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Cross Country Title Claimed

Gould Helps Reynolds Win

By JACK MACAULEY
Sentinel Sports Reporter

Reynolds cross country Coach Norm Trzaskoma says he found out Saturday morning that "there are more factors involved in winning meets than just having the best athletes."

The Demons, heavily favored to win their third straight state title in the grueling sport Saturday over the University of North Carolina course, were pressed to the hilt of their individual abilities when junior Steve Eldridge dropped out of the race at the halfway point due to sickness.

Unaware that his teammate had fallen, senior David Waddill came on to finish fourth overall while teammates David Huffman and Jimmy Gould kicked home with strong finishes and provided the Demons with a terrifyingly close 57-60 victory over Raleigh Broughton for the championship.

"Things didn't look too good at the halfway mark, especially when I found out something had happened to Steve," Trzaskoma said. "Even after the race was over, I was convinced we had lost to Broughton. His (the Broughton Coach's) times just looked better than mine."

The finishing kicks of Huffman and Gould were both vital to the team win since both nipped Broughton runners within 20 yards of the finish line. Huffman finished ninth overall with a time of 15:32 in his first strong race since pulling knee ligaments in practice some six weeks ago.

Gould was also coming off an injury, a broken collarbone suffered in an October automobile accident, and was



NORM TRZASKOMA
... surprised ...

not even expected to make Reynolds' top five counters in the state meet. But the loss of Eldridge made Gould the most critical competitor. His 37th place finish meant the championship.

"We couldn't have won it without Jimmy," Trzaskoma said. "He came through when we had to have it."

Other Reynolds finishers were senior Matt Williams who came in a disappointing 29th with a 16:12 time; John Hoots finished 31st with a 16:18; and Harry Wadsley was the only non-counter, finishing 46th at 16:51.

Raleigh Sanderson's Billy Lynch handed Greensboro Grimsley's Dan Morton his first loss of the season in the individual battle. Lynch won by 15 seconds, 14:52 to 15:07. Jimmy Cooper of Charlotte

South Mecklenburg edged Waddill at the finish line (15:21 to 15:22) for third place.

Reynolds, which had won all of its previous meets this season by wide margins, finished the year undefeated in 10 meets. Overall the Demons beat 62 different teams and lost to none. Reynolds has not lost in cross country since early in 1975 against Grimsley.

Waddill, Williams and Wadsley are the only seniors so a strong nucleus returns for a

fourth straight run at the state title next fall. Two junior varsity runners, Billy Creech and Mills Crosland, plus a host of standouts from the city 9-10 champs at Paisley will also join the team.

"I'm real high on about four or five of the juniors coming in — I think we'll be real strong again," Trzaskoma remarked. "The fact that we almost lost Saturday should help guard against over-confidence next year too."