

2019 Legends Cross Country Meet

Saturday, October 5th, 2019 at Trumbull County Fairgrounds, Cortland, Ohio

Presented By: Maplewood High School

For more Legends Meet information visit – www.gopherarun.com/legendsmeet or www.baumspage.com

The goals of The Legends Meet are to offer athletes a flat fast course with great awards and to expose these runners to the Legends of the sport of cross country from Ohio's rich history.

Past Legends:

2007 - Ann Henderson, Mark Croghan
2008 - Patty Metzler, Alan Scharus
2009 - Rachel Sauder Kinsman, Scott Fry
2010 - Maggie Infeld, Ricky Pittman
2011 - Bob Schul, Harrison Dillard, Briana Shook, Bernice Holland
2012 - Marc Hunter, Harrison Dillard and Bernice Holland

2013 - Bridget Franek, Bob Lunn
2014 - Bob Mau, Julie Dias Taylor, Joanna Dias Ripple
2015 - John Zishka, Katie Sabino Dugan
2016 - Dave Wottle, Kate Radkewich Burkowski
2017 - Clayton Murphy, Kate Radkewich Burkowski
2018 - Michelle Sikes, Sid Sink, Les Nagy, Sam Bair, Paul Talkington

The 2019 Legends



Connie Jo Robinson Earls - It only took two cross country races in the fall of 1981 for Connie Jo (Robinson) Earls to guarantee her place in the history of Ohio distance running. However, these epic runs by the former Cincinnati Reading standout are merely the exclamation points on a stellar career.

Already a two-time state track champion heading into the 1981 XC final, Connie Jo would avenge a narrow defeat in the 1980 title race at the hands of fellow Legend and future North Carolina State teammate Patty Metzler by establishing records for the 2.5-mile distance that would never be broken. Connie Jo's time of 13:33.9 was a new Class A-AA record and also bettered the AAA state record by fellow Legend Ann Henderson by almost 13 seconds. Just over a month later, Connie Jo made history again in Orlando, Fla. Her victory in the Kinney final in December 1981 was the first by an Ohio runner in what is now the Foot Locker National Championships. Connie Jo's winning time of 16:40.4 is the third-fastest ever recorded in the national final and the course record for the 5K layout in Orlando. Her achievement as the national cross country champion was duplicated by Ohioan Bob Kennedy in 1987 and fellow Legend Scott Fry in 1984. In HS track, Connie Jo won three Class AA 1,600 state titles, culminating with her 4:53.39 state meet record in 1982 that remained the standard until 2014.

At NC State, Connie Jo was a three-time All-American in cross country as the Wolfpack finished seventh, third and third in the NCAA finals in 1982 through 1984. The team MVP in 1982, she was a three-time All-ACC finisher. In outdoor track, she was a two-time All-American, finishing ninth in the 3,000 in 1983 and sixth in the 10,000 in 1986. She was a four-year letter winner in both sports for the Wolfpack and is a member of the Reading, OATCCC, Greater Cincinnati Running and Buddy LaRosa's halls of fame.

Caldwell Cross Country – Quite simply, success breeds success. And in high school cross country in Ohio, there's no finer example than Caldwell High School. Since the inception of the boys program at the Noble County school in 1971, the Redskins have qualified as a team for the state XC final 30 times. Twelve times, the Running Redskins have taken home a championship or runner-up trophy in their classification. And amazingly, in every year from 1985 through 1992, the boys team from Caldwell was state champion. During its unprecedented championship run, the Redskins never posted a team score higher than 74 in the OHSAA meet. The 1985 and 1987 teams were ranked 15th and 10th nationally. The nine state XC titles won by Caldwell are the most by a boys team in state history, with the state championships under the direction of three head coaches, all three are in the OATCCC Hall of Fame.



