

Changing Of The Guard...Or Is It?

2018 TN State ES/MS XC Championships

Meet Preview

By Chris Kane



10/16/18 KNOXVILLE, TN – This week in Knoxville it is finally beginning to feel like Fall and not monsoon season. That being said, expected chilly temperatures and the threat of rain, athletes who go home with hardware and all-state certificates will be those who can handle all the pressures of a major meet like this. As the TN State ES/MS XC Championships turns 13, we are expecting one of the most exciting meets in history! This year, we are expecting some new faces at the top of some leaderboards and familiar faces at the top of others. As 2000 of the best athletes from Memphis to Johnson City make the trek to Knoxville, we are expecting a fantastic day of competition and fun!

These meet reviews/previews are produced by myself with a guest contribution from Nashville which will give some great insight into that region. All predictions are simply a guess, guaranteed to be wrong and should not be taken seriously or as fact. Have fun with it and run fast Saturday!

West Region

Middle School

The story on the Middle School Side was Houston MS. Sweeping both titles with considerable margins was impressive enough, going 1-2 as individuals on both sides was even more impressive. Led by Zoe Marsh (16th in 2017)/Gracey Owens (9th in 2017) on the girls side (team was 2017 Champion) and Hays Adams/Samuel Tankersley (Tankersley was 23rd in 2017) on the guys side (team was 4th in 2017),

Houston is planning on contending for not only team titles but individual honors. 4th place finisher Kindleigh Alnutt from Houston was 15th last year as well, this bodes well for 3rd place finisher Laura Rutlin (St George's Independent). Collierville MS (girls were 5th in 2017) managed to earn runner up honors on both sides as well. This region has grown immensely the past few years and is now consistently sending top flight athletes each year.

Elementary School



Photo Credit: Stacey Chandler Schwarzmann

Dogwood Elementary boys (pictured above) peppered the top of the field with 5 in the first 11 places. Coming off of their 3rd place 2017 finish they scored just 27 points winning over the Tiger Running Club who scored 104. Led by Andrew Degroot (2nd Place and 9th in 2017) who ran 5:56, they maintained a tight 1-5 spread of just 31 seconds. Porter Spiceland (Lakeland ES) and Steven Hudnall (Snowden MS) finished in 1st and 3rd. Spiceland managed to hold off Degroot winning with a time 5:54.

On the girls side, Dogwood won as well (6th in 2017), this time with 44 points over Hutchison who scored just 89 points. They were led by Rachel Tankersley who won by 8 seconds over Nellie Keras (Hutchison). Look for both Dogwood teams to compete well this weekend.

Mid-State

Middle School

Cookeville MS Girls (13th as a team in 2017) are quite familiar with the state meet and are looking to be competitive once again. Led by Emily Coonce's 2nd place finish (71st in 2017) they should be even stronger this fall. Remington Schimmel (Unattached) defeated Coonce by running a great time of 13:21.

Parker Linder (Overton) was just 58th in 2017. Winning his region by 10 seconds, it can be expected that he will finish much higher this year. Jamison Stenzel (TW Hunter) and Aaron Gottfried (DeKalb Co) rounded out the top 3. TW Hunter boys led by Stenzel won by 49 points over Oakland MS and look to improve greatly on their 30th place 2017 finish.

Elementary School

Abby Pennington (Thurman Francis) dominated her regional qualifier over Mercy Whitt who will return to the state meet. Pennington ran 6:22 with Whitt being the other athlete under 7 minutes running 6:35. Jack Anderson ES (8th in 2017) won the girls team award with just 26 points. Macon Co was 2nd by just 12 points.

Macon Co Boys also performed well scoring just 27 points led by individual champion Anthony Johnson. Carson Phillips of Discovery ES finished 2 seconds behind 6:01-6:03. Phillips led Discovery to 2nd place as a team with just 45 points.

