Cross Country Team Goes to States

by JASON HESS
Class of 2004

The 2001 Cross-Country team made US history this season. This year’s team became the first ever US cross-country team to earn the right to head down to Scioto Downs in Columbus and compete for a Division II state title. US has been a part of the OHSAA (Ohio School Athletic Association) since 1989. Though US has had a cross-country team for 35 years, and has been a part of the OHSAA for 12 years, this is the first team to earn a berth in the State Tournament.

For the last nine years, US has been honored to have Mr. Karl Frerichs as both a teacher and a cross-country coach. During the 1992-1999 seasons, Mr. Frerichs was an assistant coach, only taking the head coach position in 2000. In his first season, Mr. Frerichs’ team proved him a good choice for coach as they garnered a first place finish in the NE District meet. But last year’s team couldn’t get past the Regional meet, where only the top four teams move on to states.

This year’s team, run by inspirational senior captain Jamie Lincoln, had a roster that was arguably US’s best ever in speed and depth, and from the beginning the team had a goal. As Brad Weitman explains, “From the start of the season, we thought we had a shot at states, but I didn’t think we were going to be as good as we were, especially with the injuries.” Led by seniors Lincoln, Jonathan Baker and Charlie Alston, standout juniors Andrew Williams and Chris Adams, sophomores Brad Weitman and Dan Golub, and freshman stand-in Martin Mudy, US cross-country placed within the top three positions in seven of eleven tournaments during the regular season, including finishing in first place three times. In the post-season, they placed second at both Districts and Regionals to earn the right to move on to States, where they finished seventh of 16 teams.

The season opened up with a bang, as US placed third in the Avon Lake Early Bird competition featuring the top Division I and II teams. For an idea of just how good this team was, the two teams that placed in front of US in that meet went on to the Division I state championships. At the very next meet, US finished in second place of 44 teams at the Tiffin Distance Festival. In those two meets, US was led by senior Jonathan Baker, who finished fourth in both events. But nearly three weeks into the season, he injured his left leg. And after a back injury to US’s fourth runner, Dan Golub, the once-optimistic season took a turn for the worse. If US’s cross-country team was going to make states, they would need everyone to step up. Fortunately, US had Chris Adams and Andrew Williams, who upheld their running and surprised everyone. Also, freshman Martin Mudy stepped in and did a fantastic job filling in at the end of the lineup. With these three runners, joined with the consistent running of Jamie Lincoln, Charlie Alston and Brad Weitman, US headed to the post-season.

For the Districts, Jonathan Baker and Dan Golub returned to lead the way and helped earn a berth into the OHSAA’s 73rd edition of the State Championships. After finishing seventh at States, Mr. Frerichs explained, “Of ten, first timers blow up and do poorly at states, but our finish, given the fact that we were really knocked up, was a real triumph.”

The cross country team at its best.
November, A Time for Thanks

by MARK KOOCH
Class of 2002

For University School students, the holiday season is our chance to give back to the community. Throughout the year, many different community service opportunities will arrive; however, the Thanksgiving Food Drive is perhaps the most unique and personal of them all. The Cuyahoga Health and Nutrition Center has given US the names of approximately 200 families in the greater Cleveland area that need our assistance.

Items such as canned fruits and vegetables, boxed rice and cereal, and large jars of jelly are among the list of over 20 items that US will need to collect per family.

In order to ensure that this process runs smoothly, each house will be responsible for approximately 20 families and the collection of $300. This money will be spent on buying the necessary food items.

Once all the necessary items have been collected, volunteers will distribute the food. A team of 50 drivers along with other schoolmates will depart from University School and hand deliver Thanksgiving dinners to families ranging in size from 3 to 10 people. As Mr. Lagarde says, “the biggest and most personal impact on the student body is the delivery of the food. That’s the uniqueness of the drive.”

The sense of pride that one feels after hand delivering boxes of food to needy families is indescribable. Although not all the families will express thanks for the contribution, they will be exceedingly grateful when they proudly serve a large Thanksgiving meal. This is the student body’s opportunity to give back to the community in a very personal way. All those that participate in the drive will undoubtedly feel a sense of contribution and accomplishment.

