

Sports

Rouch, Minton pace Warriors

By DAVE STRAUB
Sports Editor

Where individual performance seems most important, a team concept can be found. Take Wawasee cross country runners Carl Rouch and Troy Minton. They have their goals. They also have team goals.

As seniors, Rouch and Minton are veterans of a solid Warrior cross country unit - one that has claimed nine of 11 meets as well as capturing the Culver Invitational this past weekend. Last year, Wawasee was 11-3 and has garnered similar records in previous campaigns.

Team goals obviously work. "It's an individual sport," Rouch said of cross country. He is a three-year letterman in addition to being an All-Northern Lakes Conference performer in 1984. "But it's also team competitive in that we all push each other when we run. The better runners you practice with, the faster you will be because your ability level increases. That's good for the team since we all try to finish together as close as we can to win meets. We always like to have a leading pack of runners to finish well," he added.

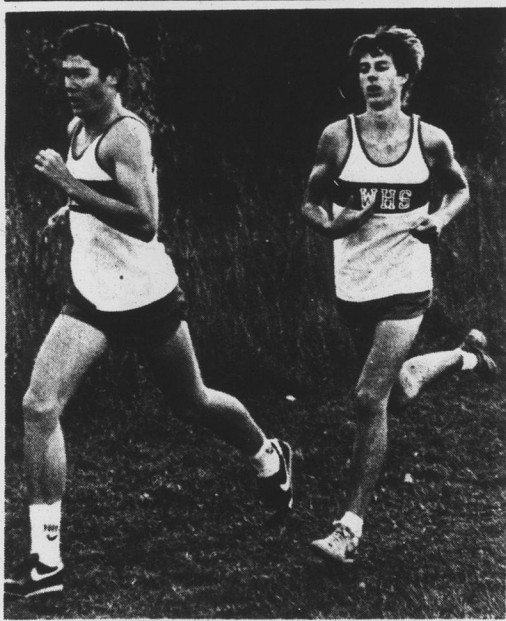
Said Minton: "There is a team concept involved because the competition gets you motivated." Troy is a four-year letterman and a steady competitor in all meets, whether it be dual, double dual or an invitational.

Since Rouch and Minton are experienced runners, they would like to see the Warriors advance to sectional, regional and semi-state competition. A lofty goal; yet both feel Wawasee has the depth and talent to do it.

Personally, Rouch would like to duplicate his all-conference form of last season, but feels this will be more difficult since he is coming off a recent ligament injury. "I'm kind of behind right now," he said. "But if I come on strong, I think I can do it and I'll see what happens from there. As of now, I feel no restrictions from my injury and I'm doing well."

Minton, too, is shooting for all-conference honors and realizes that much of this "depends on how well I do at the conference meet." The NLC meet will be hosted by Plymouth next Thursday. So Rouch and Minton know they must excel from now through post-season action.

Warrior Close-Up



CARL ROUCH AND TROY MINTON

Presently, both are clocked at the low 17-minute range for a 5,000-meter course, which is solid. "Courses vary a lot," said Minton. "You can feel most comfortable running on a slow course than a fast one, so faster times are not always the most important thing. You have to have a feel for the sport, too as well as being a good distance runner."

Team unity is another strength of the sport. Rouch and Minton agree that Wawasee has a healthy, competitive atmosphere which consists of athletes as well as close friends. "We're closer than most would think," explained Rouch. "The sport helps us develop a good relationship with teammates and we're all good friends."

Rouch got interested in cross country after having a good experience with spring track as a freshman. On the other hand, Minton has competed since seventh grade. His father, Jerry, is also heavily involved in the sport since he is the Warrior Head Coach.

With this knowledge, Minton reasoned: "You have to form a mental attitude for each race. You have to plan the way you are going to run a course. There's more strategy involved in cross country than one would think."

Both runners agree that Wawasee is blessed with a talented freshmen class of runners. This factor contributes to team depth, supporting their earlier assessment concerning the Warriors' chances to excel in post-season competition. Rouch and Minton credit junior high seeding for the abundance of valuable young runners. Dave Stookey coaches Wawasee's junior high runners and is responsible for preparing the likes of Jeff Carey, a freshman standout who has been the top Warrior finisher in many meets this season.

"This is the time where we are really fired up and should be running our best," said Rouch as he looks ahead to the NLC showdown. "This is when all the big meets happen and we'll be ready."

Warriors claim Culver Invite

Though Wawasee boys' cross country lost to 14th ranked Warsaw last night at home, 16-46, the Warriors still had a successful week, highlighted by last Saturday's Culver Invitational championship.