Nashville (Guest Column – Brandon Ally of Nashville Youth Athletics)



Photo Credit: Lisa Chapman

Middle School

The middle school girls' race was a shoot-out from the gun. The individual race was exciting, with a pack of 7-8 girls battling through 1.5 miles. In the end, Grace Feltner, the NYA City Champion and 29th at last year's state meet from St. Henry's, took the victory in 11:56. Grace's 11:56 is the 3rd best time ever at Percy Warner Park. On her heels was newcomer Isabella Guillamondegui in 11:58, the 5th fastest time ever. Finally, Sophia Brame-Goldwaithe, last year's Elementary School State Champion, was 3rd in 12:00. These three girls could all be in the running for a top 10 individual finish this year. The team race wasn't close. Brentwood Middle took the event with 26 points and all 5 scorers in the top 20. This team is potent and would have to be in the team title discussion.

Finally, the middle school boys race saw some fireworks. The Nashville region typically has a boy in the individual title hunt, having two state champions and a state runner-up over the last 4 years. This year saw Callahan Fielder of Brentwood Middle best the course record at Percy Warner as a 6th grader in 10:21. Callahan was 2nd last year in the elementary school race, but there has been some discussion as to whether he will make the trip to Knoxville. Callahan was just ahead of his teammate Brody Chapman, who ran 10:32, the 5th fastest in Percy Warner history. Close behind was Carson Spaulding from St. Matthew school in 10:55 and Luke Thompson from Brentwood Middle in 10:56. As you can see, Brentwood Middle had 3 in the top 4 runners, which led to an astonishing victory with 19 points. If the entire Brentwood squad makes the trip to Knoxville, it would be hard to see them getting beat (they had 5 in the top 10 and a team average just under 11:00).

****Editors Note: Callahan Fielder is not entered Saturday due to a schedule conflict****

Elementary School

The Nashville regional qualifier did not disappoint once again. There were some familiar names up front on both the individual and team front, a new Percy Warner course record, and a new face that may make some noise for an individual state title. The elementary girls started things off on a perfect cross-country weather day. The top 3 girls hadn't changed throughout the NYA season with 5th grader Lia Banovac from Edmondson Elementary taking the individual title in 5:55. Lia, who was 3rd at last year's state meet, and second place finisher Sarah Potter battled through 3/4s of the race before Lia pulled away. Sarah Potter from Discovery School in Dickson, who covered this year's regional course in 5:59, was 6th at last year's state meet. Rounding out the top 3 was Lauren Banovac, Lia's twin sister. Lauren was 10th at last year's state meet and hopes to make some noise this year as the "trio" as they're known in Nashville shoot over to Knoxville on a business trip this weekend.

The girls' team race saw Lia and Lauren lead their Edmondson squad to a team title with 38 points over Scales in 2nd and St. Matthew School in 3rd. If Edmondson has two low sticks and their 3-5 can be close, they may be in the hunt for a top 5 team finish.

The elementary school boys race also saw a familiar face up front. Aidan Burtch from East Montgomery Elementary took the individual title in 5:49. Aidan has dominated the competition this year, and looks to improve on his 10th place finish at last year's state championships. Second and third places saw some new faces to the Nashville area championships.

Wyatt Boling from Litton Elementary ran 5:56 for 2nd place and Alex Taylor, a homeschooler, was 3rd in 6:03. The boys' team race ended up being very close. Hunter's Bend Elementary was without their #1 man but still pulled out the team victory with 52 points over Scales Elementary. Scales is always very strong and beat Hunter's Bend at the NYA City Championships, so look for them to compete well at the state meet. If Hunter's Bend runs their entire squad, they too may look for a top 5 finish.

Knoxville

Middle School



Photo Credit: HVMS

Madison Archdale (Cedar Bluff) finished 22nd at state last fall in her first competitive season. This year, she has been almost unbeatable winning her region in 13:12 on the state meet course. She defeated 3 other top 20 athletes from 2017 in Natali Fender (Ambassadors), Savannah Rivera (Ambassadors) and Anna Graves (Unattached) who finished in 20th, 17th and 14th respectively. Elementary runner-up in 2017 Jenna Clements from Sacred Heart was 5th in that race. Hardin Valley MS is only 4 months old and is already making waves. Scoring 74 points and led by Emma Zimmerman, they are led by great depth helped by members of the 2017 HVES State Champion team.

