

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

SPORTS AWARDS

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

CROSS COUNTRY

The Commercial Appeal Sports Awards honors the top high school athletes in the Greater Memphis area. Today we recognize the boys and girls cross country all-metro teams and the semifinalists for runner of the year. All semifinalists will be invited to the awards presentation June 9. The eight semifinalists will be narrowed down to three finalists in the spring.

BOYS SEMIFINALISTS

Kyle Edwards CBHS senior



Edwards was a standout on a strong Brothers team, placing fourth in the Shelby County meet before coming in 10th at state in a time of 17:01.56. That result powered CBHS to a third-place team finish.

Foster Hudsmith White Station senior



A two-time finalist under the old Best of the Preps format, Hudsmith was strong again in 2016. He won the Region 8 championship before going on to a good showing a state, taking 17th in the AAA meet in 16:35.93. That was the best finish for a local AAA boys runner.

Luke McNair Bartlett senior



The Panthers were resurgent this season and McNair was one of the main reasons, finishing first in Region 7 before finishing 31st at state in a time of 16:52.74.

Christopher Rayder Houston senior



Last year's runner of the year had a very strong regular season, winning the Shelby County meet before taking second in Region 8.

Ryan Redman Arlington senior



Redman came through in two of the biggest meets of the year, finishing runner-up at both the county and Region 7 meets. At state, he was 47th in a time of 17:06.72.

Chris Walls Arlington senior



The other half of Arlington's potent 1-2 punch, Walls finished 10th in the county meet and third in Region 7 after winning the previous year. His 19th-place finish at state (16:39.66) helped the Tigers to a 13th-place team result.

Avery Wood Bartlett junior



Wood had a break-through year for a break-through team. Bartlett finished fifth in the AAA team standings, the best showing of any Shelby County boys team, as Wood came in 27th in a time of 16:50.79.

Raymond Wynne St. Benedict senior



For the second year in a row, the talented Wynne was the top Shelby County finisher in Division 2-AA. After placing ninth in 2015 he ended up eighth in a time of 16:53.37.

Boys Coach of the Year

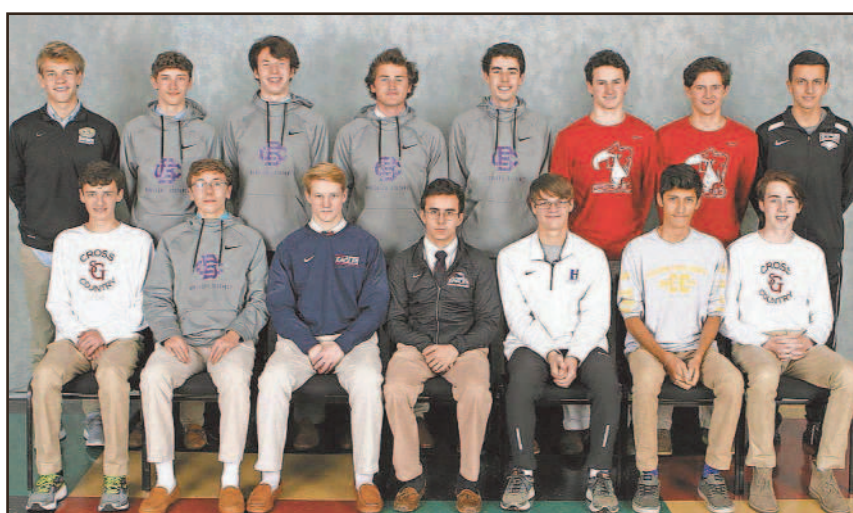
Bill Gardner, Bartlett

The Panthers were vastly improved under Gardner this year, with nearly every runner on the roster shaving his times considerably from past seasons. It resulted in a fifth-place finish at the state AAA meet.



DIVISION 1 BOYS TEAM

Front row (from left) — Gary Austin, Marion, senior; Jhon-Wes Walker, Covington, senior; Chance Rone, Bolton, senior; Alex Marsh, Houston, freshman; Joshua Topham, Germantown, senior; Darrian Lockett, Germantown, senior. Middle row — Michael Linder, Collierville, junior; Jared Briant, Collierville, junior; Caleb Boucher, Collierville, senior; Adam VanDeren, Collierville, senior; Foster Hudsmith, White Station, senior; Chris Walls, Arlington, senior; Christopher Rayder, Houston, senior; Ryan Redman, Arlington, senior. Back row — Travis Jones, Bartlett, freshman; Brendan Hill, Bartlett, junior; Avery Wood, Bartlett, junior; Jackson Williams, Bartlett, freshman; Benjamin Homeyer, Bartlett, senior; Jason Hamilton, Bartlett, senior; Luke McNair, Bartlett, senior.



