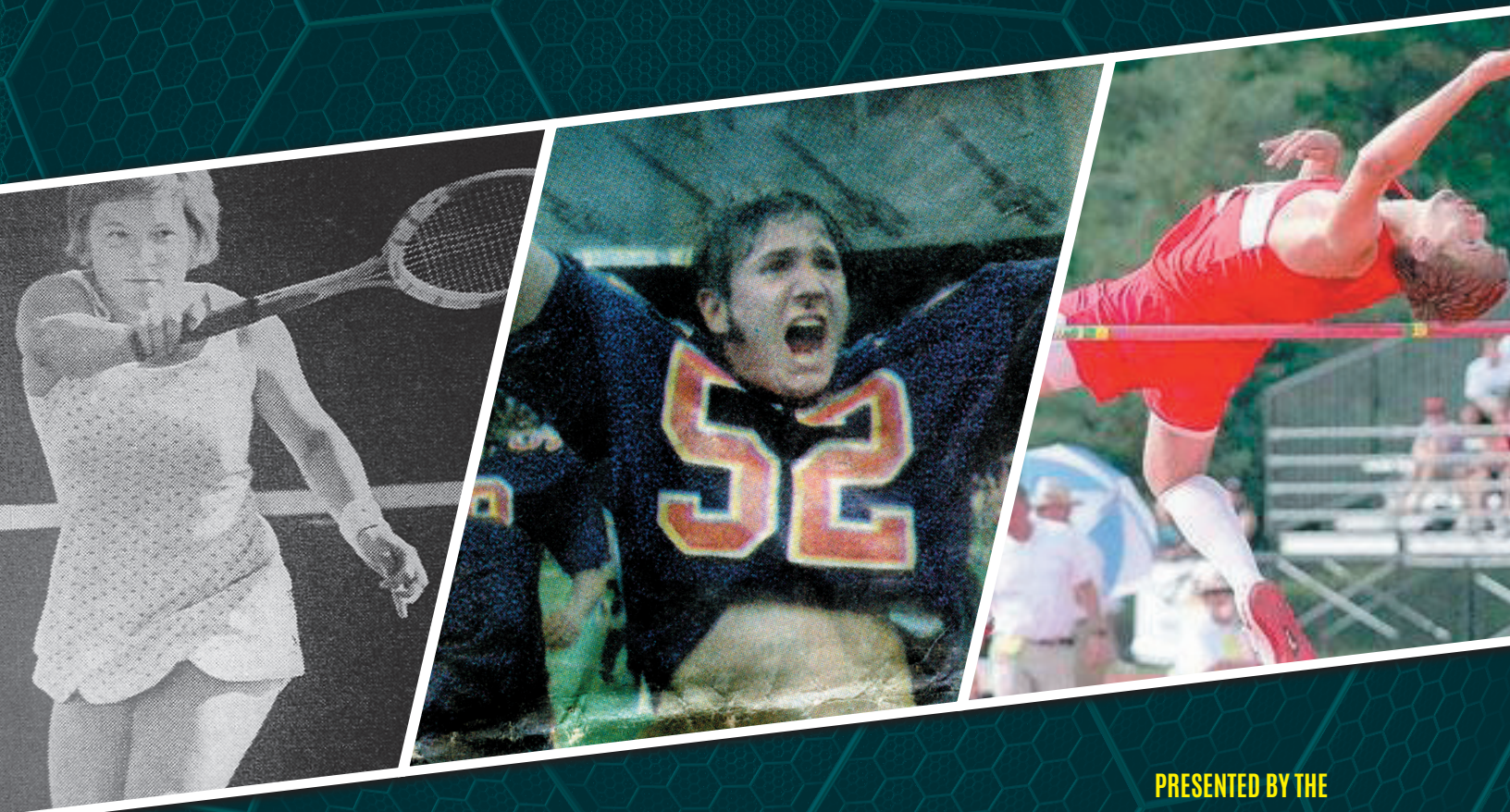


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Basketball heritage lives on

Bill Boone, Jared McMurry
and Jeff Nelson

Journal Review

Gary Linn didn't miss a Crawfordsville basketball sectional from 1959-2020.

The former Crawfordsville teacher and coach, as well as a former sports editor of the Journal Review, has a unique perspective on consolidation 50 years ago.

From Crawfordsville's claim of the first ever IHSAA boys' basketball state championship in 1911 to Wingate's back-to-back state titles to New Ross and Waynetown's regional titles — the state basketball tournament was at the center of attention in Montgomery County every March.

Fans, students, and teams packed the old Crawfordsville High School gymnasium as the Athenians hosted the small county schools for decades. The small teams all wanted their shot at one of the premier programs in the state in Crawfordsville.

That all changed in the fall of 1971 when the small schools closed. North Montgomery and Southmont opened its doors and a new five-team sectional would be hosted by North Montgomery starting in the spring of 1972. It changed again when Southwestern and Wainwright High Schools combined to make McCutcheon and again in the 1997-98 school year when the IHSAA formed a class basketball system for its famous state tournament.

But the passion for hoops in this county has never changed. It continues to look different every year, but the quest for success on the hardwood remains the same.

And that's important to remember.

The journey through the ongoing evolution of basketball in Montgomery County over the last 50 years is interesting to say the least.

From the start, there were rivalries.

Players, good players, who were being tabbed as the future of Crawfordsville's team landed at North Montgomery because their families suddenly were living in a new district. Guys like Hal Shelton, whose Tuttle teams went 33-5, were now being fitted for Chargers uniforms. Shelton made an impact — he is still No.10 on the all-time North scoring chart.

"With consolidation, there was a new excitement within the county because they thought they could now compete with Crawfordsville in both football and basketball," Linn said. "And maybe



Journal Review

North Montgomery won three-straight sectionals from 2005-07.

