

Fall Sports Congratulations Special Section



Lady Comets earn 7th straight state XC title, Page 2B



Fatima boys repeat as state XC champs, Page 6B

**Pirates send
4 to state
meet
Page 10B**



KATIE KEILHOLZ



ALEXIS SLUSSER



MAKENNA WUELLING



SHANNON COWANS

Fatima sets girls record with 7th straight state title

Seven of the last 10 years have belonged to Fatima, specifically, the Lady Comets cross country team, which on Saturday set a new Missouri State High School Activities Association record with their seventh straight girls title, and they did it on a new course at Gans Creek.

The only other team with seven consecutive championships is Herculaneum, whose boys team accomplished that feat from 1977-83. Last year, number six gave Fatima a tie with Hamilton-Penney, which won its straight titles from 2004-09.

Coach Marc Bridges called it "quite an accomplishment," following Saturday's race, which saw Fatima beat out Father Tolton 53-63, as Lawson was third with 109 points and El Dorado Springs claimed fourth with 156.

"We knew it was going to be tight," said Bridges. "On paper, it was supposed to be three or four points."

Fatima senior Kendall Haller entered as the defending Class 2 state

champion, carrying on where her sister, Brianna Haller, left off, after the latter won the individual title all four years in which she competed.

This year, Kendall Haller finished in sixth in a time of 19:52.6.

Haller admitted she felt the pressure to repeat as state champion, but that didn't impact her race as she moved from 14th to ninth and finally to sixth at the finish line.

"I knew as long as I did my best, everyone would be proud of me," she said, adding the experience was emotional. "It is just unreal. Walking up to the stage, I got tears in my eyes. We did it."

Haller's career has seen her on the podium every year as an All-State athlete.

"I knew there would be fast times," said Haller. "All I had to do was my best and whatever happened would happen."

Alexis Fischer also finished as a four-time state medalist. She ran a time of 20:13.5 to earn 16th.

"Alexis has been a definite boost to our team for

the last four years," Bridges said.

Fellow senior Sierra Sankey earned all-state for the first time with a 19th-place time of 20:15.3, pushing herself hard throughout the race, moving up 16 spots to finish in the top 25.

Fatima claimed its seventh championship with a 33rd-place finish by Emma Bower (20:45.4) and a 36th-place finish by Kailey Woody (20:50.9).

"Good teams will always have good runners up front, and it comes down to the fourth, fifth, sixth runners," Bridges said. "I was real pleased with Kailey and Emma Bower really pushing hard to get into position. If they let off just a little, we don't get that trophy."

Sarah Groene placed 54th in 21:32.4 and Corinn Karst was 102nd in 22:40.4 to round out the Lady Comets, as freshmen Groene, Karst and Bower