To Eat or Not to Eat: A Growing Dilemma

by DEAN PARAS
Class of 2003

Doughnuts: the sweet, succulent carbohydrate that is known, loved and eaten. We here at University School have been blessed by Providence (or was it the administration?) to receive doughnuts on different occasions throughout the year. They usually vary in range from sprinkled and glazed, to crème filled and maple. The amount of doughnuts consumed varies according to student. Students have confided to me that they have eaten as many as six, while others refrain and do not eat any. I can only assume that the freshmen were amazed when they first heard of the doughnuts since they have been omitted from the student handbook. That leaves it up to the school’s discretion as to when we will receive these tasty treats.

So when do they decide that doughnuts are appropriate? To my knowledge, they are brought to us for several reasons. The last edition of these battered beauties was a joint celebration of the birth of Mr. Perry’s child and Halloween. However, I can recall one instance where no babies were born and no one was being honored. The school just gave us doughnuts.

But who really knows about them? We have all seen the boxes when they are stacked outside waiting to be placed on the tables, but where exactly do they come from? I have never seen these types of doughnuts outside the school. Who makes them? A better question would be: Who cares?

But let us not forget the orange juice. On some of the doughnut days we also get to wash them down with orange juice. Why, though, do they not serve orange juice everyday we have doughnuts? This is a question which picks at the mind, but is quickly thrown aside as the more important task of consuming the doughnuts is attended to.

The doughnuts in my eyes have become a school tradition, one of the unspoken but assumed ones that we just understand. Many University School students ask just how can we get more of these delicacies? To them I can only say: child birth. Try to suggest to the teachers just how cool little babies are, and don’t they think it’s time they settled down and had more kids? Or better yet, do something so spectacular that the nation gives you a national holiday. Until these things happen we can only wait and ponder: When do we get more doughnuts?

Where is our hero?

Many of you have been wondering what has happened to US’s beloved hero, Super Prepper. Well to be honest, nobody knows. Noah Wikas’ ’03, however, has a hypothesis.
There are many in-jokes and references in the play, such as a joke about frog food and frog culture, and a clock that keeps ringing every second when Horace says, “Oh, come on! That wasn’t an hour!” This is a lighthearted play that’s not afraid to poke fun of itself.

Following the intermission, Act Two includes the plays Delta Triangle and Hidden in this Picture.

Delta Triangle is set in the South in 1970. Annie, played by Denise Yasinow from Laurel, and Doodle, played by Brian Stuhna, are two 14-year-olds who have a tradition of watching the drive-in movie every week from Doodle’s backyard.

When the movie takes a different turn by showing an adult film, Annie and Doodle are unprepared for what happens when they reveal their feelings for each other. Denise Yasinow said, “I like the play, it’s a lot of fun. I was really nervous at the audition with my Southern accent, but now I don’t worry about it anymore.”

The key tennis piece of the night was the final play, Hidden in this Picture, written by Aaron Sorkin. Mr. Sorkin is well known for his television work with the critically acclaimed Sports Night and West Wing, and his writing for the movies The American President and A Few Good Men. It featured Kylie Makar as Reuben, Mitch McCarron as Robert, Rob Mayes as Jeff and Kyle Byrnes as Craig. The actors, all veterans, did not disappoint in this comedic masterpiece.

The play was being performed together, a senior skit, can also be one of the times anywhere in the world since there is no script, only a basic idea for where the action is to take place. The jokes about the cows, though they would seem to grow old after a short time, are so fresh and wonderful that the audience never noticed that it was laughing for ten minutes straight.

Even though the actors are the most visible portion of the play, they would have nothing to act on or with in front of without the hard work of Mr. Masley, the tech crew, Mr. Costello and several others. Mr. Masley is excited about a new device that they are using for the backdrops. He explains, “We’re trying to use video projection to add to the scenery. If we were building 5 complete sets, so we’re just building the essentials and letting video projection do the rest. For example, for Time Flies we’re using a PowerPoint projection of really large pond reeds and brush. We’re really excited about this technology and we keep finding new things to do with it.”