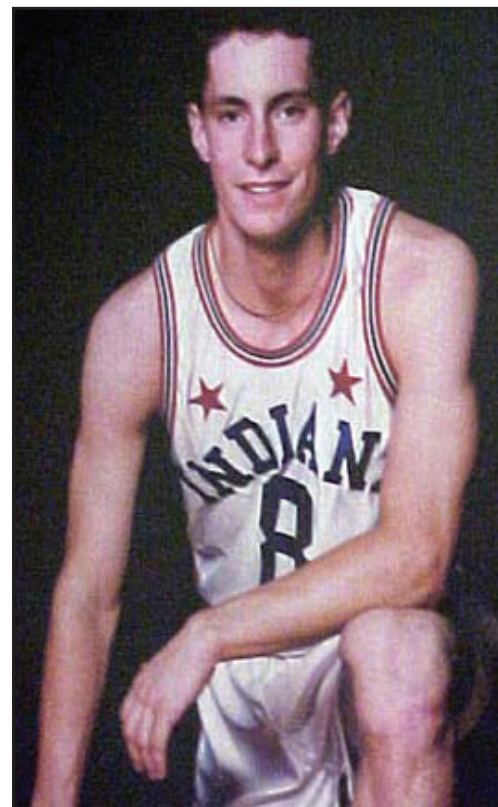
North Montgomery Championships	
Sectional	— 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1999 (2A), 2005 (2A), 2006 (2A), 2007 (2A), 2009 (3A)
WRC	— 1972, 1973, 1975
SAC	— 1990, 2006, 2007, 2009
North Montgomery Boys 1,000 Pt Scorers	
D.J. Byrd	(2009) — 1785
B.J. Schlicher	(1996) — 1326
Caleb Randolph	(2017) — 1252
Grant Gayler	(2015) — 1130
Justin Clary	(2018) — 1032

Crawfordsville wouldn't win any more sectionals."

Prior to 1971, CHS had 33 sectional basketball sectional titles.

Where football was forming something new, and players were needed, everyone had a basketball team, and some of the county schools had really good ones. There were not nearly enough spots on the roster.

Chuck Kriston was hired at North, and he got off to a 10-0 start. He coached for years, finished with 99 wins, became the AD and still lives in the area. Pat Rady was new at Southmont, and lasted only one season, although he did go on to become the second-winningest coach in Indiana basketball history.



Journal Review

Matt Petty, who hit a game-winning shot to win the sectional in 1989 was an Indiana All-Star.

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TIMELINE OF **KEY EVENTS**

- 
- Fall 1971 North Montgomery and Southmont open
 - Fall 1973 Southmont volleyball wins first school sectional title
 - March 1974 North Montgomery basketball wins first school sectional title
 - Fall 1978 Crawfordsville's Sally Johnson wins fourth and final swim state title
 - Spring 1975 Crawfordsville wins first IHSAA girls tennis state title
 - Fall 1975 North Montgomery joins the Sagamore Conference
 - Spring 1979 Southmont's Brian Miller wins 440 track state title
 - Winter 1983 Southmont's Kevin Hedrick wins swim state title in 100 free
 - Winter 1984 Crawfordsville's Chris Malott wins swim state title in 100 free
 - Winter 1985 Crawfordsville's Doug Haslam wins wrestling state title at 126
 - Fall 1985 Southmont joins the Sagamore Conference
 - Fall 1987 Crawfordsville's Holly Humphrey wins second straight swim state title
 - Winter 1988 Crawfordsville's Josh Mikesell wins fourth 100 backstroke swim state title in a row
 - Fall 1989 Crawfordsville's Debi Humphrey wins swim state title in 100 fly
 - Fall 1995 North Montgomery football wins Class 2A state title
 - Fall 1996 North Montgomery football wins Class 2A state title
 - Winter 1997 Crawfordsville's Nick Arzner wins fourth swim state title by winning the 100 and 200 free
 - Spring 2000 North Montgomery baseball is Class 2A state runners-up
 - Winter 2002 Crawfordsville's Chad Ames wins swim state title in 100 fly
 - Spring 2008 Crawfordsville baseball wins Class 3A state title
 - Winter 2001 Southmont wrestling wins semi-state
 - Spring 2011 Southmont's Christensen wins 2nd-straight IHSAA high jump state title
 - June 2011 Crawfordsville baseball wins Class 3A state title
 - Winter 2014 North Montgomery wrestling is IHSWCA 2A state runner-up
 - June 2014 Southmont softball is Class 2A state runner-up



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Multiple eras of success for girls hoops

Crawfordsville Championships Last 50 Years

Sectional — 2009
 Regional — 2009
 SAC — 1987, 2008, 2009

Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Pick any of the last five decades and you'll find girls' basketball success in Montgomery County.

North Montgomery won the first three contested Sagamore Conference championships in 1979, 1980 and 1981. That coming after an undefeated run to the regional final in 1976.

Andra Harshbarger was an Indiana All-Star during her 1978 senior season and also helped the Chargers to a volleyball regional title in 1977 and placed in the top-3 at the state track and field meet twice.

"Representing North was awesome," Harshbarger said. "It was a blessing. I was blessed with some amazing athletic talent and I think I used it pretty well at NMHS and beyond."

Southmont also had early success - winning three Wabash River Conference titles before joining the Sagamore Conference in the fall of 1985 and winning the SAC the very first year as a member. The Mounties won three-straight sectional titles from 1991-93.

Crawfordsville's success has been limited, but both the 1987 and 2009 teams



Crawfordsville 1,000-Point Scorers

Cari Fruits
 Mandi Johnson
 Alex Gasaway
 Lacey Garrett

North Montgomery Championships

Sectional — 1976, 1980, 1981, 1995, 2003 (2A), 2004 (2A), 2005 (2A), 2006 (2A), 2007 (2A)
 SAC — 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1988, 1989



Journal Review Photos

Southmont won the sectional title in 2014.

were state caliber.

