

CC's Magni is Coach of the Year again

By PAUL BEAUDRY
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At the beginning, and for that matter the middle of the season, Catholic Central coach Tony Magni doubted his team could return to the state finals - let alone contend for a state title.

Most of his team from last season's third-place team had graduated and, in their place, was a bunch of talented but untested runners. To make matters worse, the Shamrocks lost their best runner - Ryan Lowry - to injury toward the end of the season.

Instead of rolling over, CC kicked it up a notch and went up with its fourth state title under Magni.

For that reason, Magni - in his 29th year of coaching - was chosen to repeat as the Observerland Coach of the Year.

Three other members of last year's team also appear this time: Lowry, teammate John Krawiec and Livonia Churchill's Ryan Gail. Justin Hajduk of Plymouth Salem moved up from the second team.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM
John Krawiec, senior, Redford CC: Krawiec finished a fine career with his second season as an All-Stater and second on the Academic All-State team. He placed fifth in the state meet with a time of 16:47, his best time of the year, placed third in the regional (17:00) and third in the Catholic League meet (16:28).

He ran hurt in the early part of the season but still posted times as low as 16:04.

"John was hurt at the start of the season," Magni said, "but was diligent in getting himself back in the varsity lineup."

"His strong competitive drive and his ability to stay focused in every race led

ALL-AREA

2001 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM
John Krawiec, senior, Redford CC
Justin Hajduk, junior, Plymouth Salem
Dave Lucas, sophomore, Redford CC
Will Chapman, senior, Liv. Churchill
Kyle Jekot, senior, Redford CC
Ryan Gail, senior, Livonia Churchill
Logan Schultz, senior, Liv. Churchill
Steve Deblon, senior, Plymouth Canton
Pat Pruitt, senior, Plymouth Canton

SECOND TEAM
Brian Coats, junior, Farm. Hamilton
Matt Giesse, junior, Liv. Stevenson
Aaron Lanning, junior, Ply. Canton
Chris Vranas, junior, Ply. Salem
Jim Luddy, junior, Plymouth Salem
Chris Furling, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Doug Novack, junior, Liv. Stevenson
Brian Dool, junior, Redford CC
Jon Marshall, senior, Redford CC
Brian Seymour, senior, Redford CC
Ben Gammon, junior, N. Farmington

COACH OF THE YEAR
Tony Magni, Redford Catholic Central

HONORABLE MENTION
Lutheran High School: Eric Loder, Rich Russell; North Farmington: Eugene Fuman, Jeff Matys; Livonia: Steven Sean O'Mahoney, Pat Case, Dan Guszka, Jeff Matys; Farmington: Ryan Kibele, Chris Tobo, Tom Pezack, Tom Eason; Livonia Churchill: Jean Harris, Kevin Kana, Mandee Sangha, Justin Bieffick; Plymouth Salem: Mike Horgan, Randy Bearden, Erik Nease, Adam Warner; Redford Catholic Central: Dan Horgan, Matt Espar, Dave Boehmer; Plymouth Canton: Brandon McClellan, Casey McInerney, Matt Raymond, Jon Western; Redford Thurston: Brian Solter; Redford Union: Kevin Petre; Plymouth Hamilton: Mark Varnery; Farmington Christian: Greg Anderson, Dan Coats.

him to the state final, where he ran his best race of the year."

Justin Hajduk, junior, Plymouth Salem: Hajduk ran a 15:49 in the Division I championship to earn All-State designation. He was regional runner-up with a time of 17:01 and his 16:44 earned him second place in the Western Lakes meet. He also won the Group A meet in 16:12.

Hajduk already has been named to two All-Observerland teams and is a two-time state qualifier.

"Justin is a natural runner," Salem coach Geoff Baker said. "He is a great racer."

Dave Lucas, sophomore, Redford CC: Lucas went from 17:09, where he finished 23rd, in the West Bloomfield meet at the start of the season to a first-place finish in the regionals with a time of 16:54.

"At the start of the season David was just learning how to run the races," Magni said of his sophomore. "As the season progressed, he grew more confident with every race."

"He won the regional and placed 10th in the states, saving his best two races for the end of the season."

Lucas ran a 15:56 in the states for his 10th place to earn All-State honors. He was also Academic All-State.

He was second in the Catholic League meet (16:20) and the Operation Friendship meet (16:36). He also finished first at Sturgis (16:25).

