



## Norwalk seeks improvement in 2005 season

By DON HOHLER  
Reflector Sportswriter

Teams that will get better as the season progresses.

"That's the way Norwalk track coach Ron DeLuca describes the boys team at Norwalk.

The 20-year coaching veteran has numbers, but lacks the quality to compete with Northern Ohio League powers like Shelby.

"There are some events that we are going to be very competitive in and that's because we have a half-dozen proven athletes among the 40 boys," DeLuca said.

In actual returning letter-winners, DeLuca has nine veterans, including senior sprinter Corey Olanyian and sophomore sprinter Jordan Maddocks, middle distance runners, seniors Dustin Kuhlman, Kevin Stoll and sophomore Brian Kovach, distance runners, senior

■ **FOR additional boys' track and field previews, see Wednesday's edition.**

David Springer and junior Adam Wetzel and hurdlers, juniors Teddy Brown and Travis Root.

Olanyian is heading to Findlay University in the fall to play football.

"I am hoping that we will get some help in a number of events from a German student, senior Tobias Kaempf," DeLuca said. "He could give us a big bump in the sprints as well as the relay teams. The problem is he falls in the same "unproven" category as many others."

Other sprinters who will make things competitive in practice include junior Chris Kirk and freshmen Marcus Clark, Trent Ringle and Tyler Smith.

The best in the shot and discus cir-

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cle includes senior Dean Brutsche.

Other members of the roster include seniors Eddie Christie and Kevin Sprowl; juniors Chad Church, Paul Molnar, Kevin Obermeyer, Mario Ramos, Matt Roth, Ryan Slate; sophomores Nate Borgeson, Kevin Drake, Jack Felter, Adam Harshberger, Kyle Parrella, Logan Savage, Gabe Smith and Oron Wilcox and freshmen Erik Bogen, Sean Fortner, Rob Johnson, Spencer Krebs, Anthony Lewis, Garrett Music, Matias Razo and Andy Wetzel.

"Last year we went 4-4 in dual meets as far as the boys were concerned," DeLuca said. "Whether we can do that well this year remains to be seen."

The Truckers finished sixth in the NOL meet



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Returning members of Norwalk's boys' track and field team include (from left): front row — Chris Kirk, David Springer, Corey Olanyian, Dustin Kuhlman and Adam Wetzel; back row — Travis Root, Nate Borgeson, Jordan Maddocks, Brian Kovach and Teddy Brown.

## M'ville has both regional, state experience in '05

MONROEVILLE

Monroeville has both state and regional experience returning this season.

Junior Brad Pierce ran a leg of the state-qualifying 400-meter relay last season and also advanced to the regional in the 100.

Also qualifying to the regional were senior Dereck Sitterly in the high jump and sophomore Evan Heyman as part of the 1600 relay team. Sitterly also qualified for the recent state

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indoor meet in the high jump.

The Eagles, who are the defending Firelands Conference champions, return 15.

"We have a solid group back, but are low on numbers," coach Bernie Yoder said. "If we can fill a few holes, we could challenge for the conference. We had at least one participant at the state meet the last four years and we want to keep that

streak going."

Also on the team are seniors Jon Wilhelm, TJ Mahl, Jake Hancock, Chip Wendt, Michael Platte, Josh Niedermeier and Harry Pifer; junior Kasey Wilhelm; sophomores Seth Adelman, Andy Ball, Jared Simon, Ryan Bores, John Stang, Brent Robinson, Chris Long and Kasey Wilhelm and freshman Kevin Boehler, Jake Schwab, Dusty Pifer, Justin Bores and Jake Ryan.

Yoder selected Crestview as the favorite in the league.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Returning members of St. Paul's boys' track and field meet are (from left): front row — Ryan Shupe; back row — Frank Blechschmidt, Clint Stocker and Josh Stein.

## Flyers relying on experience

By DON HOHLER  
Reflector Sportswriter

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St. Paul has 10 letter-winners for the 2005 season, including senior Frank Blechschmidt was a member of the 400-meter relay team that ran fourth and was on the 800 relay that placed fifth.

Another senior, Josh Beebe, ran fifth in the 1600. Junior Ryan Shupe was sixth in the 300.

"Josh is a little banged up right now in nursing a bruised leg, but he should be ready to go in a few days," coach Dean Shelley said.

The team has five other seniors, all with one or two letters. That list includes Alan Harbert, Josh Stein, Clint Stocker, and Tully Ulmer, all with two letters and Scott Gfell with one.

Juniors out besides Shupe include veteran Zac Hendrickson and first-year runner Bryan Allard.

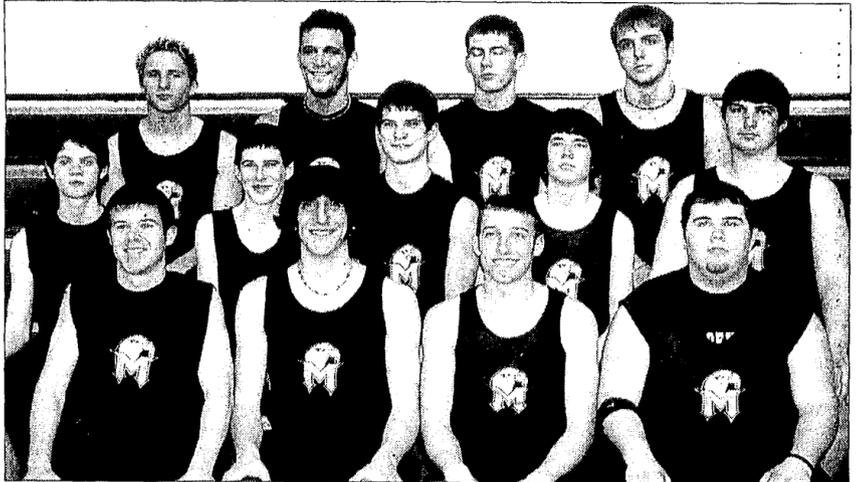
The lone sophomore out is sprinter Rob Whitehurst.