Shannon Hardesty was an Indiana All-Star as a senior in 1987 and has many fond memories of her childhood in Crawfordsville.

"Crawfordsville was a great place to grow up," the San Antonio, TX resident said. "I had to carefully explain to my kids when we watched the movie 'Hoosiers' that what they saw really happened. We would get the keys to the old CHS gym and go shoot hoops. We'd take a boom box and listen to Bon Jovi and Def Leppard and play. Nothing beats the old CHS gym. There was a trust factor in our community that was huge, and



Southmont Championships

Sectional — 1979, 1984, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999 (2A), 2014 (2A)
 WRC — 1981, 1984, 1985
 SAC — 1986, 1994

scorers Mandi Johnson and Alex Gasaway. The duo and coach Darren Haas landed the Athenians a regional title that season as well.

Both North Montgomery and Southmont have benefited from class basketball in terms of sectional titles.

That likely didn't matter for the late Terry Bartell though. From 2003-07 — Bartell led the Chargers to an overall record of 78-39 and five-straight Class 2A sectional crowns. Ashley Buis, who graduated in 2008, is North Montgomery's all-time leading scorer with 1,362 points.

Southmont ended a 15 sectional drought with a Class 2A title in 2014 — led by 1,000-point club member Cali Wetli.

"It was an absolute joy to be a part of the Southmont basketball program," she said. "There were so many dedicated staff and coaches who come to mind who poured their heart and soul out to push us not just in the game, but in life in general. They weren't just coaching athletes, but raising us within the game. They saw the future in the program and definitely gave attention where it was due to the youth — and involved us as players."

Left, Shannon Hardesty was an Indiana All-Star for Crawfordsville in 1987. Right, Andra Harshbarger was an Indiana All-Star for North Montgomery in 1978.

North Montgomery 1,000-Point Scorers

Ashley Buis (2008) — 1362
 Brittany Lee (2003) — 1357
 Kelsi Byrd (2013) — 1047
 Lindsey Rush (1998) — 1003

Southmont 1,000-Point Scorers

Kristin Miller (1995) — 1305
 Amanda Canal (2001) — 1079
 Cali Wetli (2014) — 1056
 Stephanie Williams (1986) — 1052
 Rachel Walters (2005) — 1030



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Football came to the entire county in 1971

**Jeff Nelson and
Jared McMurry**

Journal Review

Friday Night Football became a big deal in the fall of 1971.

Only Coal Creek in the north along with New Market and Ladoga in the south had a football team.

Consolidation meant new coaches and new rivalries.

Coal Creek had Pat McDowell, so he brought his whistle to North Montgomery. Southmont's Bob Tandy made a call to Evansville and brought Ken Coudret in as head coach, and Coudret brought Ron Hess and Mike Hallas in a package deal.

For the next 50 years, those, and most of the other football coaches since then, have taunted each other across the field for two hours during a game, but for the rest of the year, go to church with , raise their kids alongside, do favors for and are always ready to help those same guys.

There has been success.

The Mounties dominated the WRC in their early years, with eight titles in 11 years. After moving to the Sagamore, they won three in a row from 2009-'11.

Desson Hannum owns



Journal Review

Southmont's Austin Burton led the Mounties to three-straight SAC titles.

Southmont Championships
WRC — 1971, 1972, 1974, 1977,
1978, 1979, 1981, 1982
SAC — 2009, 2010, 2011

North Montgomery Championships
WRC — 1972, 1973
SAC — 1986, 1987, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2008
Sectional — 1995 (2A), 1996 (2A), 2008 (3A)
Regional — 1995 (2A), 1996 (2A)
Semi-State — 1995 (2A), 1996 (2A)
State Champions — 1995 (2A), 1996 (2A)



Journal Review

North Montgomery won back-to-back football state titles in 1995-96.

those three Sagamore championships.

“Going into to my 15th season, I have not only had the opportunity to coach football but I have also been able to raise a family in this great community,” he said. “It has been a pleasure to coach at Southmont. I have had support from the Administration and community since day one. The highlight of my coaching career is obviously the three straight Sagamore Conference championships we won between 2009-2011. This is important because we were the 1st school in the Sagamore to accomplish such a feat.”

Crawfordsville was an area power at consolidation and that trend stayed the same for quite a while, as Glenn Knecht and Rick Schavietello won a lot more than they lost. The 1989 Athenians team is always in the discussion of one of the best in the area.

“Looking back, what I always remember is the community support, the small town feel,” Schavietello said. “Walking down the street, everybody knew you and cheered you on. We felt that support. I loved the size of this community and the support it generated. Companies and businesses also knew that they could get good summer workers from the sports teams — good kids who would work hard.”

Charley German, who was at Darlington and landed at North with McDowell, went on to become head coach and won state championships.

“When Pat McDowell started the program he had to bring in a lot of kids and mix them with the coaches in a sport they had never played in,” German said. “The communities really bought into the idea of expanding the athletic programs that the small

schools didn't have. I think one of the major focal points was the students, faculty, and community from the small schools all embraced the consolidation process.”

The rivalries started immediately, but there was more.

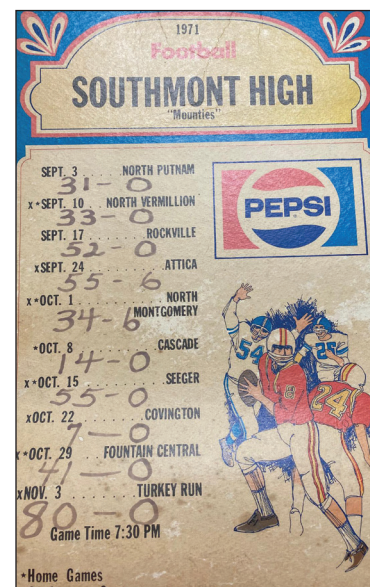
“There were so many good people,” Schavietello said. “I had such respect for Pat McDowell, Ken Coudret and then on to guys like Charley German. We had good people, good coaches and good rivalries.”

