miles, but he wasn't quite mature enough and strong enough to go with that (lead) group," coach Dave Tobey said. "Hopefully, he's ready" this year.

**Kasey Owens****Eureka senior**

Came in 11th at the Class 4 state meet (19:36) after dropping a half-minute off her eighth-place time at sectionals (20:09). Owens, seventh at districts (20:18), slides into the No. 1 spot

vacated by three-time champ Merideth Snow. Coach Kally Fischer said Owens has stepped up as a leader off the course as well as on it.

**Matt Lawder****SLUH senior**

Captured 17th at the Class 4 state meet (16:38), took fifth at sectionals (16:29) and third at districts (16:44). He is the top returning runner for a Jr. Billikens squad that took

fourth at state last year. "He was thinking about this year, last year," coach Jim Linhares said. "He's really very focused on being one of the top guys in the state."

**Courtney Smith****Edwardsville sophomore**

As a freshman, Smith captured 41st at the Class AA state meet in 18:11 over three miles. She was fourth at sectionals (19:21 for 5K) and first at regionals (18:55 for 3 miles).

Smith fronts a team that returns everyone from a 12th-place showing at state last year, and she was a state finalist in the 3,200-meter run during the spring track season.

**Kyle Rood****Zumwalt South senior**

Came in third at the Class 4 state meet (16:08) after

**Kathleen Thompson****Parkway C. sophomore**

Took 13th at the Class 4 state meet (19:42). Finished second at sectionals (19:39) and first at districts