The freshmen list is impressive as it includes another Stein who can throw the shot and discus. Wes Stein won both events at the junior high Meet.

Other first-year entries include Dan Clements, Peter Fisher, Bill Roth, Karl Stanbery, Adam Tuttle, Alex Wellie, Josh Wise and Austin Cutnaw.

Monroeville captured the league meet last season.

Shelly is assisted by veteran coach Jim Bersche, Karen Welch, Dustin Beal and Aaron Kalizewski.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Returning members of Monroeville's boys' track and field team this season include (from left): front row — Kasey Wilhelm, Chip Wendt, Jon Wilhelm and Kelly Fries; middle row — Seth Adelman, Jared Simon, Evan Heyman, Andy Ball and Chris Long; back row — Brad Pierce, Dereck Sitterly, Ryan Bores and Jake Hancock. Not pictured are Brent Robinson and Michael Platte.

## Willard newcomers show promise

WILLARD — First-year coach John Buss has several first-year athletes who show plenty of promise, and Ricky Featheringill, who placed seventh in the 3,200 at the state meet, returns.

Each of the newcomers are hungry and willing to compete to improve on the Crimson Flashes' fourth-place Northern Ohio League finish last year.

"By the end of the year, if they can help us out, maybe we can surprise some people," Buss said. "It's going to be interesting to see what happens."

Other returners include Ryan Stevens, Andrew Doughty, Brian Harwood, Kyle Wilson, Craig Wolfe, Bret Kessler, Jake Rosso, Tyler Thornton, Jordan Sichel, Scott Ousley, Ash Christie, Lawrence Cavello, Adam Hicks, Eric Opatken and Todd Myers.

The rest of the roster is comprised of Diego Contreas, Joe Schloemer, Tom Niedermeier, Seth Stephens, Joe Delacruz, Collin Leitz, Doug Opatken, Josh Miller, Wes Popp, Jacob Buss and Jerry Muniz. Buss is assisted by Dom Fratta, Joe Wiles, J.D. Gibson, Matt Dominique.

### TRACK AND FIELD

■ **Plymouth**

PLYMOUTH — Key losses will confront Marty McKenzie this season, including Lucas Keaton, Jeremy Rowe and Richard Reed with state and regional experience.

But the coach, in his 17th year, still doesn't have an empty cupboard with five letter-winners back from last season's third-place Firelands Conference finish. Junior Mike LaCroix, a two-year letter-winner, is a two-time regional qualifier and one of the top three sprinters in the league. He is scheduled to compete in the 100, 200 and on the 800 and 1600 relays.

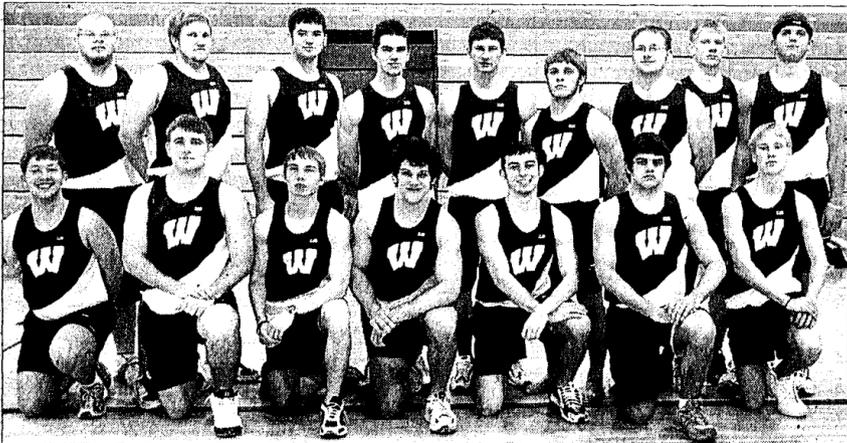
Junior Skylar Branstool is back in the distance events, including 800, 3200 relay and 1600 relay. He is a three-time regional qualifier in the cross country, eighth at regional in the 800 and fifth at regional as a member of 1600 relay team.

Junior Evan Fackler is considered one of the top distance runners in the league. The regional qualifier in cross country is slated to compete in the 3200 relay, 1600 and 3200 in the track season.

Sophomore Mike McKenzie provides some depth in the 800 relay, 300 hurdles and 1600 relay. A regional qualifier in cross country and regional performer in the 1600 relay as a freshman, McKenzie also placed sixth in the FC in the 300 hurdles. Senior Eric Masters is scheduled to compete in the shot put and discus.

"Watch for Crestview, Monroeville and New London," McKenzie said. "Our goals are to place in the top three of the conference and to be competitive at all meets this season. Depth is always a concern."

"However, I am very excited and prospects look good. The boys' team is very young with only two seniors. The boys' numbers are good."



JERRY HARRINGTON/REFLECTOR

Returning members of Willard's boys' track and field team this season are (from left): front row — Kyle Wilson, Jake Rosso, Craig Wolfe, Tyler Thornton, Bret Kessler, Andrew Doughty and Jordan Sichel; back row — Ryan Stevens, Brian Harwood, Scott Ousley, Richard Featheringill, Ash Christie, Lawrence Cavello, Adam Hicks, Eric Opatken and Todd Myers.

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