

The CHSAA Cross Country Buckley Rankings  
By Buckley's Apprentice

Preface: Back by popular demand, the CHSAA Cross Country Buckley Rankings return to a crowded field of ranking systems under a new scribe (the legendary Coach Buckley is too busy trying to teach with his iPad to rank; but because of the lofty status these Rankings have achieved, they keep his name). The Buckley Rankings serve three purposes: First, to generate some excitement for the sport among our runners; second, to foster camaraderie among the runners and coaches of the great CHSAA; and, third, to lighten everyone's day with some good comedy. The new scribe intends to continue ranking teams and adding commentary in the same style humor of Coach Buckley, and all jokes and jabs are made with good faith, not with malice. No *ad hominem* animus is intended, so none should be taken.

**Week ending September 26-27**

1. Saint Anthony's: The Friars, invigorated by the visit of the Pontiff who bears their name, took second in a hot shot invitational meet in Florida (they passed on Coaches Donodeo and Mitchell's beloved Disney Invitational; Minnie Mouse and Daisy Duck are officially offended by this slight and have filed suit against the Friars with Judge Judy to repair their broken self-esteem). Very solid up front, but the Friars need the return of Chris Langer to continue their stay at the top.
2. Xavier: Darth Boomer's squad is one with the force right now after a fabulous run at Monroe-Woodbury and a 13:31 average at VCP at their own Invitational. The Blue-and-Maroon Death Star is the only team with any shot to catch the Friars, but perhaps their runner-up status was destined in another realm: the only Jesuit pope in history chose the name Francis.
3. Fordham Prep: Coach Febles and company ran Red Raider without Hughes or Lundy, so the Rams are still sand bagging. Lundy has only donned his singlet once thus far to compete in the almighty Jim Scott 2 Mile Challenge (good thing he did not blow a tire in pursuit of that august prize). What price will it take to get Lundy into a real race? Or is the only "Price" on Coach Febles's radar the one named David lighting things up for the Blue Jays?
4. Chaminade: Flyers had a sub-par opener at Briarwood without their top scorer, but then put things back together at Bowdoin on the 26<sup>th</sup> to move up a spot in these beloved Rankings. Coach Carriero has a lot of work to do: fourth place is no lock, since.....
5. St. John the Baptist: The Cougars have burst onto the scene with an impressive run at Sunken Meadow's Bob Pratt meet and then a 14:08 average at the Xavier Invite. Clearly the diet of locusts and wild honey has done this young squad some good (and will make them all into sub-midgets for the indoor season).
6. Kellenberg Memorial: The Firebirds did find their American Pharaoh in the form of senior newcomer Patrick White, who obviously was waiting for Coaches Buckley and Bonagura to move on before he bothered to lace up his spikes. White took fourth in his race at Six Flags in 16:47, leading the Firebirds to first place in the "A" Race with an average time of 17:06 and with

scorers separated by a scant 33 seconds. Coach Estrella will have these guys ready for November so long as he follows his plan, not that of North Shore High.

7. Regis: Returning one of its two previously absent scorers who was on sabbatical studying biochemistry and geophysics (or was it alchemy and centrifugal force?), the Raider-Owls ran to a 17:30 average at Six Flags with 45 seconds separating scorers. Everything is going according to plan at 84<sup>th</sup> Street, but there is stiff competition ahead of this “small” school, which asks the League to reconsider participation in Millrose 2016 now that the once-prestigious games has released its “pre-sale” prices, with the “cheap seats” going at \$60 a clip. But we know this is all about the kids.....

8. Molloy: The preseason #4 takes a serious tumble after a brutal opening at the Regis Invite (average 14:41). Did the team spend too much time lounging at Breezy Point this summer with Darth Stanner? The Molloy harriers confirmed their preseason blues by running at Bowdoin on the 26<sup>th</sup>, taking 6<sup>th</sup> in their race with a 5 man average of 18:18, a full 29 seconds behind that of Chaminade. Ouch.

9. St. Joseph’s by the Sea: Star Robert Guidici Pietro was terrific at Six Flags, taking the gold in 16:14; he was then a very good sport in the post-race interview with jolly ol’ Ian, whose emotively probing questions would have made Suzyn Waldman blush. After Nick Velez and Michael Kieran, the Vikings are in desperate need of help; Darth Mancusi was spotted canvassing the San Genaro Festival looking for potential transfer athletes.

10. Monsignor Farrell: Fearing déjà vu all over again, the Lions passed on the Wild Safari at Six Flags to run in the safer meet at Bowdoin to an 18:45 average.

11. Iona Prep: Kieran Mulvany ran well at Six Flags in 17:00, but the rest of the Gaels must have been either victims of the gale force winds down there or were too dizzy after a pre-race spin on Kingda Ka. Coach Cahill is hoping these harriers will run faster with poles in their hands.

Next edition of the Buckley Rankings to appear the week of October 12.