Since 1971, the Athenians have won two sectional and six Sagamore Conference titles.

The Chargers won a pair of WRC titles, and have six from the Sagamore. There was a sectional crown in 2008, but there was '95 and '96.

State champions. Twice. “Obviously a huge moment of pride for North Montgomery was when we went to the dome in '95 and '96,” German said, “and we saw all the people from the different communities there and a huge number of people were wearing anything they could get their hands on that had North Montgomery on it. To look up there and see all that, I've often thought that we may not have been as successful as we were if it hadn't been for

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Track & Field, XC have flourished in county

Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Ron Hess and Ed Stuffle are neither one from Montgomery County.

But their impact on track and field at North Montgomery and Southmont continues to be everlasting 50 years later.

Hess came to Southmont from Evansville when the doors opened in 1971, while Stuffle was fresh out of college and accepted an industrial arts position at newly minted North Montgomery. In the years to come they would help put the Chargers and Mounties on the map — Stuffle at North Montgomery and Hess at Southmont.

The Mounties got to winning right away — with seven-straight boys' track and field Wabash River Conference titles from 1973-1979 and six cross country titles in a row from 1974-1979. The success came at the state level too.

"From the start, it was a teaching process, but from right off the bat, we were very good," Hess said. "Our 1977 team was probably the best. We won the Terre Haute sectional, which at that time had about 25-30 teams. It used to be 12 sectionals in the state, and it has now gone to around 40."

And they had the runners to compete.

Lindsay Carlisle, who had placed fifth in the two-mile run at the state meet in 1976, was the favorite in 1977, but Hess said he got sick the week of the meet. The 880 meter relay team placed sixth in 1977.

And then just two years later in 1979, Brian Miller became Southmont's first state champion — winning the 400 meter dash. Jacob Clampitt added a seventh-place finish in the 800 in 2000, while Jonathan Christensen won back-to-back high jump state titles in 2010 and 2011. Brooks Long most recently reached the podium with a sixth-place finish in the mile run in 2017.

In cross country, the Mounties won the boys' sectional in 1986 and 1987 and the regional in 1987. Carlisle also earned a third-place finish at the cross country state meet in 1976 and 10th in 1975. The boys' team of Mike Oppy, Greg Givens, Matt Williams, Mike Michael, Darcy Jones, Mark Purcell, and Jason Bridwell



Journal Review

Dirk Berard was second in the state in cross country in 1972.

qualified for the state meet in 1987 and the girls' team of Tracy Kinkead, Cammie Servies, Angie Flick, Kerry O'Dell, Cindy Calvert, Denise Harvey, and Stephanie Kincade in 1985.

On the girls' side, the Mounties own 13 Sagamore Conference track and field titles along with four sectional titles.

Amy Huckstep placed in the top-6 in four events from 1985-1988 at the state meet, including second in the 300 hurdles in 1987. Tracey Kinkead was second in the 800 in 1988 and Creasy Clauser second in 2008 in the same event.

Stuffle broke North Montgomery onto the scene with its only Sagamore Conference boys' cross country title in 1978 — a favorite for all-conference runner Stu Weliver, who joined female Sis Bane on the championship team.

In track and field — North Montgomery snapped a 35-year conference drought by winning the Sagamore Conference in 2019. Dakota Ramey is the Chargers lone boy state placer, taking fourth in the discus in 2013 — the same

- County XC State Qualifiers
- CHS — Dirk Berard (1973, 3rd)
 - CHS — Boys Team (1972, Berard — 2nd)
 - NM — Jennifer Fay (1983, 14th)
 - NM — Kristen Wheeler (2002)
 - NM — Adam Thada (2002)
 - SM — Lindsay Carlisle (1975, 10th)
 - SM — Lindsay Carlisle (1976, 3rd)
 - SM — Angie Flick (1983)
 - SM — Cammie Servies (1983)
 - SM — Girls Team (1985)
 - SM — Michele Michael (1986)
 - SM — Mike Oppy (1986)
 - SM — Boys Team (1987)
 - SM — Tracy Kinkead (1987)
 - SM — Jacob Clampitt (1999)
 - SM — Scott Rutledge (2003)
 - SM — Chris Sering (2003)
 - SM — Samantha Eliason (2005)

year Stuffle retired.

"I just always got excited, because I treated it like it was my classroom with no walls," hall of fame coach Ed Stuffle said. "It's motivating in the classroom when you see a light bulb come on one of the kids and you get excited because they grasp what you are trying to teach and out on the cross country course when you look at the stopwatch at the finish line and they get that grin on their face, that's their light bulb that comes on."

On the girls' side, North Montgomery has won 15 cross country and track and field SAC titles — most recently the cross country conference crown in 2014 and 2015 and track and field in 2016. Jennifer Fay finished 17th for North Montgomery at the state cross country meet in 1983, while Adam Thada and Kristen Wheeler each qualified for the state cross country meet in 2002. Individually, Andra Harshbarger took second in the mile and third in the 880 at the state meet in 1978 — which followed a second-place finish in the mile form Jerri Vail in 1977. Stefanie Chamness was third in the high jump at the state meet in 1985 and second in 1986. Jill Brown fourth in the shot put in 1990.

