

Building a Base for the future

by [Dani Tietz](#) • October 24, 2013 • [0 Comments](#)

There is nothing more important to the seniors on the boys' cross country team than building a base for the future of the program.

While all eleven seniors want to record their personal best records each time they run, they realize those personal bests get the team one step closer to their team goal of placing in the IHSA State Tournament.

"I started out trying to improve myself at the beginning," said senior Kyle Appelquist. "But senior year I just want to push the team to get a state trophy."

The Bulldogs finished 11th in the IHSA State tournament last year.

The second-ranked Bulldogs showed their power on Saturday as they won the Cornbelt Conference meet, edging out the fifth-ranked Urbana Tigers.

Alex Keeble, Jackson Poweel, William Wolf and Andrew Walmer received All-Conference honors. Alex Keeble also received IL Elite Status by dyestatil.com for his 15:38 conference performance.

Jack Hyde and Trevor Hanion took first and second place in the open race. Brian Butcher, Ben Crow and Daniel Middendorf rounded out the top five.

The self-proclaimed "Band of Brothers" push each other to reach their individual goals.

"We all really care about each other," senior Daniel Middendorf said. "We help each other out in just about anything."

Middendorf joined the cross country team as a freshman running three-miles in over 30 minutes. As a senior, Middendorf's best time is 17:52.

Senior Dhairav Vakil is proud of the fact that as a senior they have more members on the team as they did last year. Senior newcomer Collin Hasken said his teammates have been very welcoming. He's noticed the strongest friendships on the team are between the senior and freshmen class.

Through bonding activities like Friday night pasta parties, a summer run for juvenile diabetes or having fun on their daily runs, the seniors said this team will stick together even after the season ends.

Senior Jeff Coburn said even though he didn't enjoy running when he joined the team, the encouragement he has received through the years had helped running become enjoyable. Coburn thinks he will continue to run after graduation to relieve stress.

The Bulldogs travel to the University of Illinois Arboretum on Saturday to compete in the IHSA Regional meet.

Kyle Appelquist wants to study international business or cinematic arts at University of Southern California.

Chris Carlton plans to go into the Parkland Pathway program.

Nathaniel Cebulski is undecided on where he'd like to study history.

Jeff Coburn is also undecided, but he'd like to become a nurse practitioner.

Collin Hasken wants to study computer science at the University of Illinois.

Curt Kupferschmid plans to study English at Illinois State University.

Daniel Middendorf wants to study engineering at the University of Illinois.

Ethan Russel wants to attend MIT and study engineering, also.

Dhairav Vakil would like to study civil engineering at the University of Illinois.

James Williams is undecided.