**Week 8 Rankings: Who Is The Best Of The Best?**

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*Oct 23, 2013*



Take a long peek at Tony Jones and Alex G's week 8 rankings

**3A Boys-**



1. Elmhurst (York)

2. Hinsdale Central

3. Arlington Heights (Hersey)

4. Chicago Lane Tech

5. Orland Park (Sandburg)

6. O’Fallon

7. Naperville (Neuqua Valley)

8. Winnetka (New Trier)

9. Wheaton-Warrenville South

10. New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)

11. LaGrange (Lyons Twp.)

12. Naperville North

13. Downers Grove North

14. Palatine

15. Wilmette (Loyola Academy)

16. Chicago (St. Ignatius)

17. Edwardsville

18. Buffalo Grove

19. Barrington

20. Mt. Prospect (Prospect)

21. Batavia

22. Park Ridge (Maine South)

23. Roselle (Lake Park)

24. Naperville Central

25. Oswego East

**Tony Prepster’s quick thoughts:** the season is quickly coming to a boiling point as the state series is on the horizon. In looking at the results from this past week, it was evident that many schools put their best efforts into winning their league titles.  In effect, it was status quo for most of last week’s top 10 teams. However, there was one school in particular, O’Fallon, that had a bit of trouble in getting a smooth win.  The Panthers only won 27-29 against nemesis Edwardsville and on the surface that looks damaging to a state champion run for the pre-season #1 team.  But if you look closely at the scoring ledger of the Southwestern Conference meet there are only six finishers. Coach **Jon Burnett** had to pull one of his top runners, **Evan Wesslund,** out of the race because of an Achilles Heel flare up… it will be interesting to see some of the same teams re-matching for the regionals.

**3A Girls-**



1. Naperville North

2. Palatine

3. Winnetka (New Trier)

4. Glen Ellyn (Glenbard West)

5. Hinsdale Central

6. O’Fallon

7. LaGrange (Lyons Twp.)

8. Downers Grove South

9. Geneva

10. Barrington

11. Wheaton-Warrenville South

12. Naperville Central

13. Lockport

14. Downers Grove North

15. Hoffman Estates

16. Schaumburg

17. Naperville (Neuqua Valley)

18. Chicago (St. Ignatius)

19. Minooka

20. Wilmette (Loyola Academy)

21. Oak Park-River Forest

22. Lake Zurich

23. Crystal Lake South

24. Libertyville

25. Edwardsville

25. Cary-Grove

**Tonyprepster’s thoughts:** top ranked Naperville North took care of business on Friday afternoon against some pretty tough competition in the Dupage Valley Conference. It is clear they will be the team to beat as the state series is finally here.  The ranked teams 2-5 have an opportunity to get a state trophy fairly easy. Palatine is incredibly strong with its pack smashing teams with amazing splits every time out. New Trier has front runner junior **Mimi Smith** running as an individual state contender. Glenbard West will begin life with their ace senior **Madeline Perez** back in the fold. Hinsdale Central is looking strong with freshman **Alexa Haffe** leading the way.  But there is one team on a separate island. O’Fallon is a solid team but it will remain to see a team from the southern sector of the state to step up on the prime time stage. The 1987 E. St. Louis (Lincoln) squad is the only team from south of Interstate 80 that has won a state trophy (state runner-up to Hoffman Estates)… watch out for a deep, deep 25 and beyond girls field go into combat this weekend!

**2A Boys-**



1. Lansing (Illiana Christian)

2. Mahomet-Seymour

3. Vernon Hills

4. Yorkville

5. Normal (University)

6. Crystal Lake Central

7. Chicago Jones Prep

8. Dixon

9. Metamora

10. Rock Island (Alleman)

11. Lisle (Benet Academy)

12. Springfield

13. Glen Ellyn (Glenbard South)

14. Chatham-Glenwood

15. Bensonville (Fenton)

16. Champaign Central

17. Maple Park (Kaneland)

18. Belvidere North

19. Dunlap

20. Waterloo

**Tonyprepster’s thoughts:** IC continues to roll through the season with a dominating performance at their conference meet. They will have to wait until the state championship to duel Mahomet-Seymour and Vernon Hills.  Chicago Jones Prep dropped a few spots but don’t sleep on the Eagles as they look to defend their state title. They will bring up a few of their super sophomores for the post-season run.

**2A Girls-  **

1. Yorkville

2. Normal (University)

3. Glen Ellyn (Glenbard South)

4. Crystal Lake Central

5. Highland

6. Vernon Hills

7. Belvidere North

8. Lake Forest

9.  Woodstock

10. Maple Park (Kaneland)

11. Lemont

12. Metamora

13. Mattoon

14. Mahomet-Seymour

15. Chatham-Glenwood

16. Dunlap

17. Lombard (Montini)

18. Springfield

19. Normal West

20. West Chicago (Wheaton Academy)

**Tonyprepster’s thoughts:** defending state champion Yorkville enjoyed an easy time at conference.  The Lady Foxes led by sophomore **Skyler Bollinger** are a prohibitive favorite to advance to the sectional round even if they ran a completely different top 7 at regionals. Normal U High is lurking and waiting for Yorkville to slip. How about Glenbard South? They are getting well physically and mentally at the right time.  Look at for their star sophomore **Diane Lipa** to get rolling.

**1A Boys-**



1. Monticello

2. Tolono (Unity)

3. Winnebago

4. Shelbyville

5. Rochester

6. Elmwood-Brimfield

7. St. Joseph (Ogden)

8. Tremont

9. Sterling (Newman Catholic)

10. Rockford Christian

11. Urbana (University)

12. Champaign (St. Thomas More)

13. Stanford (Olympia)

14. Mt. Zion

15. Freeburg

16. El Paso-Gridley

17. Pleasant Plains

18. Paxton-Buckley-Loda

19. Liberty

20. Nashville

**Alex's thoughts:** Monticello and Tolono (Unity) continue to duel as the top teams in the state.  The Sages got the best of Unity at the Okaw Conference meet.  It is not done yet between these titans.

**1A Girls-  **

1.  Decatur (St. Teresa)

2.  Rochester

3.  Monticello

4.  St. Joseph-Ogden

5.  Eureka

6.  Chicago (Latin)

7.  Tolono (Unity)

8.  Liberty

9.  Macomb

10.  Henry (H.-Senachwine)

11.  Freeburg

12.  Litchfield

13.  Elmwood-Brimfield

14.  Monmouth-Roseville

15.  Urbana (University)

16.  Downs (Tri-Valley)

17.  Ottawa (Marquette)

18.  Kankakee (Mcnamara)

19.  Carlinville

20.  Champaign (St. Thomas More)

**Alex's thoughts:** St. Teresa is ready to pull the plug on the state's best competition after handing rival Monticello another defeat at the Okaw Conference meet.  Rochester beat some quality teams in their Central State Eight Conference meet that featured several ranked 2A clubs. It will be interesting to see how the Rockets fare against St. Teresa and Monticello at state.

 Carlinville