Crawfordsville's last state champion in track and field remain David and Phil Churchill more than 50 years ago — but Dirk Berard helped Crawfordsville's

SEE RUNNING/12

- Crawfordsville XC & T&F Championships
- Boys
- Sectional — XC (2017), T&F (1989)
 - SAC — XC (1971, 1972, 2018), T&F (1972, 1979, 1986, 1989, 1991)
- Girls
- Sectional — T&F (1996)
 - SAC — XC (2016, 2017, 2019), T&F (1996, 1998, 1999, 2004)

- Southmont XC & T&F Championships
- Boys
- Sectional — XC (1986, 1987), T&F (1977, 1997, 2003, 2004)
 - Regional — XC (1987)
 - WRC — XC (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979), T&F (1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979)
 - SAC — XC (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2009), T&F (1987, 1988, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2013)
- Girls
- Sectional — XC (1984, 1985), T&F (1983, 1985, 1986, 1997)
 - WRC — XC (1984), T&F (1977, 1978, 1984, 1985)
 - SAC — XC (1994, 1995, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007), T&F (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011)

- North Montgomery XC & T&F Championships
- Boys
- WRC — XC (1971), T&F (1972)
 - SAC — XC (1978), T&F (1978, 1984, 2019)
- Girls
- WRC — T&F (1975)
 - SAC — XC (1996, 2014, 2015), T&F (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1992, 1993, 2016)
 - Sectional — T&F (1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1984)

Crawfordsville T&F State Placers
Boys
 1972 — Clinton Dennison (High Jump, 2nd)
 1973 — Clinton Dennison (High Jump, 2nd)
 1983 — Pat Wilhite (100, 5th)
Girls
 1993 — Star Smith (High Jump, 4th)
 1996 — Annie Cooper (800, 6th)
 2005 — Johnetta Hammond (400, 6th)
 2006 — Johnetta Hammond (400, 3rd)

North Montgomery T&F State Placers
Boys
 2013 — Dakota Ramey (Discus, 4th)
Girls
 1977 — Jerri Vail (Mile, 2nd)
 1978 — Andra Harshbarger (Mile, 2nd)
 1978 — Andra Harshbarger (880, 3rd)
 1985 — Stefanie Chamness (High Jump, 3rd)
 1986 — Stefanie Chamness (High Jump, 2nd)
 1990 — Jill Brown (Shot Put, 4th)
 1992 — NM (Girls 4X400, 9th)
 1993 — NM (Girls 4X400, 9th)



Journal Review

North Montgomery won its lone boys' SAC XC title in 1978.

RUNNING

FROM PAGE 11

boys' reach the cross country state finals in 1972 and place second after placing third in 1971.

Clinton Dennison placed second in the high jump state finals in 1972 and 1973, while Johnetta Hammond was sixth in the 400 at the state meet in 2005 and third in 2006.

Crawfordsville's most recent success has come in cross country. Led by coach Megan Craig — the Athenians have won three girls Sagamore Conference titles, the boys in 2018 and their first ever boys' cross country sectional title in 2017.



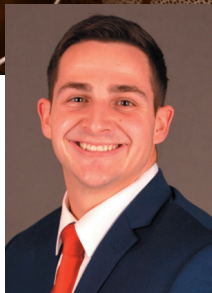
Journal Review

Southmont's Creasy Clauser was 2nd in the state in the 800 in 2008.

Southmont T&F State Placers

Boys
 1976 — Lindsay Carlisle (2 Mile, 5th)
 1977 — SM (Boys 880 Relay, 6th)
 1979 — Brian Miller (440, 1st)
 2000 — Jacob Clampitt (800, 7th)
 2008 — Jonathan Christensen (High Jump, 8th)
 2010 — Jonathan Christensen (High Jump, 1st)
 2011 — Jonathan Christensen (High Jump, 1st)
 2017 — Brooks Long (1 Mile, 6th)
Girls
 1985 — Amy Huckstep (300 Hurdles, 3rd)
 1987 — Amy Huckstep (100 Hurdles, 6th)
 1987 — Amy Huckstep (300 Hurdles, 2nd)
 1988 — Amy Huckstep (300 Hurdles, 4th)
 1988 — Tracey Kinkad (800, 2nd)
 2008 — Creasy Clauser (800, 2nd)

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Chargers hold upper hand in volleyball history

Jeff Nelson and Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Volleyball in Montgomery County was only a year behind consolidation, and while all three schools have had some success, North Montgomery has had more consistent time bringing home trophies.

On the heels of Title IX in 1972, and with the consolidations, volleyball became an IHSAA varsity sport in the fall of 1972.

All three schools were good right out of the gate, as both Crawfordsville and South won sectional titles in 1973. Once the Chargers got started, they didn't stop.

North won eight straight sectionals, from 1975 through 1982.

Another string, this one five years, followed from '87 to '91, and five more trophies came back to the North trophy case in the 2000's.

In all, North has 20 sectional titles. They took regional crowns in '77 and '79, and along with one WRC championship, they own 17 Sagamore Conference titles.

Among the successful North coaches, Jodi Webster sought to keep a good thing going when she arrived in 2005.

"I was fortunate to come into the program understanding the strong tradition of the volleyball program from its inception in 1973," Webster said. The Bryant's and their 4 county, 5 conference, 4 sectionals and 2 regional wins during the 1970's established the tradition at North Montgomery. Elena Dove and the Bryant's made a significant impact on the volleyball program, but so did the other coaches, accumulating 20 county, 16 conference, 17 sectionals and 2 regional titles. I was blessed as a coach to have worked with incredible young ladies and also work with a team of coaches who shared that vision, drive to compete, and build on the tradition at NM. We were able to add 8 county, 4 conference and 3 sectionals to the tradition."

At South, the success came early, as the Mounties won sectionals in '73 and '74. They then added a pair in '84 and '85, one on '93 and ended a drought with a 2019 crown.

South had four WRC crowns in a seven-year run, and picked up their lone Sagamore title in '85.

Tying the Chargers and Mounties together a little is Luran (Thompson) Nichols, who was a standout for North, etching her name near the top of a few

North Montgomery Championships
 Sectional — 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2006 (2A), 2008 (2A), 2010 (3A)
 Regional — 1977, 1979
 WRC — 1974
 SAC — 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1999, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014



Journal Review

North Montgomery won a pair of regional titles in 1977 and 1979.