Besides the actors, those who are involved in the play were Brian Clarke and Dan Pothas as stage managers, Brook Willard, who runs the lights, Marcus Lemmon who produces sound effects with help from Andy Kim, and Jim Harding. Mr. Costello and his TAP student as well as various other students worked on the painting, Mr. Konisiewicz and Mr. Komock helped with general tasks, and Mr. Masley directed the overall design.

This reviewer believes that Under the Stars was one of the best performances in recent memory. It was hilarious, insightful and entertaining.

Bob Mayes

The show was being performed for the last time ever at US, and probably one of the first times anywhere in the world since the appeal of each of these segments must be universal. The audience members are always of all ages, so the content of the show must, as Mr. Masley says, “be within the guidelines of good taste.” That doesn’t mean that the show can’t be entertaining. In addition to the amusing and engaging acts, the emcee of the show can really spice things up with “color commentary.” Past emcees have been one student, two groups of two students each, and even the witty Mr. Slobin. All of these factors add up to a full house, so packed that Ms. Hanscom says, “If fire marshals ever came, we would be in big trouble.”

While the show will no doubt be entertaining to the large audience attending, it will also greatly benefit the Cleveland Food Bank.

The US Variety Show, an annual showcase of the school’s finest talent, is to take place on Saturday, December 1st at 8:00 PM. The show is an exhibition of anything entertaining that high school students can do, and is run by faculty advisors Ms. Emerson, Ms. Hanscom and Mr. Masley, who has been directing the show since 1997.

The show has seen untold great acts in past years, and many of them were unforgettable. Whether it comes in the form of past demonstrations such as the “Who’s on First” act of Abbot and Costello, a karate demonstration, or even Rastafarian rabbis, one can expect the show to yield at least a few highly entertaining acts this year. Past shows have included music from many great bands, including Anthony Gambol’s renowned Potted Moonshine Cherries, which is booked to play for the fourth straight year on December 1st. Short films, game show skits, comedy acts and, if the seniors can get their act together, a senior skit, can also be expected to comprise large segments of the show.

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While the show will no doubt be entertaining to the large audience attending, it will also greatly benefit the Cleveland Food Bank. The five dollar admission fee is annually given directly to the Food Bank, or used to buy food that is then donated. The US variety show is bound to bring laughs, applause, and the unexpected.

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focus

William S. Kilroy ’43

FIELD HOUSE

A view of the entrance to the new wing. It was taken from a balcony above it, located near the new athletic offices.

The field house features ample space for all US athletic teams to practice.

The Callow Alumni Room will serve many purposes, from Athletic Council meetings, to social events after athletic events.

Squash courts add to the uniqueness of the sports complex.
Mrs. Couch hard at work in the new expanded, and well constructed, athletic offices.

A view of the 200 meter track, overlooking the Fieldhouse.

A lounge located next to the track offers runners an excellent place to recover from a hard workout.

All Pictures By Michael Greenes
Akira is the story of violent juvenile delinquents and revolutionaries in Neo-Tokyo in the year 2030. Some years earlier, the triggering of a new “weapon” in the original Tokyo devastated the city and heralded the start of the Third World War. The world has since recovered, but in Neo-Tokyo many of the freedoms enjoyed by previous generations have been repressed as Japan prepares to host the Olympics.

Akira focuses on the relationship between two teenagers, Kaneda and Tetsuo. They are members of a biker gang, orphans, and close friends. One night they stumble onto a small child that Kaneda and Tetsuo. They are members of a biker gang, orphans, and close friends. One night they stumble onto a small child that somehow is able to destroy Tetsuo’s motorcycle and gravely injure him. It is later revealed that this child is an escaped member of a government project to control and manipulate people with ESP powers. The event triggers Tetsuo’s own latent abilities and he too consumes his mind and overwhelmed him as Kaneda seeks to destroy his crazed friend.