PRIVATE SCHOOLS BOYS TEAM

Front row (from left) — Thomas Mann, St. George's, sophomore; Zach Brazil, CBHS, senior; Jake Coppedge, St. Benedict, freshman; Raymond Wynne, St. Benedict, senior; Josh Hinkle, Harding, junior; Sohan Pokorny-Yadav, Lausanne, sophomore; Zachary Williams, St. George's, sophomore. Back row — James Basse, Briarcrest, senior; Constantin Campbell, CBHS, sophomore; Kyle Edwards, CBHS, senior; Thomas Shallow, CBHS, junior; John Harkins, CBHS, senior; Hastings McEwan, MUS, junior; Benjamin Freeman, MUS, junior; Davis Rang, ECS, sophomore.



DIVISION 1 GIRLS TEAM

Front row (from left) — Kathryn Haynes, White Station, sophomore; Carly Garrett, Bartlett, freshman; Alyssa Dandridge, Germantown, senior; Erica Fisher, Arlington, sophomore; Brenna Riseling, Houston, freshman; Ella Baran, Houston, junior; Michelle Myers, Houston, senior. Back row — Chloe Willis, White Station, junior; Chrissy Jensen, Bartlett, junior; Chloe Biggs, Arlington, sophomore; Skylar Boogerd, Arlington, sophomore; Gracelyn Walls, Arlington, sophomore; Kaitlyn Linney, Collierville, junior; Anna Tankersley, Houston, junior; Amelia Baran, Houston, senior.



PRIVATE SCHOOLS GIRLS TEAM

Front row (from left) — Sarah McDonald, St. George's, freshman; Maggie Schneider, St. Agnes, senior; Rebecca Calderoni, St. Agnes, freshman; Nora Tillmanns, Hutchison, sophomore; Phoebe Harpole, ECS, eighth grade. Back row — Hannah Fisher, Briarcrest, sophomore; Allison Newman, St. George's, eighth grade; Caroline Farrell, St. George's, senior; Marisa Lewis, St. Agnes, sophomore; Holly Huffman, ECS, sophomore.

GIRLS SEMIFINALISTS

Ella Baran Houston junior



Baran is a three-time all-metro performer and a two-time finalist under the former Best of the Preps system. In 2016, she won the county meet (18:16.70) before finishing sixth at the state AAA meet (18:24.50).

Skylar Boogerd Arlington sophomore



Boogerd's efforts helped Arlington to a strong team showing at state; she finished 10th in 18:59.03 as the Tigers claimed 12th. She won the Region 7-AAA title in 18:28 while taking second in the county meet. She was in the final five last year as well.

Erica Fisher Arlington sophomore



Fisher was also a finalist under the old BOP format last year and did well again in 2016. She was fifth in the county meet and second in the region before running 17:58.29 at state to finish third, the best showing of any Shelby County girl.

Michelle Myers Houston senior



Last year's runner of the year, Myers closed out her high school career with a 19:45.92 effort at the AAA meet, good for 22nd overall. She took third at the county meet (19:29) and won Region 8 (19:30).

Anna Tankersley Houston junior



Houston was the top Shelby County girls team at the AAA state meet, taking third place. And Tankersley's efforts were key as she came in 28th in a time of 20:01.43. Earlier, she was second in the Region 8-AAA meet (20:08).

Nora Tillmanns Hutchison sophomore



A fixture on the all-metro team despite being only in the 10th grade, Tillmanns finished eighth in the county meet in a time of 21:02. She then ran 20:42.16 at state to end up ninth, the top local girl in the D2-AA meet.

Gracelyn Walls Arlington sophomore



Walls was consistent across the board for the Tigers and coach Dennis Harris; she finished fourth in Region 7-AAA (19:57), sixth at the county meet (20:58) and 41st at state (20:19.37).

Chloe Willis White Station junior



An all-metro performer in 2015, Willis ran fifth in the Region 8-AAA meet in 20:55. She then ran 20:28.49 at state, good for 51st place overall.

Girls Coach of the Year

Clint Daniels, Houston

In his first season with the Mustangs, Daniels' team dominated local competition before placing third in the AAA meet against some very strong competition.