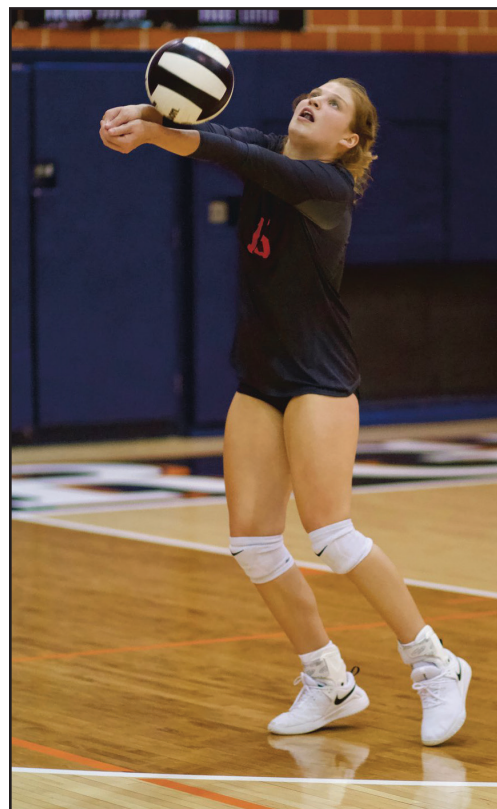
stat lists.

She went on to a great college career at IUPUI and then coached Southmont to their 2019 sectional championship.

She coached Lexi Nelson, who shattered the school kills record and beat out North's Kelly (Kyle) Kidd for the all-time county mark, now at 1,433. Kidd still holds the single-season kills record at 679, while Nelson is second behind her with 630. She also coached Sidney Veatch, who is headed to that same IUPUI to play college volleyball.

Crawfordsville's Kelly Johnson is the longest-tenured coach at Crawfordville, and has coached the Athenians to four of their five sectional titles and both of their Sagamore championships.

"To be able to have long tenured coaches like Kelly, John, and Brian Norris and Chris Ervin, it's been easy to work with them and comfortable," Crawfordville athletic director Bryce



Journal Review

Southmont's Lexi Nelson is the all-time county kills leader with 1,433.

SEE VOLLEYBALL/21

Southmont Championships
 Sectional — 1973, 1974, 1984, 1985, 1993, 2019 (2A)
 WRC — 1977, 1978, 1980, 1984
 SAC — 1985

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Soccer continues to grow in the county

Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Soccer is the world's game. The most played sport, nearly everywhere but the United States.

But it's growing here and rapidly, all the way down to rural Indiana in Montgomery County.

The IHSAA adopted soccer for the 1994-95 school year and slowly the sport has grown locally.

Crawfordsville won its first of eight sectional titles in 2007 and secured its only regional title in the same season.

"The time that really changed the trajectory for our soccer program was when they went to four-team sectionals vs. eight-team sectionals," Crawfordsville athletic director Bryce Barton said. "Because before we were with Avon and Brownsburg, so realistically your chances of winning weren't very good. Once they localized that sectional we were able to have quite of bit success through that time period. And once you win some sectional championships and fortunate enough to win a regional championship and that just draws more interest and excitement about the program."

Crawfordsville has had success on the girls' side as well — just not in the state tournament. The Athenians won the Sagamore Conference crown each year from 2004-06 with three-straight perfect league records. They added a fourth in 2009.

The Athenians run of success on both sides came from a strong string of athletes that included Matt Mummert and his sisters Lauren and Megan.

Soccer Championships	
Crawfordsville Boys	
Sectional — 2007, 2008, 2009, 2019, 2012 (A), 2014 (A), 2015 (A), 2016 (A)	
Regional — 2007	
SAC — 2016	
Crawfordsville Girls	
SAC — 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009	
Southmont Girls	
Sectional — 2017 (A), 2018 (A), 2019 (A), 2020 (A)	

The biggest key for success locally not only came with the realignment of sectionals, but eventually the IHSAA adding multiple classes. First to a two-class system in 2011-12 and then to three classes in 2017-18.

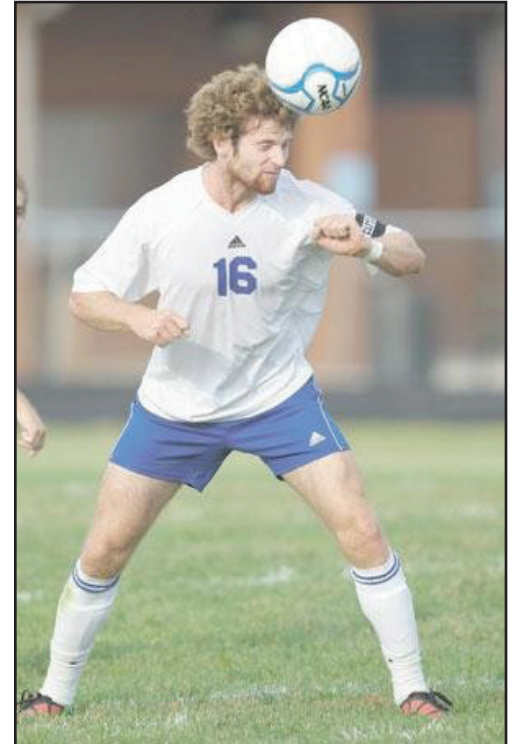
The third class opened the door for Southmont's girls — and they haven't lost a sectional game since.

Macy Zachary, who was a multi-sport athlete at Southmont, led them to their first title in 2017.

"Playing sports at Southmont was a very important first step to a successful rest of my life," Zachary said. "It taught me the importance of a small school and a close-knit community, and it taught me the power of healthy competition in all facets of my life."

After two sectional titles, Southmont welcomed a new coach in Phil Keller, who brought collegiate playing experience. The Mounties have reached the regional final in each of his first two seasons.