While the plot may sound silly, it is handled extremely well and has more depth and meaning than I can possibly report. Akira is a work that blends science-fiction, philosophy, and action all into one very satisfying story. The narrative is well-developed in the manga, but the anime can become confusing and convoluted as the result of trying to compress over two thousand pages of work into one film. The manga Akira is illustrated far differently from the comics most American readers are used to. Manga can be much more mature than American comic books, dealing frankly with issues of violence and sexuality, and so in Japan manga have a legitimacy as an artform that is most certainly lacking here. Each volume opens with several pages of glossy, colored illustrations before fading to the black and white used for the rest of the story. The illustrations are drawn extremely well, giving the characters intense emotions and their actions a frenetic motion lacking in other printed works. It can be violent and bloody, but Otomo handles the subject with grace and tact, ensuring that it never becomes distasteful or juvenile.

After the manga was finished, Otomo decided to branch out and try his hand at directing an anime version of the series. But before he started with the movie, he decided to begin work on a soundtrack, reversing the usual order of production. He enlisted the aid of the famed Japanese musical collective Geinoh Yamashirogumi, a group consisting of over two hundred individuals. The end result was a progressive work utilizing obscure traditional Japanese Noh theater. The result was a progressive work utilizing obscure traditional Japanese Noh theater. The result was a progressive work utilizing obscure traditional Japanese Noh theater. The result was a progressive work utilizing obscure traditional Japanese Noh theater.

The soundtrack has new life resulting from the renewed popularity in the series, and Todd McFarlane has released a line of collectible statuettes based onOtomo’s genius. And Kaneda’s motorcycle is pretty slick.
is ready for the surmountable task at hand. Succeeding Mr. Tony Tucker as head coach is Mr. John Kestner, who hails from the West Coast with many credentials in coaching in the states of California and Washington. “He is a perfect fit for the school and team. Coach Kestner brings to US everything you want in a teacher and coach,” says standout guard and co-captain Marques Torbert. Not only has the coaching changed, but the lineup has too.

After graduating two starters and losing one to transfer, the team feels it can be just as successful as last year’s team, if not more: “Last year’s team is exactly that: last year’s team. We cannot be that team and we are not going to try in any way to be like them. We have our own identity and our own mission,” says co-captain Logan White, who is rated among the top five players in Ohio.

Both Torbert and White will create a dynamic duo, one with not only great offensive ability but superb defensive ability as well. Torbert, who has improved his shooting tremendously, will be looked upon not only to pass the ball but to score as well. Torbert also possesses terrific defensive skills—he is a complete player. White, who has given a verbal commitment to the University of Dayton to play basketball, is a true force on the high school hardwood. Combin- ing uncanny slashing, shooting, and passing ability, Logan is an offensive nightmare for opposing teams. Like Torbert, Logan is as strong defensively as offensively, blocking numerous shots and stealing countless passes.

Assuming larger roles this year will be senior guards Tim Koening and Gary Copeland. Koening, who possesses a sweet stroke, poses a major threat from long range and will be looked upon this year to help fill the shoes of the US graduate Tucker Kain. Copeland, a three sport star, possesses a true jumper as well as slashing ability, both key assets to the offensive success of the team. Also assuming larger roles this year will be three forwards, seniors Ike Mbanefo and John VanWagenen and junior Matt Keleshian. Mbanefo, with a muscular body, can power inside as well as use his mid-range jumper to keep opposing players off balance. Both vastly improved, VanWagenen and Keleshian are best on the block in the post position where they can use a variety of moves. Coming off the bench and adding depth to the team will be junior guard-forward Jeff Terrell and senior forward Greg Devan.

When playoff time comes around, US will be more than prepared for its opponents. Again facing a demanding schedule that includes Hoban, VA-SJ, Mike Melton and Cleveland Central Catholic, LeBron James and St. Vincent-St. Mary, St. Edward, and Roy Hall and Brush, Koening comments that, “This year is going to be even more exciting than the last. We will face so many great teams with great players that everyone will enjoy the games—guaranteed.” So, when playoff time comes, hopefully Prepper basketball can lose the Warrensville jinx.

