

Footprints in the Sand

Cross Country Runners Don't Look Back as They Leave Their Trail-marks Behind

Cross-country running became more and more popular at WHS as the years went by. As the head coach, for three years, Coach George Smith, also a history teacher, worked very hard to pick the program up and he succeeded in doing so. He made many recruits, and changed the outlook of the sport entirely.

At the beginning of the season, when asked what his goals for the team were, he said, "I'm looking for both teams to go to state!"

With that the boys team and himself had a bet going.

"After the boys failed to qualify for state in 1998, missing it only by three points, they issued a challenge to me saying that they would shave their heads if they did not qualify this year, and if they did, I would have to shave mine. They were using that as motivation to qualify," Coach Smith said. And they did just that by finishing fourth at the regional meet; although seniors Laurie Sanders and Joe Hoerl also qualified in the top twenty individuals that made it to state.

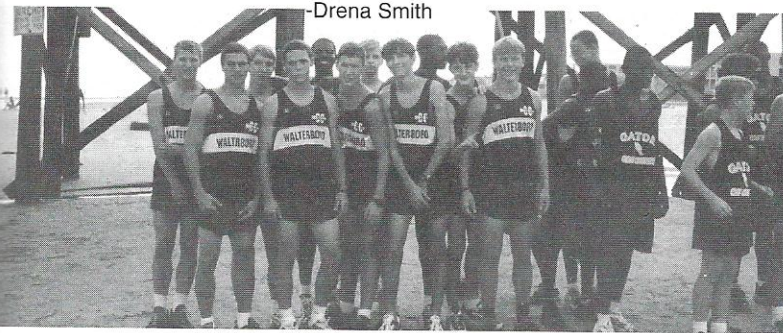
The team was one of the largest in a while. The boy's team consisted of 11 runners, while the girls had 5 members, including Line Lillebekk, a Norwegian exchange student.

"I enjoy running, but it's not so hot in Norway," Line said. The runners practiced every day after school at 4:00 at the Recreation Center trail, running anywhere from 3 to 6 miles on a sandy, hilly course. The meets were on Wednesdays at various places where the runners competed in a 5K race. It was a fact that running relaxed the body and runners proved to be some of the most intelligent.

-Drena Smith



Four of a Kind! Sophomores Paisley Polk and Line Lillebekk, and seniors Drena Smith and Karen Ellen look dazed as they stand around to stretch before their meet. They always focused on what they were doing and were in their own little worlds as they prepared for the meets to begin.



What a gang! The boys cross country runners anxiously awaited for the firing of the gun as they stood on the starting line, with others teams, before the Wando meet began. Wando's unique cross country course was actually ran along the beach at the isle of palms.



Brush by 'Em! Senior Jenni Brush makes her way by the runners as she enters the woods at the first scrimmage meet held at the Recreation Center trail. Jenni was a second year runner. Due to several injuries, Jenni was unable to run many meets, but she was definitely a natural at it!