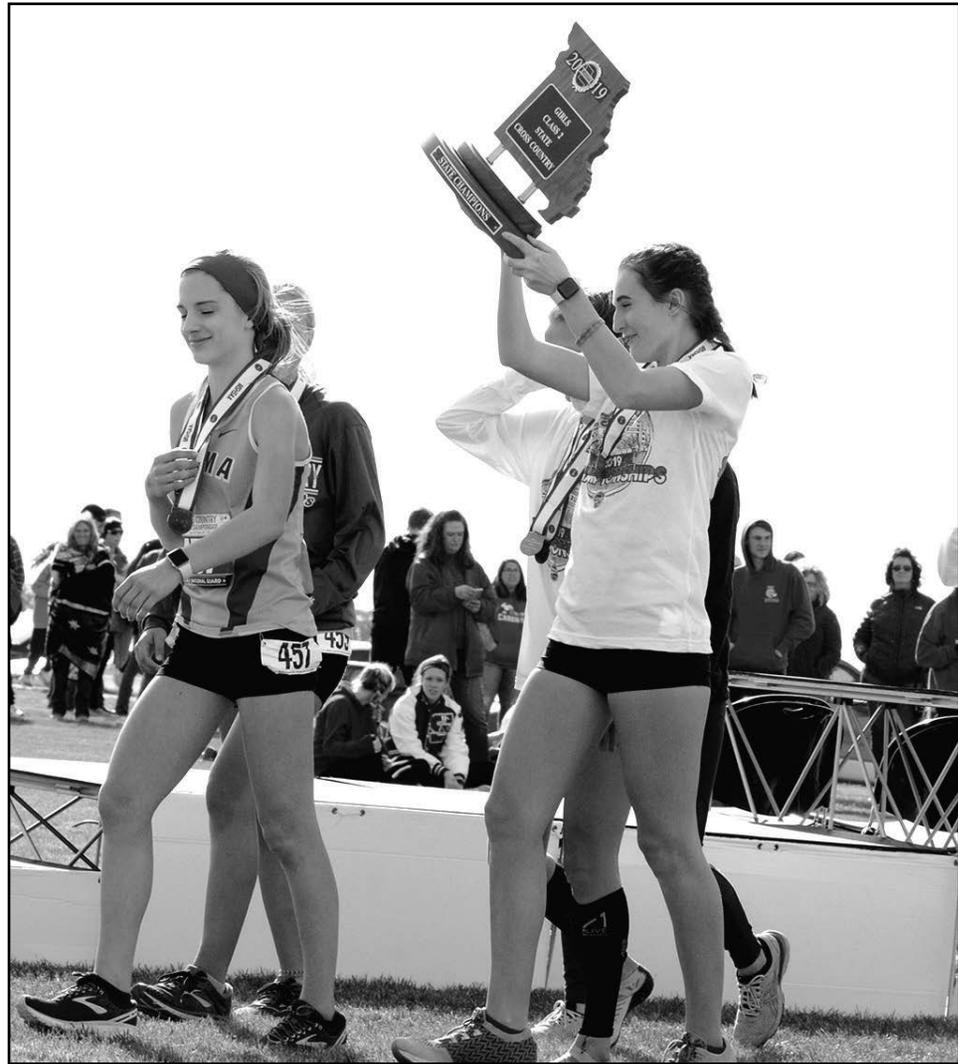


PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

KAILEY WOODY holds the first-place trophy high as the Lady Comets exit the podium following Saturday's medal ceremony at Gans Creek.

See 7th Title
Page 5B

We are proud of Fatima Girls on their seventh straight state title win and Fatima Boys on their second straight state championship!



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MEMBERS OF the 2019 state championship Lady Comets cross country team are Sarah Groene, Emma Bower, Madison Conley, Kendall Haller, Sierra Sankey, Alexis Fischer, Kailey Woody, Rachel Temmen and Corinn Karst.

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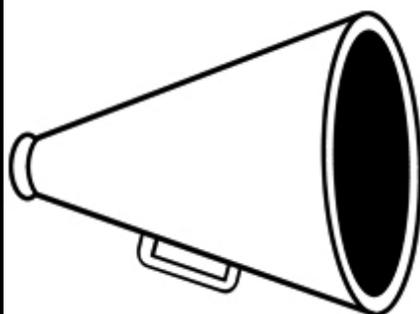
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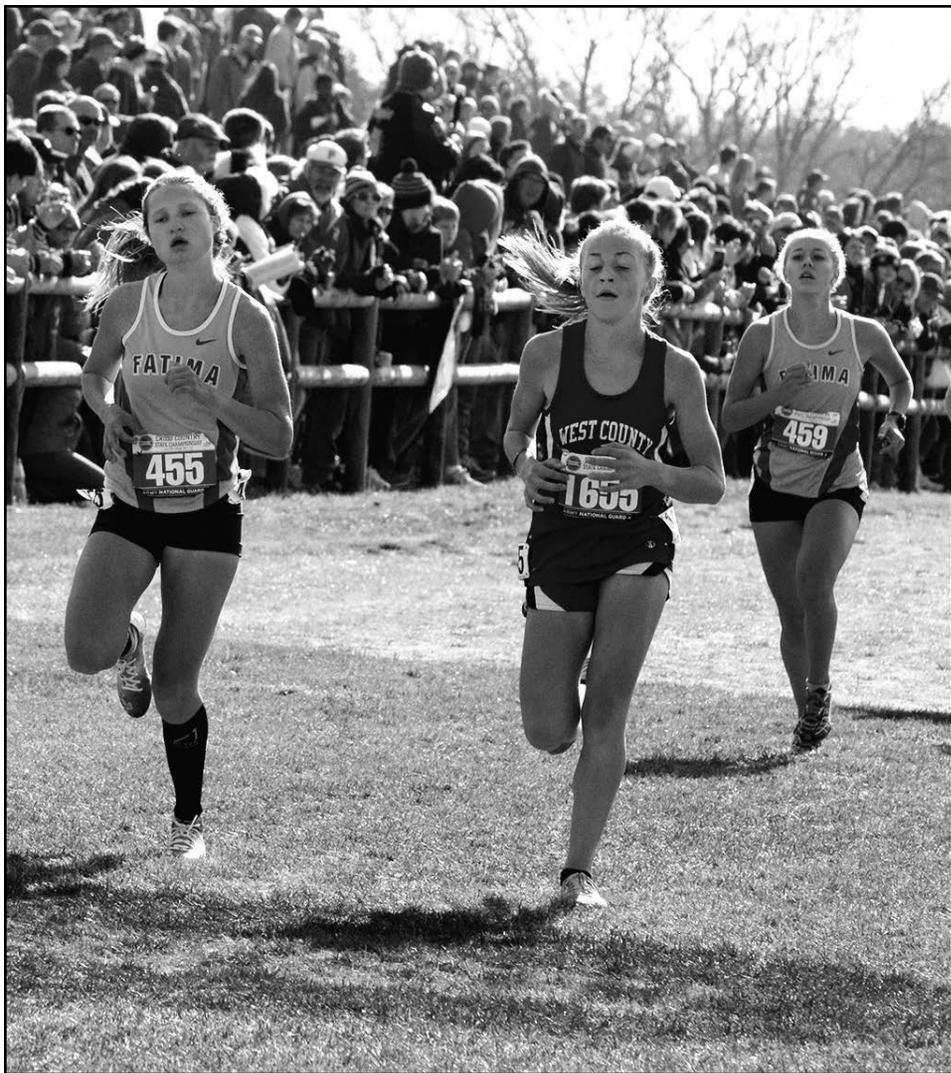
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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON



