

Kurtis, Madden: Two Cross Country Stars To Remember

Borgess, Churchill Runners Eye State Titles

By TOM DONOHUE
Sports Editor

When it comes to running the 2½ mile cross country route, Oberlin schools stand tall with two of the top harriers in Western Wayne County.

Dan Madden of Bishop Borgess and Dennis Kurtis, of Churchill, are the ones to watch.

Both will be leading his team in the upcoming league, regional, and state finals.

Borgess has won 21 straight meets while Churchill has topped its foe in 16 of 21 dual meets.

"Madden is the team leader and accepts the responsibility," said Borgess Coach Tom Kennedy. "He has been producing as captain and is a real worker."

MADDEN is not a natural born runner but one who has worked hard to produce for his school and his team.

In ninth grade he was running junior varsity and placed 9th in the 30 mile Catholic League playoffs. In 10th grade he still ran junior varsity and placed 16th in the playoffs with 10:45.

In the summer between his sophomore and junior year, Dan attended a cross country camp in the Upper Peninsula called Camp Olympic and operated by Redford High Coach Bruce Wahn.

"We ran 200 miles in eight days," said Madden. "It really hurt, but we still ran and ran."

"We would wake up at 6 a.m. and run five miles, have breakfast at 8 a.m. - 12 a.m. Lunch was about one and then

we had a little time to nap before a two hour workout starting at 2:30 p.m.

"There was about 30 minutes of swimming between the workout and 5:30 dinner, so we could kick in order that our muscles wouldn't tighten up."

"After dinner we read and watched movies but usually hit the sack pretty early-six in the morning comes early," added Madden.

HE MADE varsity his junior year and last June took part in the March of Dimes 17 mile Walk-A-Thon. Dan ran the 17 miles in two hours and finished fourth collecting \$65

for March of Dimes.

He placed 17th in the Catholic finals last year.

This summer he joined a Borgess 1,600 mile club where he had 90 days to run 1,600 miles. He totaled 900 before a leg injury forced him to halt.

Madden has been running 60 miles a week since school started. He chalks up about four or five miles before school every morning.

In seven league meets, Dan has taken first six times. He came in second once, beaten by teammate Jim Bearden. He captured seventh in the Albion Invitational with 13:01 and 15th in the Schoolcraft Invitational with 13:26.

His best time on a 2½ mile course was against Divine Child at Rouge with a 12:01 and was clocked at 9:40 after two miles.

Dan has a 3.02 scholastic average and plans on taking up engineering at General Motors Institute. But he has heard from Western, Northern, Eastern, Aquinas, and Schoolcraft colleges and is just waiting to see what develops.

DAN HAS two brothers and three sisters who appear at most meets to cheer him on. His parents watch him at every meet.

"They have done a lot for me," said Madden. "They get me going when I am down and sort of push me every morning to get out and run."

"My dad locates himself on the course during a meet where he is by himself and really gives me support when I need it. He always yells at me to get going."

The big race for Dan is Tuesday in the Catholic League Finals at Rouge Park. "I have worked and waited four years for this race," said Madden. "Brother Rice is the favored team and we are the underdogs, but we are up for this one."

In the upcoming state meet, Dan is gunning for the top 15.

"In my four years of running I have never dropped out of a race; I've hurt a lot but I always finish what I start,"

commented Madden. "I usually sing a song when I run, just to sort of relax."

Dan is out to break his personal record Tuesday and in the National 10,000 meter race at Cranbrook in November, 1969. "There was two feet of snow on the ground and I finished 157th out of 400, right behind my brother," said Dennis. "I have yet to beat him."

DENNIS KURTIS has been the No. 1 man on Churchill's cross country squad since the beginning of his sophomore year.

In three years he has competed in 24 dual meets, has placed first in 21, and second in the remaining three. In his sophomore year he was beaten out by his brother Doug, then a senior at Stevenson.

Doug is a second year cross country runner at Michigan State University.

Dennis, a 120 pounder, ran first in the Wayne Invitational with a 12:54 and first in the Redford Union Invitational with a 12:22. He placed second at Schoolcraft with 12:34.

His fastest time has been the 12:22 recorded at RU and his fastest two miles is 9:31.

"Doug used to and still pushes me a lot," said Dennis. "He has really helped me along and taught me everything I know."

He is out to set a league record at Hickory Hills Tuesday and hopes to finish in the top five in the state. He is planning to run for either Western Michigan or

Hillsdale. He carries a 2.5 scholastic average and also runs about five miles every morning before school.

Dennis ran with his brother in the National 10,000 meter race at Cranbrook in November, 1969. "There was two feet of snow on the ground and I finished 157th out of 400, right behind my brother," said Dennis. "I have yet to beat him."

THE LAST THREE summers Dennis and Doug have competed in the Sunday afternoon Belle Isle Road Races. "Doug usually placed first or second and I third or fourth," stated Dennis.

In his sophomore year, Dennis placed eighth in the state. Last year he crossed the line 57th and was fighting the flu at the time.

"I try to think about how fast I am running and what I should do next," explained Kurtis. "I even sing to myself."

Dennis holds the course

record at Waterford Mott. Stevenson, Dearborn and Cass Benton, and his parents are usually there to cheer him on. During the Schoolcraft Invitational he was stung by a wasp while running but he doesn't use that for an excuse of finishing second.

Dennis has a good luck charm in Ann Zimmerman at Churchill. She gives him a yard bracelet for every meet and after he wins he gives it back to her and she makes another for the next meet.