Koening, Gary Copeland, and Marques Torbert all look to be major forces in the offensive department. Torbert, who possesses a sweet stroke, poses a major threat from long range and will be looked upon this year to help fill the shoes of the US graduate Tucker Kain. Copeland, a three sport star, possesses a true jumper as well as slashing ability, both key assets to the offensive success of the team. Also assuming larger roles this year will be three forwards, seniors Ike Mbanefo and John VanWagenen and junior Matt Keleshian. Mbanefo, with a muscular body, can power inside as well as use his mid-range jumper to keep opposing players off balance. Both vastly improved, VanWagenen and Keleshian are best on the block in the post position where they can use a variety of moves. Coming off the bench and adding depth to the team will be junior guard-forward Jeff Terrell and senior forward Greg Devan.

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Hockey Shoots for Success

by DERRICK WALTER
Class of 2003

After losing only four seniors to graduation, this year’s hockey team returns a strong nucleus that has only one goal in mind: to win a state championship. This year’s team will be coached by Mr. Bill Beard, who is in his fourth season at the helm. Coach Beard’s grueling conditioning workouts and weight training sessions have the hockey team in peak condition as they head into the season. This will no doubt help the team as they play the likes of St. Ignatius, Shaker Heights, Lake Catholic, Padua, and St. Edward in the rigorous Red North division.

This year’s team is talent-laden and is led by senior standout captain Pat Neundorfer, who looks to be one of the leading pre-season candidates for area player of the year. Pat has great speed and puck-handling skills which make him a threat to score every time he touches the puck. Along with these talents, Pat has an exceptional shot that can allow him to score from any position on the ice. Assistant captains David Braun, Alex Kestner, and Paul Marshall all look to be major forces on offense. Braun and Kestner both possess good puck-handling skills and will be constant threats to provide scoring. While Braun and Kestner utilize their quickness on the ice, Marshall will look to overpower the opposition as he will be an immovable force in front of the net. Also on offense are two superb sophomores in Eliot Taxman and Larry Gervoshev. They will be looked upon as major scoring threats after being role-players their freshman year. The offense will also look to junior Brian Hall to utilize his great vision on the ice to stretch defenses and provide a scoring spark. Another junior that will step into a key role on offense will be Nate Miller; his great work ethic has led to an increase in speed as well as strength.

Senior Bill Gascoigne will anchor this year’s defense. He will be counted on to provide a hard-hitting, aggressive attitude along with some added offense from his powerful slap shot. Junior Kenny Cebul will team with Gascoigne on defense and will bring his energetic attitude along with him. Cebul’s relentless attacking attitude will provide the defense with a boost of energy. Sophomores Dan Drobnick and John Kestner will step into key roles—both possess powerful shots and ruthless checking. Junior Curt Kassigie will be seen as a physical force with good hands that will provide punishing hits along the boards. Senior goalie Steve May will provide a wall that will be tough for the opposition to break through as he looks to be one of the top goalies in the area. He returns after a strong junior season.

This year’s team is eager to begin what looks to be a great year for University School hockey. Captain Pat Neundorfer puts it best, saying, “We’re looking forward to putting our creative players together and achieving success as a unit.”
Finishing with Heart

by SAM PIERCE
Class of 2005

Regardless of the losing record with which this year’s varsity football team ended, the team played hard every down this season and provided their fans with an exciting brand of football. The team was among the area leaders in yardage through the air all season, and many of us will remember the excitement of the 48-yard field goal to steal victory against Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin at the last second. The fans also remember the total domination of long-time US rival Kiski, on our home field, in a 17-0 win.

“Coach Stephens talked the whole season about how much heart this team had, and the win against Kiski proved it,” said Coach Garrett. The team went into the game with a 1-7 record but played what might have been their best game of the season to register the win.

Coach Garrett also argued that the 2-8 record really wasn’t a fair indicator of the season. “The Preppers faced one of the toughest schedules in the history of the program due to the recent strength of many long-time rivals,” he said. “This year’s team faced some of the best squads in the area in Villa Angela-St. Joseph, Hawken, and Western Reserve Academy.

The team will also have momentum for next season, Coach Garrett added. “With only 6 seniors on this year’s squad, many sophomores and juniors were given valuable game experience. And with the opening of the new weight room and field house, next year’s team will hopefully be among the best conditioned teams ever.”

Quarterback Jeff Terrel commands the offensive side of the ball with the call for the next play.