KENDALL HALLER gives a final push to pass this competitor for sixth place at Saturday's Class 2 state championship. Above, Alexis Fischer and Sierra Sankey near the finish line very close together. The trio earned All-State honors.

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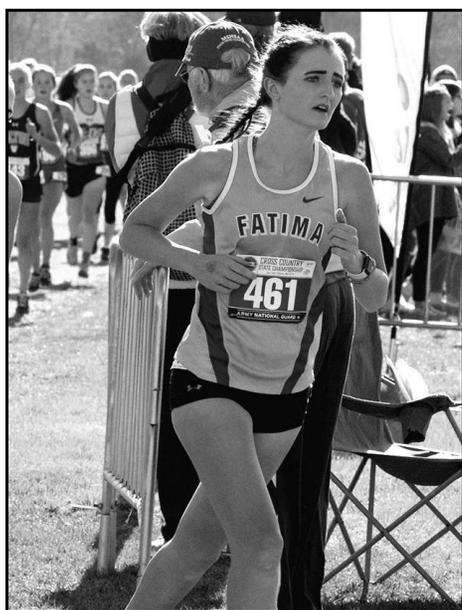
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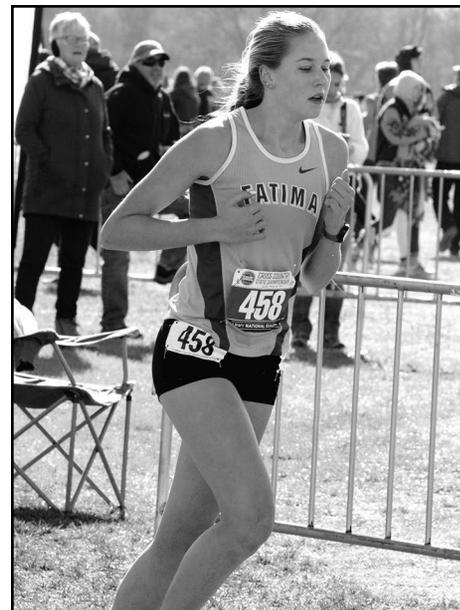
KAILEY WOODY



EMMA BOWER



SARAH GROENE



CORINN KARST

7th Title
From Page 2B

were state championship debut.

Fatima runners had a great day, as six recorded personal-best times on Saturday.

“What more do you want?” Bridges asked. “They go out and they run their best race of the year at the last race of the year. That’s what we try to do.”

Sankey added that teamwork plays a huge role.

“We do a lot of team bonding,” she added. “We’re all so competitive and don’t like to lose.”

The trio has worked together for many years, having grown up together as friends.

“A lot of it was sticking together as a team and using each other throughout the race,” said Sankey. “The back part is where all the decisions are made. It’s all about making the right decision to pass. It’s not like we have to but we will.”

In the final mile, Fatima

really shines. “The third mile at the old state course was that big hill, and that hill has helped us a lot,” said Haller.

