

# R.E.S.P.E.C.T for XC

## Cross Country looking for recognition

By: Nick Groman

All lazy people know the word that pains them the most...running. But for the people who like to run, there is a sport that is their calling: cross country.

"Cross country is a sport of the gods!" said junior running sensation Peter Werle. "It takes a lot of strength and determination to even finish the race, let alone win one."

The Lions are coached this year by first time coach, math teacher Rylan Shebesta.

"I took the cross country job because of my experiences as a runner in college," said Shebesta. "I just enjoy running and I feel that it is a sport that everyone can do."

Shebesta's hopes for the team this year is to win the conference title and for all runners to improve their times.

"I feel that we have a strong team this year, and we have a really good shot at succeeding. But I also just

want everyone on the team to improve their times. Even if it is just a slight improvement, it is still an accomplishment," he said.

"Shebesta is doing a great job at coaching," said Werle, "For his first year of coaching high school cross country, he seems to know what he is doing."

Senior captain "Big" Ben Werle also agreed that Shebesta is doing a great job this year coaching.

"Shebesta seems to be starting a powerhouse cross country team for the coming years. Look out for them!"

Ben Werle is looking to lead the cross country team this year.

"I plan on the entire team developing into great runners this year. We have a lot of young talent, like Tim Hall and Nick Gumbert, who could one day be as good as me. But our main goal as a team for this year is to beat Goshen and win the conference title."

Despite having two state qualifiers the past two years in a row, a couple of cross country runners believe that they have been neglected.

I'm a little disappointed in our school and community towards supporting our cross country team," said Peter Werle. "Even though we still give 100% every race and practice, I think we get the short end of the stick and have to wear girls' jerseys from the 1980's. But other than that, I am still proud to run for the school and under coach Shebesta."

Ben Werle also agreed that the girls' jerseys are also a problem for Cross Country.

"People may wonder why we wear these girl's jerseys? The fact of the matter is that the 1980's mens jerseys are just so shredded that that is all we have left! I mean, after running a three mile race it takes me almost 10 minutes to remove my jersey because it is so tight! A runner should not



Go! Front row: Tyler Behymer, Deven Showalter, Nathan Humfleet. Back row: Luke Sexon, Peter Werle, Nick Gabbard, Stevem Tremper, Coach Rylan Shebesta

have to go through this!"

"But the main problem with cross country is the lack of respect we receive," said Werle. "I have been trying to change this travesty of injustice towards cross country and also the track team (but that's another story) for a long time. We don't mind the lack of attention, but we like to

get the occasional necessities that each team affiliated with New Richmond deserves. Yes, even the A-Team. But this is just one cross country/ proud/ New Richmond student athlete/ senior team captain, "Big" Ben Werle's opinion."



Tennis Team: Front--Mengtian Ye, Sarah Haun. Middle--Tasha Liegel, Kaitlyn Reid, Tessa Ober, Katie Bird. Back--Tiffany Sturgil, Danielle Grever, Colleen Grimes, Sarah Clancy, Melissa Ohntrup, Coach Tina Grippa. Photo/R. Glutz.

Walking off the court, racket bags slung across two shoulders, dragging feet, staring at the ground, wondering what went wrong... that's what the girls' tennis team does to their opponents.

Coached by middle school teacher, Tina Grippa, the tennis team is yet to lose a match this season. Grippa and most of the players believe their success is due to their experience and hard work.

## Tennis team enjoying league success

### Girls band together for victories

By Heather Newberry

"Everyone works hard at practice and that's a big part of it. The girls have a goal to be undefeated this year and their working for it," said Grippa.

"Everyone has played for three or four years so we know what we are doing. Our experience helps a lot," said senior captain Tiffany Sturgill.

With their current record being 5-0, the expectations for the rest of the season are high.

"I expect all of the players to work hard and to try their best everyday, that doesn't change throughout the season," said Grippa.

"We want to remain undefeated this season, so we are giving 110 percent every day," said junior Tessa Ober.

Grippa, who has coached the girls' tennis team for four years now, said that she believes the biggest competition for the Lions this season is

Bethel.

"Right now, Bethel is 7-1. We've given them their only loss," she said.

Even though Bethel may be tough competition, players said the match they are looking forward to the most is against Western Brown.

"We tied Western Brown for first place in league last year. We beat them once and they beat us once. We want to beat them both times this year," said senior captain Tasha Liegel.

"Adding to their goal of being undefeated, the Lions would also like to take first in league, but alone this year, no ties. In order to reach their goals, players plan to continue what they are doing now.

"We need to keep hustling in practice. We don't need to make any changes, we just need to keep up the

hard work," said junior Kaitlyn Reid. Leading the Lions, playing first singles is junior Kaitlyn Reid and playing second singles is junior Katie Bird. Playing first doubles is Tasha Liegel and Tiffany Sturgill. Grippa said there are several players filling in at second doubles.

"So far, Sarah Clancy (junior), Tessa Ober (junior), and Melissa Onthrup [spelling] (junior), have played second doubles. Dannie Grever (senior), Taylor Gillespie (junior) and Mengtian Ye (senior) will also be playing second doubles," she said.

Members of the team said this year is their favorite year so far.

"This year has been the most fun. There's a smaller group of people on the team, so we're really close and we've all played together at least three years," said junior Katie Bird.

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