

All-Observer cross country from page B1

"I have been blessed to have coached Susan the last four years," Churchill coach Sue Tatigian said. "She's a kind, hard-working and serious student-athlete who has had a stellar high school cross country career because of her amazing work ethic. She will graduate next June as one of the most successful and decorated distance runners in the history of Churchill."

Lisa Montgomery, soph., Stevenson: Montgomery ran under 20 minutes eight times this season with an average of 20:15. She improved her best time at Cass Benton to 19:44 and had a season-best of 19:27 at Gabriel Richard.

She repeated as regional champion, placed fifth in the WLA and took 50th at the state meet.

"After an outstanding first year (where she placed 29th in the state), Lisa came back her sophomore year with an equally strong showing."

Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg said. Danielle Lewis, senior, Stevenson: Lewis ranks 12th on Stevenson's all-time best list at Cass Benton (20:14) and is 11th on the all-time list (19:44). The soccer player also finished ninth at the WLA meet, fourth at the regional and was the Spartans' top finisher at the state meet (39th) with a time of 19:44.

"Danielle is a runner with first-class sprinter's speed with the endurance to run distances — in other words — a cross country coach's dream," Holmberg said. "She ran for only two years, but has some impressive statistics."

Nicole Renaud, sophomore, Churchill: A first-team All-Observer pick for the second straight year, Renaud took seventh in the WLA meet (20:15), fifth at the regional and 73rd at the state meet (20:06).

She was also runner-up at the Livonia

Public Schools, Monroe-Jefferson and Westland John Glenn Freshman-Sophomore Invitational. Other finishes include fourth at Wayne County (19:57) and South Lyon; 10th at Gabriel Richard (19:43 personal best) and Huron (19:51); and 19th at West Bloomfield.

"Nicole is a fun athlete to coach because of her enthusiasm and confidence level," Tatigian said. "She mentally and physically prepares herself for each of her races and really thrives on competition. She stepped up her level of racing this year and was very consistent throughout the entire season."

Sara Pilon, junior, Stevenson: The three-time first-team All-Observer pick placed third to help Stevenson win the regional and was 65th at the state meet (20:02). She posted consistent clockings between 20 and 23 minutes with a season-best 19:33.

"Sara was a gutsy competitor for

Stevenson, she gave everything she had in every meet," Holmberg said. "She will be a senior captain on the 2002 Stevenson team."

Nicole Schmidt, freshman, Churchill: The ninth-grader excelled in her inaugural season by placing 64th in the state meet (20:03), sixth fastest among freshmen after an 11th-place showing at the regional.

In the Glenn Freshman-Sophomore meet, Schmidt took fourth (20:21). She also finished eighth in the WLA (20:19) and Jefferson Invitational. She posted a personal best 19:59 at Gabriel Richard (14th overall) and was 16th at Huron.

"Nicole is blessed with a great amount of natural talent and ability," Tatigian said. "She really learned how to race this season and stepped up her level of competitiveness as the season progressed."

Sarah Westrick, junior, Churchill: The two-time, first-team All-Observer selection made All-WLA for the third year in a row with a fourth-place finish at Kensington in 19:59.

She also took fifth at Wayne County; sixth at both the Jefferson and the City meets; eighth at Huron (19:50); ninth at the regional; 13th at Gabriel Richard; 20th at West Bloomfield; and 89th in Division I.

"Sarah had a tremendous season despite recovering from pneumonia last spring in track, which cut short her season," Tatigian said. "I was impressed with how she rebounded this fall and was able to physically and mentally prepare for the season."

"Sarah is a natural leader and a great role model for the younger athletes on the team."

Angie Matthews, senior, Lutheran HS: In Division IV, Matthews took 19th place with a time of 20:15. She was also regional medalist with a third at Belle Isle and took second in the Metro Conference meet.

Her best time was 19:40 at the first Metro Conference jamboree. She is a three-time regional medalist and three-time All-Metro honoree. She made second-team All-Observer twice.

"Angie had to overcome a lot of adversity the past two seasons," coach Dave Brown said. "This year she missed two weeks in the middle of the season with a badly sprained ankle."

"But she deserved the success she achieved because of her work ethic. She



Susan Duncan
Livonia Churchill



Lisa Montgomery
Livonia Stevenson



Danielle Lewis
Livonia Stevenson



Nicole Renaud
Livonia Churchill



Sarah Westrick
Livonia Churchill



Nicole Schmidt
Livonia Churchill



Sara Pilon
Livonia Stevenson



Angie Matthews
Lutheran Westland



Sue Tatigian
Livonia Churchill-coach

only missed one day of running the entire summer and is the hardest worker I've ever coached."