Just like the boys, the Lady Comets used a meet at Gans Creek earlier this year as prep for state, and learned a lot about how to attack it.

“This course is beautiful,” said Bridges. “It’s a lot faster and lacks some of the challenges that Oak Hills had. That course was suited more to our style since we’re second-half runners. This course was a lot faster that maybe the Lady

Comets would like, but there was no surprise in what would be required.

The season-long game plan also included running at different courses more like Gans Creek.

“We raced on some flatter courses, a few faster courses,” Bridges said. “It helped out, it paid off.”

“We knew that the second loop was going to be a lot tougher than the first loop because it was longer, and that’s where the pain would start to set in,” Sankey added. “We used that experience to help push

ourselves more, and use it to kind of pace ourselves in the beginning, so we wouldn’t overdo it until the end.”

Fischer said the race at Camdenton was as fast as the race at state, which helped with training. “Everything has been based on flatter courses,” said Fischer. “For our team, the hillier the course, the better we do, but I think we really adjusted to the flat courses. We worked as a team and outcome was good.”

Fatima has set the bar very high among girls pro-

grams, and the Lady Comets will definitely be the squad others are gunning for next year. With five seniors graduating, the challenge will be there, but there’s also a lot of confidence.

“Next year, I think the girls have a chance of getting back on the podium,” Fischer said. “They’re just going to have to work hard, just like how we all came up together and worked hard from freshman year. It’s just building, and I know there’s a lot of pressure but they can do it.”

Congratulations

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Comets repeat as champs, claim 9th straight trophy

Not only did Fatima enter Saturday's Class 2 state cross country championship as the defending champs, the Comets also wanted to continue adding to its streak of top-four finishes. The boys accomplished both goals, winning again for the second straight year while collecting their ninth straight state plaque.

"Nine in a row, that's the kind of overwhelming," Fatima coach Marc Bridges said after the race. "The kids, they definitely feel some pressure with that sometimes. You just have to remind them that we have to do the work, come in and do the best we can do, and see what happens. Whatever happens, happens, and that's the way it's meant to be."

Fatima's dominance was evident throughout the race but as a sea of Blue & Gold crossed the line in a tight pack, the win was even more impressive as the Comets scored 77 points to beat out Steelville, which scored 115, East Newton

(118) and Hermann (122). "This was probably the tightest Class 2 boys race in a long time," Bridges said. "There weren't many points that separated second, third and fourth. Our boys ran well today."

Dawson Woehr and Lucas Laux both juniors, returned to the podium as all-state athletes. Woehr was seventh with a time of 16:25.3 to earn his second medal, and Laux turned in a ninth-place finish in 16:29.2 for his third straight medal. There were 173 runners in the field.

"Dawson and Lucas, they were back and forth all season," Bridges said. "Lucas has been a little bit banged up the last month or so, but they ran really well today."

Woehr said their competitive streak has been there all along. "We push each other and make each other go faster," he said.

"We've been training together since seventh grade," Laux added.

Both have continually improved since their fresh-

man year, when Laux was 14th and Woehr finished 35th. Last year, Woehr placed eighth, with Laux right behind him in ninth.

"For them to finish in the top 10 for the second year in a row, that's pretty exciting," Bridges said. "It leads our team, and the kids behind them push that much more just to try to help them out."

Not everyone agreed Fatima had a shot at repeating as state champs.

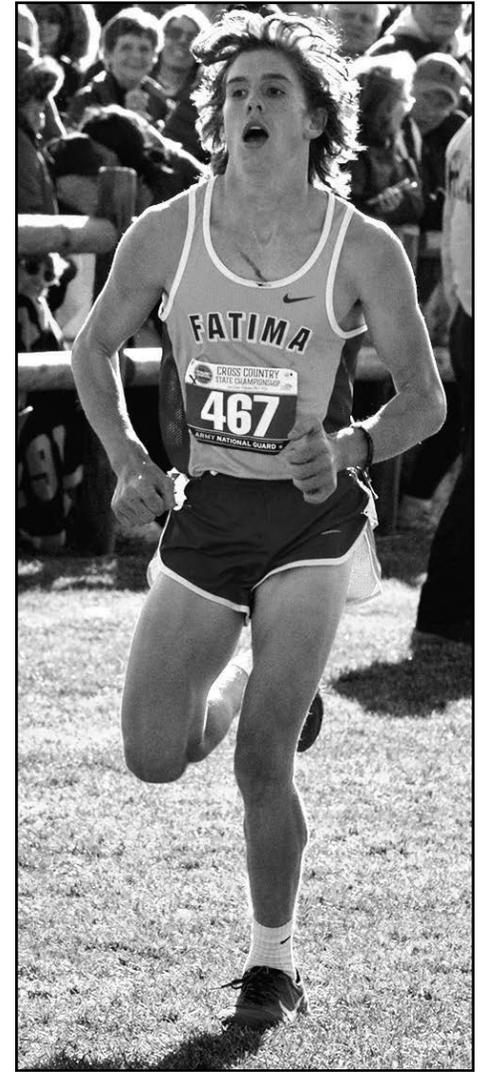
"We didn't let the rankings get into our heads," said Laux.