Wawasee (9-3) breezed through the meet by placing four of its runners in the top 10 finishers. Jeff Carey led the Warriors with a

third place showing, clocking 17:26. Teammates Carl Rouch and Troy Minton followed with fourth and fifth place finishes, respectively.

Other highlights included Steve Eastman's 10th place finish in the freshman race and Patty Routson's first place showing in the girls reserves meet.

Wawasee completed the meet with 28 points as John Glenn was

the closest competitor with 45. Other team scores were West Lafayette (72), Rochester (101) and Triton (111).

Against Warsaw, the Warriors could only place one runner in the top five as Carey logged a fifth place time of 17:47. Jeremy Corson, Minton, Brian Jones, Rouch and Rodney Coy finished eighth, 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th, respectively.

As for the girls, they lost, 17-44. Wawasee's top runner was Becca Stiver, who placed fourth with a time of 19:04 in the 4,000-meter course. Marcie Coy followed with a 19:10 showing, placing seventh.

The Warriors beat Columbia City at home last Thursday, 23-35. Carey took second, timing 18:03 while Rouch and Minton placed second and third. The girls (2-6), though, lost, 16-47. Routson paced the Lady Warriors with a fifth place showing of 19:07.

This Saturday, the Warriors will compete at the Manchester Invitational, which will feature about 950 runners from 40-45 teams. Next Tuesday, Wawasee will host Whitko at 4:30 p.m.

Warriors beat Westview

The winning continues for the Junior Warriors. Last Thursday, the Wawasee Junior High Cross Country team beat a talented Westview squad, 25-30.

According to Coach Dave Stookey, this win required outstanding team effort since Westview was in position to beat Wawasee with about 1/2 mile left in the race.

Jason Douglas enjoyed another solid performance, clocking 10:12 in the 3,000-meter course. He also set a Westview course record as well as breaking Jeff Carey's old Wawasee record. Carey now runs for the high school team.

Cuong Reed (10:34), Chad Jones (10:46) and Eric Mock (10:56) placed third, fifth and seventh respectively. Chad Hoffert added a strong ninth place finish, completing the course in 11:08. Other good races were turned in by Eric Strey (11:29), Scott Wheat (12:20), Matt Hoffert (13:30) and Tiffany Titus (13:36).

Both squads will clash again at the Manchester Invitational this coming Saturday. There will be 30 teams competing and Wawasee is the defending champion. Yesterday, the Junior Warriors hosted Warsaw and tomorrow, they will travel to Concord. Spectators are encouraged to attend all of the home meets.

McClellan and Hutchinson defeated Trant Smith and Troy Schwartz 6-1, 6-3. Dunithan and Bartlett outlasted Brian Hahn and Todd Firestone 6-4, 6-2. Sharp and Chuck Gray lost their singles matches in three sets.

Bremen downed Wawasee, 4-1 last Tuesday. The lone match win came when McClellan beat Wade Holmes 2-6, 6-2 and 6-3.



THROUGH THE WOODS — Pushing herself amidst a tough course, Wawasee's Becca Stiver works on a solid fourth place showing at yesterday's meet at home against Warsaw. She finished with a time of 19:04, but the Lady Tigers won overall, 17-44. (Photo by Dave Straub)

Wawasee netters still struggling

Wawasee boys' tennis coach Scott Siler was hoping for a better season, but frustrating results have prevailed as the Warriors are struggling with a 3-12 record.

Besides the three tough dual meet losses this past week, Wawasee finished in a seventh place tie with NorthWood at the Northern Lakes Conference tournament held at Plymouth last Saturday. The Warriors also completed their round robin conference schedule at 0-7.

Last night, Wawasee lost to Manchester 3-2. Winners included Erik Sharp, who beat Eric Jones 6-2, 6-0 and the doubles team of Bill Hutchinson and Jeff Dunithan, who defeated Matt Hawley and Dan Bowlinger 6-2, 6-2. The loss was tough to take since the Mark McClellan and Bob Bartlett combination lost a match in three sets.

The Warriors were beaten by NorthWood last Wednesday, 3-2.

Spikers slam Columbia City

Winning two out of three matches this past week, the Lady Warrior volleyball team now owns a record of 4-9. Last night, Wawasee beat Columbia City, 15-2 and 15-11.

Top servers for the contest were Shelly Brumbaugh, who went 11 for 11, and; Michelle Harter, who went 10 for 10.

In net play, Harter had six spikes and one kill. Lori Galloway collected six spikes and added two kills. Amy Bucher had five spikes and one kill while contributing four blocks. Belinda Whitridge added 35 sets.

Northridge was Monday's victim as the Lady Warriors won, 15-7 and 15-3. Harter and Bucher paced Wawasee in net play with eight spikes each. Harter had three kills while Bucher posted five. Whitridge collected 24 sets.

