

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW '95

Cross-country preview W - Aug. 16, 95

Boys runners to watch

Juniors **Scott Williams** and **Richard Hill** of Charlotte Country Day look like state title contenders. Charlotte Latin's **David Coyle** was all-state last year. Providence Day's **Ben Hovis** finished second in the state meet last year and teammate **Ryan Nunley** was 10th.

Brian Lesesky of Providence is the top returning public school runner based on performances from a year ago. Others to watch are **Shane Walts** of East Mecklenburg, **Chris Mayo** of Providence and **Mike Mauriello** of South Mecklenburg.

Girls runners to watch

Latin's top two runners return, **Shanna Dickerson** and **Dana Lawing**. Providence's **Carol Haskin** finished fourth in the state as a freshman, but missed much of last season with anemia. Co-captain **Erin White** returns for Providence and she was all-conference last year. Myers Park's **Courtney Horn** is one to watch, as are East Mecklenburg's **Michelle Ruble**, **Shana Jung** and **Mary Van Hellemont**, and South Mecklenburg's **Rebecca Daughtridge**. Also watch North Mecklenburg's **Natalie Hollar** and West Mecklenburg's **Kim Robinson** and **Stephanie Alexander**.

Who could be better?

West Charlotte's girls, with co-captain **Taryn Busch**, return eight of 10 runners. Many of them ran 3 miles for the first time last August. And Providence's boys team is being called a state championship favorite in preseason. Providence's girls get better with Texas transfer **Christine Zemak** and New Jersey transfer **Jen Derosa**.

Hot coach

In six years with Providence, coach **Kurt Niedenzu** has won four conference titles, two regionals and two state championships. His teams have twice been regional runner-ups and have finished third in the state once.

Are girls stronger this year?

"In any year," says **Larry McAfee** of East Mecklenburg, "top guys runners tend to be seniors." In last year's regionals, five of the top 12 boys runners were underclassmen — but eight of the top 12 girls were underclassmen.

Notes

Olympic didn't field a girls team last year. Newcomer **Adrian Smith** will try to get the Trojans going. Girls coach **Bennett King** will also coach the boys.

Dates, events to watch for

Wendy's Invitational at McAlpine Park, Oct. 7; Gaston County Invitational, site TBA, Oct. 10; CISAA Relays, Oct. 13; CISAA conference meet, Oct. 20; MEGA-7 4A conference championships, Oct. 25; Southwestern 4A meet, Oct. 26; NCISAA state meet, Oct. 28; 4A Regionals at McAlpine, Nov. 3; 4A finals at McAlpine, Nov. 11; Foot Locker Regional Meet at McAlpine, Nov. 25.

— Langston Wertz Jr.