



Interview with Brian Kennerly, Head Boys Coach at Wesleyan, who won the State Title in Class A on Saturday.

1. When did you first start thinking about having a shot at winning the team state title in cross country?

**It was not actually until the second mile of the State Championship. We have been trailing Athens Christian all season and we went out slow. The guys ran a great race and at the second mile had swallowed the packs in front of them. At that point I knew they were on their way to doing something great!**

2. What made this group different from other groups you've coached?

**They were smart runners who kept their cool even in the toughest of pressure. They never let the excitement get to them and consistently ran smart races.**

3. Any members of previous teams that provided good leadership that carried over to this team?

**Really all the previous teams. Our older guys and alumni have consistently taught the younger guys what it means to persevere and be successful. They have instilled a sense of tradition among the team that has carried them for years.**

4. What was the most difficult part of the season? What was the highlight prior to State?

**Injuries. We have had illnesses and injuries all season long. We never ran with our top seven complete until the State Championship. Last Chance ended up being a real highlight. They ran a good race and learned what it meant to race as a team.**

5. Describe the race. Did you feel like the team got a good start? Was there a particular part that made you nervous? How did you feel as you saw the runners coming in?

**The start was scary. It was hard at first to determine whether the other guys went out fast or if our guys went out slow (or both). I knew either something really bad was happening or something great. At the one mile mark it became obvious that the guys were running a smart race. They began creeping up step by step. By the second mile they were on fire!**

6. Describe the aftermath of the race (pictures, getting the trophy at the awards ceremony, etc)

**Due to this being my last meet I was basically an emotional mess. It is hard to describe the feeling of success, happiness, and sadness. These guys are amazing guys and I will miss them terribly. It was one of the most bittersweet moments of my life!**