The Coaches - Rod O'Donnell (1973), Ron Martin (1985-86) and Dugan Hill (1987-Present) - After establishing the program at Caldwell and leading it to its first state title, **Rod O'Donnell** turned to collegiate coaching, leading programs at then Rio Grande College, Marshall University and Kent State University. O'Donnell led the Herd to the first Southern Conference championship in any sport and was two-time conference coach of the year before earning two Mid-American Coach of the Year awards in leading 11 All-Americans at Kent. He returned to high school coaching at Hudson, guiding the Explorers to state team and individual championships and national recognition as well. He retired from Hudson in 2012 and became the head coach at Parkersburg, W.Va., in 2014.

Caldwell started its run of championships in 1985 under the leadership of **Ron Martin**, who took over the program in 1975. Martin's teams in 1985 and 1986 were two of the most dominant in Class A history, scoring just 33 and 26 points, respectively, with an average margin of victory of more than 70 points. With its 137-0 dual meet record, Martin's state champions were recognized as the 1986 national champions. Martin returned to his hometown of Tiffin the following year and proceeded to coach his alma mater Columbian Tornadoes and Seneca East before an 11-year career in

total at Tiffin University and neighboring Heidelberg University. His athletes won 10 state titles in cross country and six in track while he also led the Seneca East girls to two state team crowns.

1974 Caldwell graduate **Dugan Hill** led the Redskins to state team runner up in 1972 as a junior then to their first Ohio XC State Championship in 1973 with a 4th place individual finish. Returning as a coach in 1987 he kept the Redskins at the top of Class A/Division III, directing the 1987 squad to the lowest state winning score of 25 points as his team's fifth runner finished before any team's No. 2 at Scioto Downs. In 1988, Caldwell was able to extend its championship streak by virtue of a sixth-runner tiebreaker over East Canton before returning to dominant form over the final four years, recording an average margin of victory of almost 55 points and placing four runners in the overall top 10 in 1992. Like his predecessors, Hill is in the OATCCC Hall and also received the Ed Barker Award for his service to the organization and to the sport of track and cross country.

The Individual State Champions - Brian Hesson, Brian Norris, Tony Carna and Brian Jonard – Highlighting Caldwell's position as one of the pre-eminent distance programs in Ohio and the country are four champion athletes who proved themselves worthy of being mentioned with the best ever in Ohio

Prior to competing for Marshall and Ohio State, **Brian Jonard** was a six-time state champion for Caldwell. Brian was the 1974 winner of the XC team race in 9:59.7 and won the individual race in 10:07. The OATCCC Hall of Famer was twice as successful in the spring seasons, claiming four Class A track titles as a Redskin. He won the two-mile state final three times (9:46.4 in '75, 9:44.8 in '76 and 9:45.4 in '77) and claimed the mile crown once (4:26.6 in '77).

A three-time All-Ohioan in XC, **Brian Norris** was the state champion in 1987 after finishing second the year before to teammate **Tony Carna**. In track, Brian was a five-time all-state performer, finishing as the runner-up in the 1,600 and state champion in the 3,200 as a senior in 1988 in 9:32.14. He also was third in the 1,600 as a sophomore and junior. Brian went on to compete at Ohio University,

earning three letters for the Bobcats. Another All-Ohioan in cross country and track, Carna was a five-time distance champion and kicked off Caldwell's streak of eight XC team titles by being the first across the line individually in 1984-86. At Caldwell, Tony claimed PRs of 4:18 (1,600), 8:38 (3,000), 9:18 (3,200) and 14:48 (5,000). He also won the 1,600 in 1986 in 4:19.24 and the 3,200 in 9:31.85 in 1987. Tony attended Michigan, where he was an eight-time letterman and earned All-Big Ten and All-American honors. He led the Wolverines to sixth in the 1991 NCAA final, finishing 21st overall and as the 13th American.

