

Oct 31, 2014

# New course challenges Section V contenders

JIM CASTOR

Nick Ciolkowski promised himself two things for this weekend.

» Respect the deceptively difficult new sectional cross country course at Victor High School.

» File the application to his first-choice college on time.

Saturday's the day for both, and McQuaid's All-Greater Rochester senior says he's wrapped his mind around them.

"Last time," Ciolkowski said of his introduction to the hilly Ontario County campus layout, "the course beat me. This time, I intend to beat it."

His crash-and-burn finish at the Victor Invitational Sept. 20 — he dropped to the dirt and rolled across the finish line in exhaustion — was "disappointing, frustrating" in his words.

"It's a pretty killer course, and I wasn't ready for it. It was 78 degrees. I underestimated it, went out way too fast and paid for it."

"That was ages ago now, so I intend to do a lot better (than his 8<sup>th</sup>-place 16-minute, 54-second finish). The only other priority this week is get my application in. Villanova's my top choice, and Saturday's the deadline for a lot of schools."

With Webster Thomas junior Nick Neamtu expected to be right on Ciolkowski's hip, and McQuaid teammates Donovan "Donnie" Glavin and Matt Brien right behind, the boys Section V Class A individual battle should come right to the wire. Ditto for the team title, with Thomas (trying for a two-peat), McQuaid and Fairport all in the mix, and their No. 5 finisher probably deciding it. At counties that was Fletcher Lill for Thomas and Macrae Kozody for Fairport, while Aidan Blake, Joe Doerr and Luke Curran have been trading off No. 5 for the Knights.

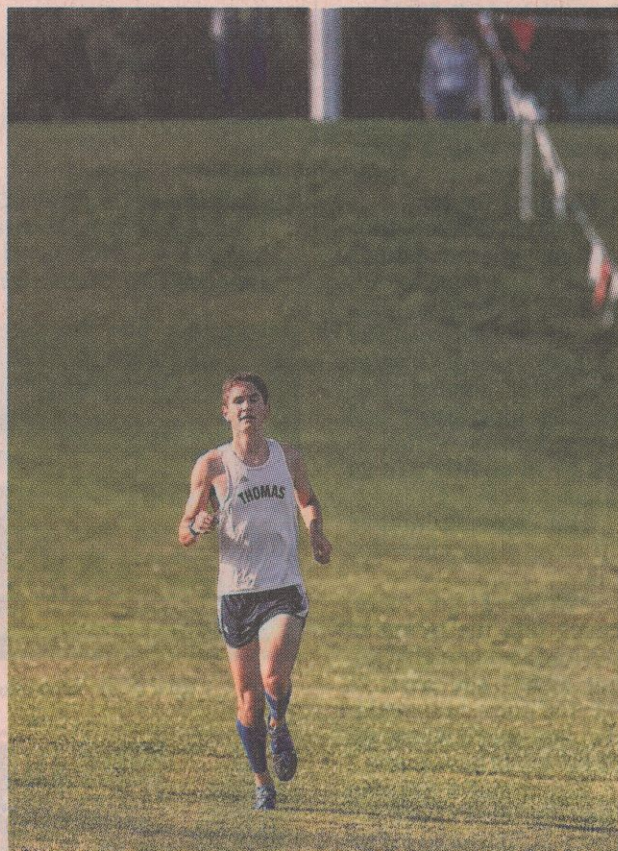
"We're in the mix, that's for sure," said McQuaid coach Todd Stewart. "I like our chances. After a tough early season, Nick's running great now." McQuaid's last sectional title was in 2010, led by AGR Runner of the Year and state champion Robert Hurlbut.

Rush-Henrietta senior Alexandra "Alex" Cooper has held a firm grip on No. 1 in Monroe County all season, and is favored to win her first girls sectional title in the post-Katie Lembo era.

Cooper (17:53) served notice Saturday at counties to Webster Thomas sophomore Amanda Vestri (18:36) that she'll be hard to beat in Class A, which Providence freshman Lembo won three of the last four years. A quick early pace and then cruise control, even fighting off a speck of dirt in her left eye, carried Cooper one step closer to her ultimate goal — a return trip to Nike Cross nationals in Oregon.

Churchville-Chili sophomore Anna Kostarellis has the "B" title in sight with Brockport's Autumn Albrecht while Pittsford Mendon's boys, top-ranked in the state, are seeking their third straight title but first under new coach Chris Compson.

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ADRIAN KRAUS

Webster Thomas' Nick Neamtu is a contender for the Section V Class A boys title on Saturday in Victor.

## Top contenders

### BOYS

**Class A:** Nick Neamtu (Webster Thomas jr.), Nick Ciolkowski (McQuaid sr.), Donovan Glavin (McQuaid jr.). **B:** Griffin Hess (Pittsford Mendon jr.), Henry Burton (PM jr.), Paul Dellinger (Brighton so.), Isaac Goodman (PM jr.), Britt Kaukeinen (Irondequoit jr.), Matt Geraci (Honeoye Falls-Lima sr.), Drew Schmitt (Bri jr.). **C:** Martin Beadle (Holley sr.), Joseph Northup\* (Waterloo sr.). **DD:** Dawson Bathgate (East Rochester jr.), Everett Geiger (Caledonia-Mumford sr.), Eric Wright (Warsaw jr.), Israel Byler (Addison sr.), Ryan Daudelin (ER sr.). **D:** Alex Hogue\* (Wheatland-Chili jr.).

### GIRLS

**A:** Alex Cooper (Rush-Henrietta sr.), Amanda Vestri (Webster Thomas so.), Siobhan Quinn (R-H sr.), Ellie Songer (WT jr.). **B:** Anna Kostarellis (Churchville-Chili so.), Autumn Albrecht (Brockport sr.), Mary Visca (Pittsford Sutherland sr.), Mary Barger\* (PM sr.). **C:** Meghan Curtin\* (Wayland-Cohocton jr.), Audrey Button (Marcus Whitman sr.). **DD:** Anna Warner (Notre Dame Batavia sr.), Cameron Perry (Pembroke so.), Brenna Lyons (Addison sr.), Shealyn Doody (Red Jacket sr.). **D:** Eileen Reinhardt (Harley-Allendale Columbia so.), Sylvia Thompson (Keshequa so.), Morgan Evarts (Avoca fr.).

\*-defending champions.