"It's really nice the way the state has organized all three classes, so girls from small schools can get experience playing later into the season," Keller said. "It's definitely nice coming in and being able



Journal Review

Matt Mummert helped lead Crawfordsville to three-straight sectional titles.

to bring some experience to the area and see the girls step up to the challenges that I bring them and they want to get better."

Keller isn't the only local coach with college playing experience. Former North Montgomery boys' coach Mike Margeson played at San Diego State, while current girls' coach Julie Hodges played at Saint Joseph's College. And the two

SEE SOCCER/17

Athenians won first ever girls tennis state title

Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Crawfordsville's tennis success in the last 50 years has not been matched by many other programs in Montgomery County.

Under the primary direction of Anita Rupar — the girls' have won 23 sectional titles since 1979, while the boys have won 30 — including 10 under head coach Steve Macy.

Rupar took the boys' program over from Macy, who passed away in 1990 and helped win 12 sectional

Crawfordsville Championships	
Boys	1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2007, 2015
Sectional — 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017	Girls
SAC — 1972, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994,	Sectional — 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2021
	SAC — 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

crowns in a row.

The Athenians' doubles team of Sara McGaughey and Melinda Fertig won the state title in the inaugural IHSAA girls' state tournament in 1975 to lift Crawfordsville to the team title.

"I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of

parents," Rupar, who coached for 30 years, said. "They were just awesome and the kids. They were willing to work hard and listen and it was very rewarding to do that."

It took time for North Montgomery's success to get rolling — but Bob Nabors helped turn the girls' program into a

local power — with a number of championships, including four sectionals in a row from 2008-11. Those teams were led by the near perfect doubles team of Kelly Kyle and Kiera Bonebrake — who placed fourth in the state as seniors in 2011.

"I am very fortunate to have the experiences that I had at North Montgomery," Kyle, who went onto play volleyball at Butler and for the United States internationally with the Deaflympics, said. "I am thankful

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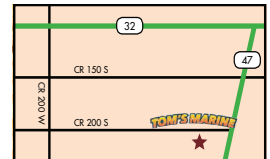
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Mounties dominate golf scene in 90s

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

Led by coach Dave Williamson — the Southmont boys' golf team dominated the decade of the 1990s.

The Mounties qualified and placed in the top-13 at the state finals seven times from 1991 to 2000. That included a fourth place finish in 1993 and 1998.

Through that time period, Southmont had five players earn eight first team all-state honors and two academic all-state honors. Ryan Williamson was the regional medalist in 1992, while he joined Kirk Jones on the all-state team in 1993 when they led Southmont to a fourth-place finish with 36-hole rounds of 153 apiece.

Lee Williamson, who was all-state for three seasons and led the state in scoring average for two years helped Southmont to another fourth-place finish by firing a 36-hole score of 152. Bert Jones was also a two-time all state selection and was the first Mountie to earn academic all-state.

Bert Jones became an academic all-american at Purdue in 1999, while Lee Williamson won Big Ten Player of the Year while playing at Purdue in 2002.

Andy Skodinski was also first team all-state in 1999.

Southmont also won seven sectional titles from 1992-2001 and two regional titles and won 67 regular season matches in a row that spanned six undefeated seasons.

The Mountie golf team was primed for success long before the 1990s though.

Bill Bays started a golf program at Ladoga and under the direction of Steve Williamson — the Mounties won the Wabash River Conference the first five years from 1972-1976. They won again in 1981 and 1982. In total, Southmont has won 13 conference championships in boys' golf.

Southmont's success has even sprinkled into the girls side. The Mounties won the Sagamore Conference in 1999 and shattered every school record on their way to their first ever sectional title in 2019 led by seniors Bailey Thompson, Erin Williams, Logan Berrisford, Carson White, and Lexi

Crawfordsville Championships
Boys
Sectional — 1972, 1988, 1989, 1990, 2003, 2004
Regional — 1974
SAC — 1973, 1974, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1989, 2001, 2002, 2004
Girls
SAC — 2007

Southmont Championships
Boys
Sectional — 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
Regional — 1991, 1993
SAC — 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000
WRC — 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1981, 1982
Girls
Sectional — 2019
SAC — 1999

North Montgomery Championships
Boys
Sectional — 2002, 2006
Girls
SAC — 2012



Journal Review

Top left, Crawfordsville's Stormy Staton lines up a putt. Top right, Travis French, Garrett Cook, Lee Williamson, Andy Skodinski, Jake Sandusky, Caleb Selby and Dave Williamson pose after placing fourth in the state.

Rusk. Dave Williamson, who still helps coach both programs, along with basketball and football in the past, says coaching at Southmont has always been an honor.

"I loved teaching and all my students, but coaching football, basketball, and boys and girls golf and seeing some great kids and some great athletes (and coaches) in all our sports was a bonus that was a great privilege to have been a part of and for so many years," he said. "As I mentioned Bill Bays and our best supporter superintendent Bob Tandy & so many others were such inspiration for all of us."

Prior to consolidation, Crawfordsville was one of the top golf programs in the state. The Athenians won the state title in 1954 and 1956. Their lone regional title

came in 1974 led by John Kendricks, who helped Crawfordsville place sixth in the state in 1974.

Since, Crawfordsville has won five sectional titles, including three-in-a-row from 1988-1990 and nine total Sagamore Conference championships in the last 50 years. Kendricks led the Athenians to the state finals as a coach in 2002 for the first time in since 1990.

North Montgomery won a pair of sectional titles in 2002 and 2006 on the boys' side.

On the girls' side, the Athenians won their only Sagamore Conference title in 2007 led by Stormy Staton and Mandi Johnson. Staton qualified for the state finals as a senior in 2008.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE 15

programs have seen steady growth in the last 10 years.