Farragut Middle had a big day one year ago at the state meet. Trevor Coggin won the individual title and the team won as well. Guess what, they are back and looking just as strong. Coggin has been steady this season and has to be considered one of the favorites. Farragut boys won the boys race over Hardin Valley MS who has only one 8th grader in their top 7. Other notables are Keegan Smith (Sacred Heart) and Cade Crum (Bearden) finished top 5 in the region after finishing top 4 in the 2017 Elementary State Race. Keegan Smith was the 3-time Elementary Champion from 2015-17.

Elementary

Elizabeth Wolski (Sacred Heart) finished 13th in 2017 but is looking in top 5 form after a strong fall. Micaiah Roberts (Ambassadors), Emma Cissna (Hardin Valley) and Carolina Areheart (Gibbs) all finished within 3 seconds of Wolski and also look to be in All-State contention. Hardin Valley ES Girls and Boys swept the 2017 team titles and the girls look just as strong this year. Farragut ES finished 3rd last year at the state meet and are led by Emerson Clarke.

Nicholas Burke (Sequoyah) finished 5th in 2017 but is looking like a potential contender this go around. His time at the region would have been placed 2nd last year behind Keegan Smith who has moved up to middle school. Kyle Finchum (Seymour), Hamilton McDonald (Sequoyah), Miles Dolynchuk (Hardin Valley), Britton Lewis (Farragut) are other returning all-state athletes. Hardin Valley boys (2017 Team Champion) won a tough battle over Sequoyah (5th in 2017) 61-66. Both teams along with Farragut (3rd in 2017) are teams to watch.

Chattanooga



Photo Credit: Chris Kane (Finish Line in front of Lookout Mountain)

Middle

Mae Mae Powe (St Jude) and Hannah Faudi (CSTHEA Patriots) are familiar faces at the top of the regional. They finished 13th and 11th at the State Meet in 2017. Look for both to be competing for top 10 spots. Powe won this round winning in 12:35 to Faudi's 12:39. Lily Dodd (CSTHEA Patriots) finished an excellent 3rd and should be in the running for an all-state position. CSTHEA finished with a perfect score and look to improve on their 2017 6th place state finish. Chattanooga Christian finished in 2nd with just 49 points.

Cory Mattox (CSTHEA Patriots) is a lot stronger this year after finishing in 84th in 2017 at the state meet. Lawson Parsley (McCallie) finished just 3 seconds back 11:47-11:50 led a strong team charge on their way to winning over CSTHEA 23-43. CSTHEA and McCallie finished 10th and 11th at state in 2017 and are hoping to move up this year.

Elementary

The girls race saw a great back and forth between Fiona Cisto (Unattached and 18th in 2017) and Caroline Curtis (Bright and 76th in 2017) with Cisto winning just by 1 second in 7:12. Just 8 seconds back was Calyn Lambeth (CSTHEA Patriots). The Bright School finished in with a great score of 37 points and look to improve on their 15th place finish last year.

Andrew Smith (Unattached) stole the show in the boys race winning 6:30-6:44 over Lake Montgomery (Lookout Mountain). He is an all-state contender after finishing 31st in 2017. CSTHEA Patriots used a 27 second spread to secure the team win over College Street 48-70. Bright and St Jude were 2 and 3 points out of 2nd place.

Tri-Cities

Middle

Kaylee Dyke (West View) returns after finishing 33rd at state in 2017. Battling with an athlete from Virginia, she placed 2nd in 13:19. She led Ashlynn Roy (Jonesborough) and Ella Battel (Gray) in 13:39 and 14:05 in 2nd and 3rd for TN finishers. Dyke's top finish led her team to victory as well. West View won with just 57 points over Holston who finished with 67 points. West View finished in 10th last year. Holston was 21st.