"They under-rank us a lot, but we use that to fire us up," Woehr added.

Fatima's pack followed shortly thereafter, as junior Caden Haslag posted a 29th-place time of 17:07.7, followed closely by senior Elijah Selin in 30th place in a time of 17:08.9.

"That's huge," Bridges said. "When your three and four runners are finishing

**See Trophy
Page 9B**



DAWSON WOHR fights for every inch on his way to a seventh-place finish in the Class 2 boys state cross country championship Saturday with Lucas Laux earning ninth.



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Sports Congrats

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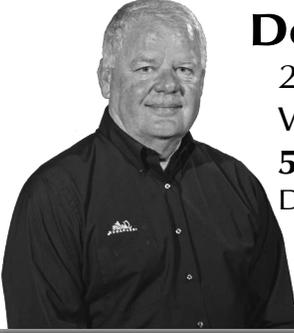
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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

CADEN HASLAG posted a 29th-place time of 17:07.7, followed closely by senior Elijah Selin in 30th place at the Class 2 state meet Saturday at Gans Creek. Jake Boyce, below, who did not finish the Class 2 district race at Linn, returned strong to place 50th in a time of 17:28.9 as Fatima's fifth runner. Lower left is Dean Hagenhoff, who was 66th in a time of 17:39.7, and senior Josh Even, lower right, earned 92nd place in a time of 18:08.8.



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FATIMA CLAIMED its second straight state cross country title on Saturday. This is the third championship in nine years, and the ninth consecutive top-four finish for the Comets. Team members are Coach Marc Bridges, Jake Boyce, Dean Hagenhoff, Caden Haslag, Dawson Woehr, Elijah Selin, Josh Even, Lucas Laux, Michael Kloeppel, Gavin Satterfield, Thomas Libbert, Eli Froning, Collin Bridges and Asst. Coach Levi Maxwell.

Trophy
Page 6B

that low in the points, it makes a big difference.”

Woehr was happy to seem them. “We saw all that yellow coming in before the other guys,” he said.

Junior Jake Boyce, who did not finish the Class 2 district race at Linn, returned strong to place 50th in a time of 17:28.9 as Fatima’s fifth runner.

“The fact that our fifth runner was the best fifth runner in the race, you win races with your fifth runner,” Bridges said.

Boyce beat out Steelville’s fifth runner, Vance Smelser, who finished 69th place.

Junior Dean Hagenhoff was 66th in a time of 17:39.7, and senior Josh Even earned 92nd place in a time of 18:08.8.

Everyone on the squad did their part in securing Fatima’s third state title in nine years.

“There were so many teams that were in that running, if our boys slipped a little bit, it was going to be a real close race,” Bridges said. “But they didn’t. They ran really well, top to bottom. Pretty exciting for them to finish the way they did.”

This was not the first time the Comets have run at Gans Creek, with most of them (6) competing there earlier this year in preparation for the state meet.

“This course, we had to get out a little faster than we maybe wanted to,” Bridges said. “We changed up a little bit of our racing this season to prepare us for it. We raced on some flatter courses, a few faster courses.”

Laux said the course was in better condition Saturday than in the previous meet. “Plus the state atmosphere just pushes you to do better,” he added.

Woehr agreed. “It helps you shave seconds off your time,” he said.

Laux and Woehr agreed that much of the success Fatima has enjoyed comes from Coach Bridges.

“He’s such a good coach,” said Woehr. “He really pushes you to improve.”

“He’s always motivating us,” Laux added. “He puts in a lot of hours, and is

always helping us find ways to get faster.”

Spectators have likely noticed that the manes sported by the Comets this year have grown each week, culminating with the state meet on Saturday.