However, the Lady Warriors lost to rival Warsaw last Thursday, 15-13 and 15-1. The junior varsity won, though, 1-15, 15-12 and 15-11 while losing last night's match with Columbia City, 6-15 and 13-15. Their record is 4-6 while the Wawasee freshman own a 4-2 mark.

Swimmers splash NorthWood

After a week without meets, the Wawasee girls' swim team tuned up with an easy 108-63 home win over NorthWood last night.

The Lady Warriors, now 5-0-1, took eight firsts as well as placing in every event. The 200-yard medley relay team of Danielle Iwankowitsch, Julie Schmal, Jennifer Titus and Shawn Anderson got things rolling with a winning time of 2:11.69.

Crisis Baumgartner followed by winning the 200-yard freestyle with a 2:19.8 showing. Chris Eldridge took third place in that event.

Jeanine Gunn captured one-meter diving honors, scoring 224.3. Schmal placed second with a 179.35 score.

Eldridge won the 100-yard butterfly, timing 1:14.69. Titus finished third in that event. Pam Foyle earned a second place time of 1:02.13 in the 100-yard freestyle while Charlene Fisher took third.

Baumgartner claimed her second race of the evening, winning the 500-yard freestyle with a 6:15.95 showing. Iwankowitsch won the 100-yard backstroke, clocking 1:11.66 while Titus topped top honors in the 100-yard breaststroke, coming in at 1:22.28.

Wawasee completed the meet with an impressive 400-yard freestyle relay victory as Julie McDaniel, Fisher, Eldridge and Anderson finished the vent in 4:17.86.

"I didn't think we were that sharp tonight," said Coach Tim Caldwell. "Some of our girls are lacking in concentration but that will change when we swim against some of the tougher conference opponents, like Concord." The Lady Warriors will take on Concord Oct. 10. It will be an away meet.

Wawasee also faces Rochester tomorrow and will compete at the Goshen Relays Saturday at 10 a.m. Next Tuesday, the Lady Warriors will host Warsaw at 6:30 p.m.

Sports Calendar

Week Of October 3
To October 9

THURSDAY

Wawasee Girls' Swimming
6:30 p.m. at Rochester
Wawasee Volleyball
6:30 p.m. at Rochester



FRIDAY

Wawasee Varsity Football
7:30 p.m. at Warsaw

SATURDAY

Wawasee Girls' Swimming
10:00 a.m. at Goshen Relays
Wawasee JV Volleyball
10:00 a.m. at NorthWood Invitational
Wawasee Cross Country
9:30 a.m. at Manchester Invitational



MONDAY

Wawasee Volleyball
5:45 p.m. at Elkhart Central
Wawasee Cross Country
4:30 p.m. at home vs. Whitko
Wawasee JV Football
6:30 p.m. at home vs. Warsaw



TUESDAY

Wawasee Girls' Swimming
6:30 p.m. at home vs. Warsaw

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LOOKS GOOD... — With textbook form, Wawasee's Barb Hostetter follows through on her swing after teeing off at last Thursday's meet against Culver Military. (Photo by Dave Straub)

Golfers win sectional

After finishing its regular season with an undefeated record, the Wawasee girls' golf team easily won last Saturday's sectional championship at the South Shore Golf Course. The Lady Warriors finished with just 353 strokes.

Beckie Welty paced the winners with a sparkling 82. Leslie Reilly and Heidi Musser each followed with 90 strokes while Barb Hostetter shot a 91. Other teams, qualifying for regional play are Culver Military (390) and LaVale (410).

Wawasee will compete at the Beechwood Golf Course in the LaPorte regional this coming Saturday. Only the top three teams will qualify for advancement, and; the field will be tough as sixth ranked Valparaiso, 11th ranked Michigan City Rogers and 16th ranked Michigan City Elston along with the Lady Warriors will

be shooting for more post-season play.

Last Thursday, Wawasee closed its dual meet competition with a 181-200 win over Culver Military at South Shore. As a result, the Lady Warriors finished 10-0. Welty paced the squad with 43 strokes. Hostetter shot a 44 while Musser and Reilly each fired a 47.

Tourney held

The Wawasee FFA Chapter held its annual golf tournament at Par-More Golf Course near New Paris. Low medalist honors were captured by Todd Roberts while the high medalist was Tony Davis. Both received trophies.

Other local members who competed were Ned Hunsberger, Jon Haab, Tim Troup, Rob Brooks, Rich Fifer, Brian Richcreek, Terry Templin, Cindy Lecont, Marty Brown and Rick Powell.

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