Christine Metry, senior, Harrison: Metry was the Division 2 regional champion at Ann Arbor Pioneer, and she finished 71st in the state meet with a time

of 20:27.9.

Metry, who also qualified for state a year ago, was voted the most valuable runner on this year's Harrison team.

She was a medal winner in the Oakland County meet, had a personal record of 19:49, was named to the academic all-state team and earned WLA all-division honors.

"Christine was very dedicated to the team and sport," coach Mark Babcock said. "She prepared hard for this season, and it really showed in her performance. She had a tremendous year and plans to run in college. She is one of the best I've ever coached."

Susan Barrows, junior, N. Farmington: Barrows had a great start to the season, but a stress fracture caused her to miss some meets and affected her performance late in the campaign.

She ran the area's best time of 19:01 at John Glenn and was undefeated in dual meets. Barrows was first at the Brother Rice Invitational (19:45), second at Catholic Central (19:58) and third at Huron (19:24). She was the Farmington city champion, too.

Though still bothered by the injury, Barrows finished 23rd in the regional and was 127th in the state.

"Susan is a dedicated student-athlete," coach Bill Pinnell said. "She ran almost 500 miles last summer to prepare for this season."

"September was a great month for her. She was on track for her goal of being an all-stater. Unfortunately, her stress fracture slowed her down."

"Susan cross trained for a month and came back to run in the regional meet to help her team qualify for state. She was the Raiders' No. 1 runner at the state meet."

ALL-AREA

2001 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Susan Duncan, senior, Livonia Churchill
Lisa Montgomery, sophomore, Liv. Stevenson
Danielle Lewis, senior, Livonia Stevenson
Nicole Renaud, sophomore, Livonia Churchill
Sara Pilon, junior, Livonia Stevenson
Nicole Schmidt, freshman, Livonia Churchill
Sarah Westrick, junior, Livonia Churchill
Angie Matthews, senior, Lutheran Westland
Christine Metry, senior, Farmington Harrison
Susan Barrows, junior, North Farmington

SECOND TEAM

Shannon LaFave, freshman, F.H. Mercy
Sarah McCormack, junior, Plymouth Canton
Claire Casplick, junior, Farmington
Rachael Button, sophomore, Farmington
Michelle Phillips, junior, Livonia Churchill
Melissa Ogundimu, senior, Livonia Stevenson
Linda Montgomery, sophomore, L. Stevenson
Nicole Moudros, senior, North Farmington
Lindsay Gould, senior, Livonia Churchill
Kristen Green, junior, Livonia Stevenson
Tara Kuehne, senior, Lutheran Westland
Joelle Davis, junior, Garden City
Rachel Woody, junior, Livonia Churchill
Marissa Montgomery, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Kim Wood, senior, Plymouth Salem
COACH OF THE YEAR
Sue Tatigian, Livonia Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Gabby Gutierrez, Christine Rothermel, Lisa Griss, Sarah Rorabacher, Amanda Thayer, Erin Miralles; Stevenson: Danielle Clayton; Salem: Jill Grey, Lauren Kave, Stephanie Hajduk, Katie Burton, Kristin Mastic, Rhy Jensen, Lisa Kasli-Hynnala, Monica Przybelska; N. Farmington: Katie Milan, Kelly Koo; Kristin Stamboulis; Canton: Mary Maloney, Rachel Lindman, Tonda Shimbo, Carrie Olaskowicz, Sarah Stobbe; Harrison: Ashley McElmurry, Shannon Bailey; Lutheran Westland: Cara Braut, Ruth Franchina, Christine Mackenzie, Michelle Minor; Farmington: Kristin Dallas, Megan Anagnostis, Shanna Barkman; Franklin: Kristian Tyler, Kristin Leachuk, Katie Wint; Wayne: Valerie Burnisky, Amanda Hager, John Blum; Kristian Humphrey, Julie Stucko; Redford: Isabel Maria Desrosiers, Dominique Powell; Garden City: Jessie Frende, Kristin Haeri; Wayne: Julie Roberts, Kim Daniels; Thawton: Cathy Rybka, Kate Mullett, Natalie Wasio.

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