“It’s been a tradition that we go all season without cutting our hair,” said Laux. “We get up there on the podium and we all

have shaggy hair.”

The boys said they planed to cut their hair on Sunday.

While this season comes to an end, there is still plenty of optimism among Fatima runners, especially Woehr and Laux, who will return as seniors to lead next year’s

team.

“We’re so deep, and we have such young talent,” Laux said. “We’re only losing two seniors this year and we’ve got a lot of young talent coming in.”

“We’re a hungry group of boys,” Woehr added. “We want it bad.”

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Keilholz recovers from ordeal at State; Chamois runners do well

Chamois junior Katie Keilholz has recovered from her physical ordeal at the state cross country meet on Saturday, during which she was poised for an All-State finish, likely in the top 10, when with 20 to 30 meters to go, she ran out energy, and fell.

"She tried to get back up but with her 100% effort, she could not continue the race," said Coach John Leach. "It goes to show all athlete is that life does not go your way all the time. You must continue to push through life's difficulties. You will become a better person because of these difficulties."

Keilholz said she felt very good going into the race, and was running the best race of the season.

"I don't know what happened," she said. "I came around the corner and I could see the finish line, and I was pushing with everything I had, but then my legs started to shake, and my arms didn't want to work. I was having trouble seeing, and everything kind of narrowed down. It just

got to the point where I couldn't do anything and I fell."

With runners streaming around her, Keilholz regained her feet for a moment and tried to move forward but fell again.

"I just kept trying to get up," she said. "I heard someone yelling at me to crawl, so I tried that, but I had absolutely no energy left."

At that point, lying on her back, two medical staffers came to her aid, and helped her off the course.

"They were telling me to help them, and I tried," said Keilholz. "My brain was telling my legs to move, but they didn't."

After being checked out by on-site medical personnel, it was suspected that she was severely dehydrated, and provided fluids to equalize her system.

"They gave me a drink with a lot of electrolytes, and that helped," said Keilholz.

After the race, Keilholz said she felt a little better, and later, after eating, she felt close to normal, but it

took a few days to fully recover.

"It could have been a lot worse," she said. "I feel like I did the best I could. I have another year to get back and finish my career strong."

Leach, who also coaches Keilholz in basketball, said he reduced some of the running drills for the cross country athletes in preparation for state.

"They were suffering from tired muscles," he said. "They were running two miles a day already for cross country, so I tried to go easy on them in basketball practice."

Whatever the reason for the situation, Leach said he's grateful Keilholz is okay.

"Life kicks you in the butt sometimes, and reminds you that things can happen without warning," he said. "Katie came into the state meet running her best. She had the will to get into the top 25 and to be

**See Chamois
Page 11B**



PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

MAKENNA WUELLING, Alexis Slusser and Katie Keilholz warm up before the start of the Class 1 girls race at last weekend's state cross country meet at Gans Creek in Columbia. The trio was primed for a good race and turned in solid times. An unfortunate issue near the end of the race left Keilholz unable to finish, but her pace and position at the time had her likely placing in the top 10.



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Sports Congrats

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13, 2019 ■ PAGE 11B



SHANNON COWANS

Chamois
From Page 10B

All-State. Her times were very good coming in. You never know what will happen in a race and how that goes down, but I believe if she had been able to finish, she would have been All-State."

Senior Alexis Slusser had a very good year, finishing 51st in 22:53.2.

"She increased her time in most of the meets and ran one of her best times at the state," said Coach Leach. "I'm very proud of her and I will miss her very much. It has been a joy to have coached her for the last six years in cross-country."

MaKenna has improved her during the year and did a great job to get to state, finishing Saturday's race in 24:32.4 to earn 104th place.

"I am very proud of the way she kept pushing herself in practice and in the meets," said Leach. "Getting out of districts and going to state was great for her. I'm proud of how she hung in there even though she does not like to run."

In the boys race, Chamois was represented by freshman Shannon Cowans, who ran a time of 19:49.0 for 119th place.

"Shannon didn't run his best but had a good time on this course," said Leach. "I'm very proud that he got to state as a freshman. Next year will be good for him because he has this year to look back on and make changes to his running."

Overall, Leach said he is very pleased with all of his runners this year. "I could not ask for better people and runners," he said. "I am looking forward to next year very much."