The most recent XC champion at Caldwell also is **Brian Hesson**. A 17-time All-Ohioan, Brian won eight state titles total in XC and track at Caldwell. Hesson was an All-American three times at the then Kinney National Championships, placing 15th, 3rd and 8th in 1990-92 after capturing the Ohio Division III crowns. Hesson also won the 1,600 and 3,200 runs as a sophomore and junior, along with anchoring the 4x800 as an 11th-grader. Brian then excelled at the University of Alabama, earning a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team in 1994, All-SEC honors in cross country and track and three berths in NCAA championships. His career with the Crimson Tide reached a peak at the 1997 SEC track meet by placing in the 10,000, steeplechase and 5,000. Currently, Brian is head track and field and cross country coach at Ohio Valley University.

The 2019 Legends Cross Country Meet Information

Date and Location

Saturday, October 5th, 2019 - The Legends Meet will be held at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds (4181 Hoagland Blackstub Rd. Cortland, OH). The Fairgrounds offer an excellent facility for cross country meets. Ample parking, sheltered seating and restrooms are available to complement a fast, spectator-friendly course. Maplewood High School will be the host school for The Legends Meet.

Awards

The top four teams in the high school races and the top three teams in the middle school races will receive team picture plaque awards. The top seven members of the winning high school teams and the coach will receive individual awards. The top 25 individuals in all races will receive individual awards. Individual champions in each race will receive picture plaques. Team awards will be presented by The Legends on the stage in front of the grandstands one hour after the scheduled start time of each race. Individual awards are presented on the stage by The Legends immediately after the finish of each race.

Entry

Any school may enter the meet through Baum's Page beginning August 15th - baumspage.com

Fees

- \$85 HS Boys (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if 8 runners or less)
- \$85 HS Girls (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if 8 runners or less)
- \$60 MS Boys (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if less than 6 runners)
- \$60 MS Girls (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if less than 6 runners)
- A "B Team" can be entered in a varsity race for a \$25 fee

* Each coach submitting a full team into any one of the team races will receive a coach's gift.

* **IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE** - Entry fee checks MUST be made payable to: **Maplewood Running Rockets**
(Do NOT make checks payable to Maplewood HS) and be mailed to:

Legends Meet
Maplewood Running Rockets
312 Golf Drive
Cortland, OH 44410

Schedule of Events - note changes in divisional breakdown and scheduled time for Division 1 Middle School Races

- 9:00 JV Middle School Girls Race - 2 Mile
- 9:30 JV Middle School Boys Race - 2 Mile
- 10:00 Varsity Middle School Girls Race - 2 Mile (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 10:30 Varsity Middle School Boys Race - 2 Mile (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 11:00 *Small School High School Girls Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 11:30 *Small School High School Boys Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 12:00 National Anthem / Presentation of The 2018 Legends
- 12:15 Elementary Kids 1 Mile - Individual awards given to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls
- 12:30 Open High School Girls Race - 5K
- 1:00 Open High School Boys Race - 5K
- 1:30 *Large School High School Girls Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 2:00 *Large School High School Boys Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)

*Divisions - For varsity high school races, two divisions will be used; large and small based upon school enrollment figures. If a school has 220 or less students in grades 9-11 for the given sex, they are considered small school. Schools with 221 or more are large schools. The large school race will be the more competitive race but small schools may enter that division if they wish to compete in the more competitive race. Large schools may not choose to run the small school race, however.

- **Chip timing** will be used with a chip that is attached to the runner's shoe. There will be a bullpen area at the finish of the race where water will be available and chips will be collected. If coaches have runners that do not run or do not finish the race, they must turn in the chips for those athletes at the registration area. Schools will be charged \$15 for each missing chip.

- **Digital Clocks** will be available at the 1 and 2 mile marks for each race.

- **Results** will be available at baumspage.com

- **Concessions** and other vendors will be available beneath the grandstands.

- **Legends Meet T-shirts** will be sold at the registration area.

- **Restrooms** are available under the grandstands and in adjacent buildings.

- **Parking** - There will be a \$3 parking fee per non-team vehicle that will be charged in accordance with fairground policy.

- **Coaches** are asked to please cooperate in advance by:

- Submitting rosters online at baumspage.com by the 5:00 PM deadline on the Tuesday before the meet.

- Ensuring correct chips are securely placed on runners shoes... and all chips returned after race.