"I think she carries all the bracelets in her purse," said Kurtis. "But it sure is bringing me good luck."

"Based on what I have seen I would place Denny in the top 10 runners in the state," said Churchill Coach Dave Westover. "The kids really look up to him. He is quiet but sets an example."

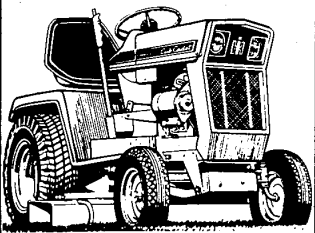
Madden and Kurtis run in their respective league finals Tuesday, followed by the regionals and the state.

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DAN MADDEN



DENNY KURTIS

RU Puts Hopes On Block In Duel With Parkers

Friday will bring the game Redford Union and Allen Park have been waiting for all season... the one that should decide the Suburban Eight title.

RU travels to Allen Park for the Oberlin prep game of the week.

RU has swept over opponents in its first five games

while Allen Park has won four of five. The Parkers were led by Dearborn in a crushing battle.

ONE OF THE state's outstanding running backs, Don Trionfi, will be pitted against a tough RU defense.

Trionfi has scored 13 touch-

downs and rushed for 642 yards in five games. Allen Park fullback, Brian Lott will be another hard one to bring down. He has recorded 300 yards thus far.

"It is going to be an even battle, with breaks deciding the game," said Parker Coach Al Vadasy. "We equal RU in

speed and talent but they

outsize us." The passing of RU's Glenn Richmond and running of Tom Burk will be up against a tough Allen Park team which after an early season tie with Dearborn, has chalked up three straight shutouts including a 35-0 romp over Bentley.

Richmond has passed 13-47 for 285 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 118 yards and two touchdowns in the first five games.

Burk has outrushed Trionfi with 759 yards in 102 carries to Trionfi's 642 yards. Burk has scored nine touchdowns and has only been thrown for a total of nine yards lost.

TWO HOMECOMINGS highlight the weekend festivities with Southfield Lathrup entertaining Waterford Friday night and Bishop Borgess clashing with Gabriel Richard at Thurston Saturday afternoon.

The Lathrup-Waterford contest should bring smiles to the returning alumni at Southfield as the Chargers stand tall and proud on top of the Inter-Lakes Conference with three league wins.

Waterford has a firm grip on last place losing its first three league games. Lathrup just edged by Pontiac Northern 12-6 but the Weinberg twins and Bruce Ruhl are ready for this battle.

Borgess will be attempting to clinch the league title Saturday against Gabriel making it a double smile day for the homecoming crowd.

Borgess QB Jerry Sharon will be taking to the air while his defense will be going for another shutout. Borgess in its first five games has scored four shutouts.

Garden City East plays at Lutheran West Friday night in a Mid Wayne clash with East running back Dennis Burton hoping to keep East in the race.

John Glenn hosts the Oak Park Redskins under the lights Friday and Glenn will edge by Pontiac Northern 12-6 but the Weinberg twins and Bruce Ruhl are ready for this battle.

Borgess completely overwhelmed St. Mary's, taking the first six places and ending up with 22 of the first 25 places. Only the top five finishers count in the scoring although a team may run seven for positions.

Madden was clocked in 12:04 in winning his fourth dual meet this year.

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Groves Golfers Defeat Thurston For 15th Win

Birmingham Groves golfers proved their fitness for defense of their state championship by whipping Thurston, 153-159, for their 15th victory in season against a single defeat.

Groves was slated to defend its crown Saturday (today) in the class A finals at the Midland Country Club.

Groves' Bill Wilson and Thurston's Bill Proben shared medalist honors with par 36 at the Warren Valley golf course.

In a Northwest Suburban League triangular meet, Oak Park, led by Tom Cowan's 36 at Rackham golf course, registered a 158 to defeat North Farmington (168) and John Glenn (180).

DEARBORN HIGH is 1971 golf champion of the expanded Suburban Eight League, winning the annual title tournament on its first try.

Dearborn had a total of 318 strokes, or less on second place Trenton Bentley had 329, Plymouth and Edsel Ford

tried at 345 followed by Belleville 348 and Allen Park 379.

Dave McCarthy, of Dearborn, was medalist with a 76 followed by teammates Bob Percy (78) and Bruce Spock (79).

Trenton's Doug Savage (77) and Gary Stougaard (79) joined the Dearborn trio on the all-league team.

John Hohenic, of Northville, fired a 72 for the Nor-

thwest Suburban League title.

With Dan Madden leading the way with his second fastest performance of the year, Bishop Borgess harriers recorded their 26th consecutive victory and seventh of the season when they swept past Redford St. Mary's, 15-49.

It was the fourth sweep for Borgess which continued a dual meet winning string that has extended over a period of four years.

Borgess will defend its

dividual honors at the Meadowbrook Country Club.

The top five finishers in the annual league championship tournament automatically win berths on the all-star squad.

FARMINGTON HARRISON tried for third in the Western Six League title meet with Northville winning it all with 409. Harrison and Waterford Mott tied for third with 443 and Walled Lake Western was the runner up with 442.

Catholic League championship on Friday, Oct. 29 at Rouge Park.

Borgess completely overwhelmed St. Mary's, taking the first six places and ending up with 22 of the first 25 places. Only the top five finishers count in the scoring although a team may run seven for positions.

Madden was clocked in 12:04 in winning his fourth dual meet this year.