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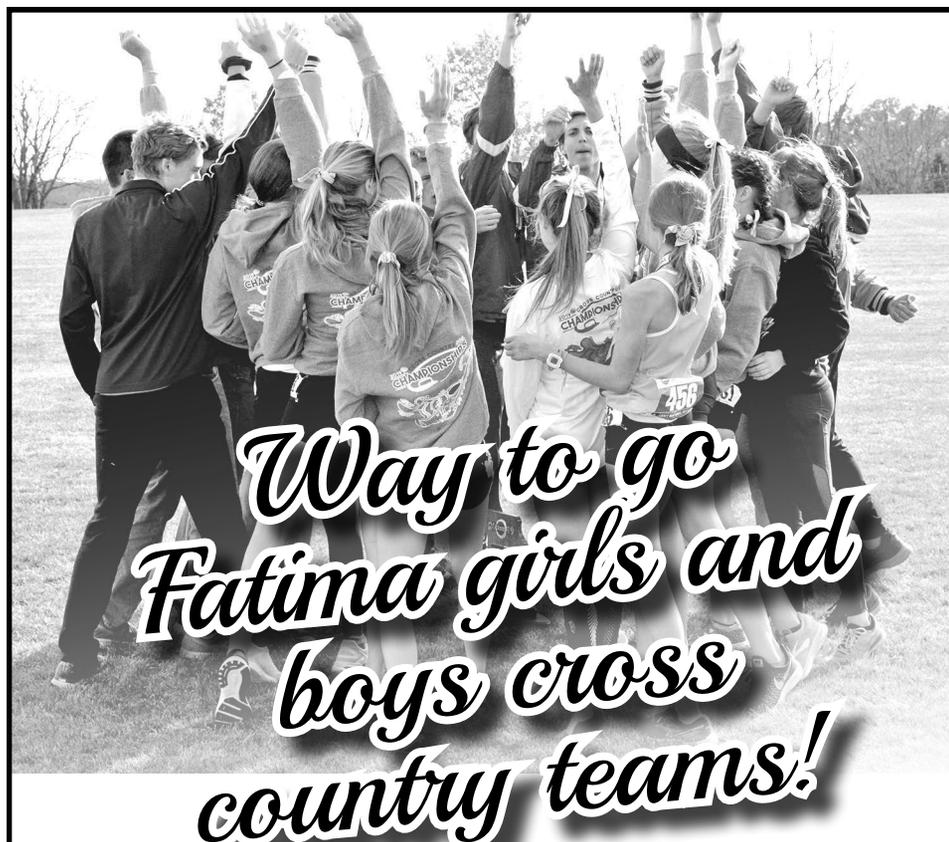
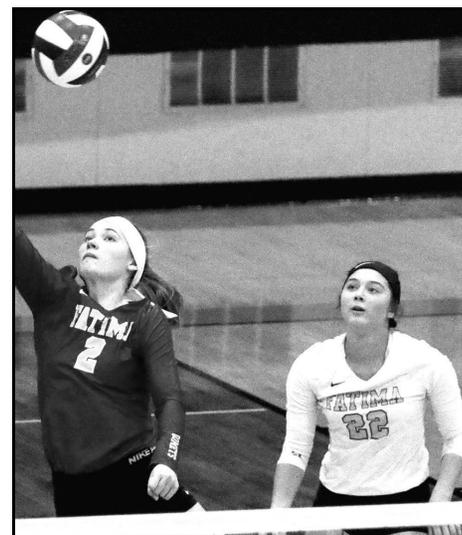
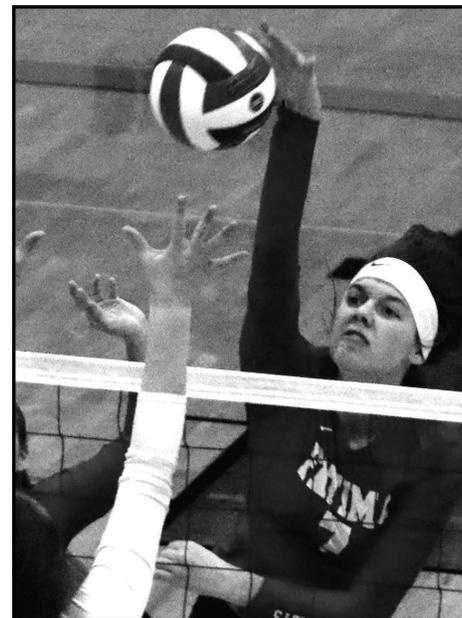
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TEAM PHOTO BY JACOB WARDEN