Gray MS's Luke Mussard was the top contender for the regional title based on his 55th place state finish last year. He controlled the race and pulled away to win in 11:42 over Jaden Woody (East Ridge) who ran 12:04 who outleaned Bereket Evans from West View. Meadowview was the team who ended up at the top of the team leaderboard winning by 14 points over West View 55-69. Meadowview looks like they will improve on their 24th place finish from 2017.

Elementary

West Side's Arvella Nave 6:05 was a dominating win as the next closest finisher was 21 seconds back. Halle Kate Guinn returns to the state meet and looks to improve on her 3rd grade finish. She finished in a great time of 6:26. Sulphur Springs was the only complete team.

Reece Vernon also of West Side followed suit winning in 5:34 over Jud Stapleton (Sulphur Springs) who ran 5:49. Sulphur Springs was the only complete team.

PREDICTIONS

Middle School Girls

- 1. Zoe Marsh (Houston)**
- 2. Grace Feltner (St Henry's)**
- 3. Madison Archdale (Cedar Bluff)**
- 4. Mae Mae Powe (St Jude)**
- 5. Gracey Owens (Houston)**
- 6. Isabella Guillamondegui (Unattached)**
- 7. Hannah Faudi (CSTHEA Patriots)**
- 8. Natalie Fender (Ambassadors)**
- 9. Anna Graves (Unattached)**
- 10. Sophia Brame-Goldthwaithe (Head)**

Darkhorse: Savannah Rivera (Ambassadors) – Consistent top finisher – 17th in 2017

Team:

- 1. Houston**
- 2. Brentwood**
- 3. Hardin Valley**
- 4. CSTHEA**

5. Cookeville

Middle School Boys

1. Trevor Coggin (Farragut)
2. Brody Chapman (Brentwood)
3. Samuel Tankersley (Houston)
4. Zac Ilagan (Bearden)
5. Keegan Smith (Sacred Heart)
6. Carson Spalding (St Matthew)
7. Hays Adams (Houston)
8. Parker Linder (Overton)
9. Cory Mattox (CSTHEA Patriots)
10. Ivan Bell (Cedar Bluff)

Darkhorse: Riley Hanson (Farragut) – Did Not Compete at Regional Qualifier – 9th in 2017

Team

1. Farragut
2. Houston
3. Mt Juliet – TMSAA State Champion
4. Hardin Valley
5. Brentwood – missing top runner

Elementary School Girls

1. Lia Banovac (Edmondson)
2. Sarah Potter (Discovery School)
3. Elizabeth Wolski (Sacred Heart)
4. Rachel Tankersley (Dogwood)
5. Micaiah Roberts (Ambassadors)
6. Arvelle Nave (West Side)
7. Lauren Banovac (Edmondson)
8. Fiona Cisto (Unattached)
9. Emma Cissna (Hardin Valley)
10. Caroline Curtis (Bright)

Darkhorse: Irelan Fender (Ambassadors) 15th in 2017

Team

1. Hardin Valley
2. Dogwood
3. Edmondson
4. CSTHEA Patriots
5. Farragut

Elementary School Boys

1. Nicholas Burke (Sequoyah)
2. Andrew De Groot (Dogwood)
3. Aiden Burtch (East Montgomery)
4. Porter Spiceland (Lakeland ES)
5. Andrew Smith (Unattached)
6. Anthony Johnson (Macon Co)
7. Kyle Finchum (Unattached)
8. Wyatt Boling (Litton)
9. Hamilton McDonald (Sequoyah)
10. Reece Vernon (West Side)

Darkhorse: Miles Dolynchuk (Hardin Valley) – 18th in 2017

Team

1. Hardin Valley
2. Dogwood
3. Hunters Bend
4. Sequoyah
5. Farragut



GOOD LUCK THIS WEEKEND!!!