

Sports

HIGH SCHOOLS

Girls cross country

12/30/2006

The top seven runners on the **East Aurora** girls cross country team have been recognized by the state. The Blue Devils won the New York State title in Class B and finished fifth in the Federation meet.

Juniors Jenna Hulton and Catherine Lussardi were named to the All-New York State first team along with freshman Jaime Wallace of **Alden**.

Other Blue Devils making the team were sophomore Kirsten Weberg (second team), senior Marla Kelley (third team), eight-grader Paige Pelton (fourth), sophomore Erin Crawford (honorable mention) and junior Tara O'Conner (honorable mention).

Other all-state picks were junior Kailey Sullivan of **West Seneca West** (fourth team, Class AA), senior Megan Niblock of **Sweet Home** (fourth team, Class A), senior Leanne Skrabacz of **West Seneca East** (fifth team, Class A), senior Sarah Veith of **Lake Shore** (honorable mention, Class A), freshman Hannah Moffett of **Albion** (third team, Class B), junior Nicole Calbi (**Olean**, fourth team), seventh-grader Katie Saff of **Falconer** (Class C, fourth team) and senior Brooke Adams of **Randolph** (third team, Class D).

HIGH SCHOOLS

Boys cross country

12/30/2006

Joe Whalen of **Hamburg** has been named cross country's Sophomore Runner of the Year in New York State. Whalen finished 23rd at the Federation Championship last month at Wappingers Falls. He was fourth in Class A at the New York State meet at Warwick Valley. He won the Section VI Class A title at Long Point State Park.

"He has a lot of natural ability and he also has an incredible work ethic, said Hamburg coach Ron Fortuna. "He focused on getting himself better and getting his team better."

Whalen was also included on the All-State team released by the NYS Sportswriter's Association. Grabbing the highest spot among Western New York runners was **East Aurora** senior Ryan O'Connor, who made second team. Whalen was third team along with senior Tom Reubens of **Wilson**. Senior John Haenle of **Lockport** was fourth team.