FATIMA (18-6-4) ended its volleyball season in the quarterfinal match with a loss to Hermann in a very tough match. Coach Lisa McKim said she is very pleased with the improvements made through the year. Fatima claimed its ninth straight district title following last Tuesday's win over Linn in the championship match at Belle. Team members are, from left to right, front row, Jenna Reinkemeyer, Haley Brandt, Maria Verslues, Avery Orscheln, Ellie Crede, Allison Samson and Abby Gentges; and in the back row, Manager Hailey Dickneite, Elsie Bax, Hannah Moeller, Jorey Luebbert, Claire Nilges, Kendal Nilges, Lacy Bertels, Hanna Kremer, Manager Sabrina Luebbering, Coach Lisa McKim and Asst. Coach Curtis Brandt. The Lady Comets knocked off Maplewood-Richmond Heights, 25-14, 25-14, in the sectional game. The Lady Blue Devils entered the sectional at 24-2. Shown in action during the playoffs are Kendal Nilges (top right), Elli Crede (lower right) and Jorey Luebbert (right). Fatima had several big wins this year, including a straight-set victory over previously undefeated Blair Oaks, and against Helias.



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FATIMA HAD to battle but defeated Eugene 8-6 to claim the Class 2, District 10 championship at Richland. The Lady Comets lost to Warsaw, 6-5, in the sectional round to end the season at 17-10. Fatima defeated Iberia, 7-2, in the opening round.

Congratulations

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PHOTOS BY JACOB WARDEN

LINN EARNED second place at last week's Class 2, District 8 volleyball tournament. This is the first time in the program's history the Lady Wildcats have earned a top-two trophy in volleyball. Team members are, from left to right, front row, Chloe Rhoden, Amber Hueste, Nicole Deeken, Lauren Hock and Renee Jacquin; and in the back row, Asst. Coach Sharlet Peterson Claire Baker, Lexie Heidbrink, Alexis Wolfe, Brook Scheulen, Grace Brandt, Elizabeth Brandt, Samantha Brandt and Coach Michelle Kelley. Highlights this year include a second-place finish at the Belle tournament. Shown in district action against Fatima are Grace Brandt and Lexie Heidbrink (far right).



Congrats on a great season!! NAJ

WAY TO GO

Fatima Girls and Boys
Cross Country Team
on your state championships!

- Fatima Volleyball on your win at Sectionals! -
- Linn Volleyball on your win at Districts! -
- Linn and Fatima Softball teams on your District Titles! -

We are proud of you Chamois, Linn and Fatima on your fall seasons!



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Sports Congrats

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13, 2019 ■ PAGE 15B



PHOTO BY DONNA THOENEN

THE LADY Wildcats won the Class 2, District 8 tournament and went on to play Father Tolton in the sectional round. Linn lost that game, 6-1, but had a successful season, finishing with a record of 17-12. The Lady Cats won their tournament this year, and defeated New Haven twice in the same week, once with a walk-off grand slam in regular-season action, and again 10-0 in the district championship. Team members are Rachel Keilholz, Darby Nolting, Kennedy Frank, Macy Branson, Autumn Baker, Destiny Riley, Lindsey Brandt, Elyse Klouzek, Riley Senevey, Jessica Keilholz Abby Sweezer, Kayla Arlen, Lilly Meyer, Allison Klebba, Abby Klebba, Aushara Hostetler, Annaliese Bowser and Delaney Schmidt. The team was coached by Coach Renee Heidger and Ryan Rost.

*Congratulations to Fatima Girls
on their seventh straight state
title and to Fatima Boys on their
second straight state title!*

We are proud of all the area students for their fall sports seasons!



Dale A. Logan, F.L.C.E.
Field Agent
573-644-3124
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*We are proud of all the area sports
teams on their fall seasons!*

CONGRATULATIONS!



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CONGRATULATIONS!

*to Fatima Comets,
Linn Wildcats and
Chamois Pirates on your
fall sports seasons!*



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CONGRATULATIONS

Fatima Cross Country Teams for winning state!

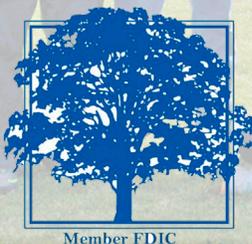


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Congratulations Fatima Girls and Boys Cross Country on being State Champions!

Special Congratulations to all those who each earned All-State Honors!

We are also proud of Linn, Chamois and Fatima fall sports teams on your great seasons!



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