Will Chapman, senior, Livonia Churchill: Chapman posted his personal best time at the right time, a 16:13.5 that earned him a 27th placing in the state meet. He earned All-State recognition.

"Will is just a pup when it comes to distance running," said his coach, John McGreevey. "This is only his second year of cross country. He's a natural."

"His best years as a runner are yet to come. I wish he had run all four years."

"He is also a very good student who is doing well in our demanding MS2 program."

Chapman was second in the Wayne County and Livonia Public Schools meets. He was third in his league (WLA) meet and fourth in the regionals.

His time of 16:31 at Coss Benton is the second best in Churchill history.

He is going to Eastern Michigan to major in education and may attempt to run from.

Kyle Jekot, senior, Redford CC: Jekot posted his best time as part of the Shamrocks' winning state championship effort, a 16:30 that earned him a 30th-place spot.

"Kyle knew where he had to be on the team and upheld his commitment to being consistent each race," Magni said. "This was a key factor to the development of his running talent."

"Kyle became a better team runner and

was a significant asset to us in winning the state championship."

His best finish was a fourth in the Operation Friendship meet, where his time was 16:36. His second best time was a 16:37, which placed him seventh at Haslett. He also ran a 16:44, which put him fifth in the Catholic League finals.

Ryan Lowry, senior, Redford CC: A promising season was cut short by injury but Lowry still posted some impressive results.

He won at Holly with a time of 15:53 and captured Catholic Central's invitation with a clocking of 16:30.

His best time, 15:51, was good for a runner-up finish at Haslett. That was his final meet of the season.

"Ryan opened the season strong, placing first in two of the first three invitationals," Magni said. "Unfortunately he got hurt and the injury put him out of commission for the remainder of the season."

"Still and all, Ryan put aside his personal disappointment and energized his teammates with his support. His constant encouragement was a positive factor to our winning the states."

Ryan Gail, senior, Livonia Churchill: Gail, a repeat All-Observer pick, was 33rd at the state meet, just missing All-State designation.

Gail was fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet with a time of 16:56, clocked 16:31 to win the South Lyon Invitational, ran a 16:40 to win the Livonia Public Schools meet and was second at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational.

He carries a 4.45 grade point average and is a National Merit semi-finalist.

Gail holds the Chargers' 800-meter record of 1:55.9.

"Ryan is one of the most driven athletes I have coached," McGreevey said. "He has made himself the first performer he is. This year he overcame dehydration, asthma and an eye infection to still run quality races."

Logan Schultz, senior, Livonia Churchill: Schultz finished his career with the Chargers placing 59th in the state meet with a time of 16:34. He was 10th in the regional, sixth in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet, third in the Wayne County meet and third in the Livonia Public Schools meet.

Schultz had a best time of 16:32 when he finished 13th in the Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard Invitational. He owns the seventh-best time (16:53) for a Churchill runner at Coss Benton Park.

He carries a 4.213 grade point average and is a National Merit semi-finalist.

Schultz scored 35 on the ACT.

"Logan has worked hard for his success," said McGreevey. "He is an outstanding student-athlete and a gentleman. He is a sensitive young man who is well aware of the team concept. I can see him as a future coach."

Steve Deblon, senior, Plymouth Canton:



John Krawiec
Catholic Central

Justin Hajduk
Plymouth Salem

Dave Lucas
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Deblon was the fourth place finisher in the conference meet with a 16:50 clocking. He set the Chiefs' school record at Coss Benton with a 16:25 and also placed sixth in the regionals with a 17:34.

Deblon was Canton's first- or second-place runner all season and led the Chiefs to the WLA title this fall and paced the Chiefs' second place finish in the regionals.

"Steve discredited many doubters this season," said his coach, Bill Boyd. "He had strong goals and a drive to succeed."

Pat Pruitt, senior, Plymouth Canton:

Pruitt ran a personal best 16:43 at the state meet after finishing seventh in the regionals. He made WLA All-Western Division and ran 12th at the conference meet.

Teammates voted their captain the team's hardest worker both as a sophomore and a senior. Last season, he was selected most improved on the Chiefs posting a time to make him the fourth-fastest Canton runner ever.

"Pat has been the team parental workaholic," said Boyd. "It is great to see this hard work pay off."

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