"When I got here 15 or 16 years ago, there wasn't a whole lot of interest in it," North Montgomery athletic director Matt Merica said. "Interest

has grown, we've obviously been more competitive on the girls side and our numbers are starting to increase year after year. And that just attributes to Julie (Hodges) being here for 16 years as a coach now. That's unheard of. And on the boys' side Margeson (Mike) was here for probably 13 years. Having some continuity and teachers in

the building in those two sports helps tremendously."

Hodges has guided the Chargers to four-straight winning seasons.

"It has been such a joy coaching the North Montgomery girls' soccer program for that last 15 years," Hodges said. "As I head into my 16th season, I have coached over 140 girls

over the years, and the most amazing part has been the connections and relationships you make with each individual player. We are lucky as coaches to get to spend four years of their lives during some of their most formative years using sports as our tool to lead them into adulthood."



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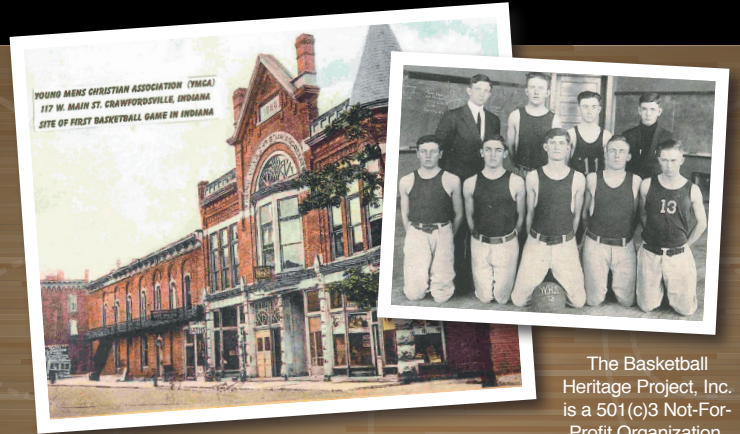
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Athenians aren't alone in baseball success

Jeff Nelson and
Jared McMurry

Journal Review

Oh yes, there have been lots of good baseball teams besides Crawfordsville in Montgomery County for 50 years.

Lots of successful ones, lots of good baseball players.

All three schools had a sectional title in the 70's, and both Southmont and North had at least one sectional in every decade since. The Athenians missed one in the 80's but made up for it with 13 since 1990. Oh yes, there were those two state championships as well.

The Mounties threw a good bunch of players together from the combined schools and won a conference title in 1973. They added another conference crown, winning the Sagamore in 2003. They own six sectional titles, three before the class-sport era.

Jamie Welliever coached the '17 team, resurrecting a baseball program on the skids. He also won a sectional in '98. Jerry Long played on two sectional teams, and coached another. George Davis won the first sectional, Steve House also has a sectional with the Mounties.

When Chargers athletics comes up, the name of one coach surfaces twice.

Terry Bartell coached both the baseball and girls basketball teams, and found plenty of success in both.

Bartell, who is also at or near the top of the list of best male softball players in the summer rec leagues, helped bring the hardware home for North.

"The success of our 1987 NMHS baseball team was a direct reflection of our coach Terry Bartell," said Kurt Schlicher, a successful North athlete himself and currently head football coach at Crawfordsville. "He instilled in us a belief



Journal Review

Crawfordsville won state in 2008.

we could win and not to fear any opponent."

North was conference, sectional and regional champion in '87.

The Chargers also threw together a bunch of good players from the combined schools and tied South for that 1973 WRC championship. They have added six Sagamore crowns and a dozen sectional titles over the years. They have won two regionals and went to the 2A state championship game, under the direction of Mike Strickler.

"The 2000 baseball team was definitely something special," noted Tom Lutz, one of the assistant coaches. "We were explosive on offense, and had an outstanding pitching staff. There were definitely some ups and downs in the regular season — I think went like 13 or 14 and 9 — but the team definitely got hot at the right time. We beat some really good teams, I remember North Posey in the semistate game at Victory Field was a great game."

That leaves Crawfordsville.

The numbers are pretty good, with 25 Sagamore championships in 50 years, 14 sectionals, five regionals and two state titles, in 2008 and '11.

From 1982 until 2019, John Froedge took Crawfordsville

Crawfordsville Championships
Sectional — 1974, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002 (3A), 2006 (3A), 2007 (3A), 2008 (3A), 2009 (3A), 2010 (3A), 2011 (3A), 2012 (3A), 2013 (3A)
Regional — 1995, 2006 (3A), 2008 (3A), 2011 (3A), 2013 (3A)
Semi-State — 2008 (3A), 2011 (3A)
State Champions — 2008 (3A), 2011 (3A)
SAC — 1978, 1982, 1986, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019

or championship. I was truly blessed!"

Brett Motz, a Froedge protege', doesn't stand above the pages and pages of names on the Athenians baseball charts, but he was a First-Team all-state selection when baseball was still played in one class, and he is now the head coach at Crawfordsville. Matt McCarty was also a single-class first team All-Stater, and 12 other players were also named first team in the class-sports era. Steven Rice, who went on to win a college baseball championship at Vanderbilt, was named twice, as was Trent Johnson, who this spring finished a solid career at Purdue.

"I was very fortunate to play multiple sports while growing up in this community," Motz said, "and each experience allowed me to be coached and influenced by a lot of great people. I now strive to be a positive influence for the students and players that I have the opportunity to teach and coach. I love working and raising a family in the community I grew up. I have had a great experience throughout all of my years in Crawfordsville and I want the same for every student and athlete here as well."

to those levels, winning nearly 800 games and earning a spot in the Indiana Baseball Hall Fame.

"Having grown up in Montgomery County," Froedge said, "I closely followed local high school sports from a young age; then was a 3-sport athlete at Southmont in it's early days and finally taught and coached at Crawfordsville for nearly 40 years."

"It was pure joy to have had that opportunity at CHS for so long," he continued. "I absolutely loved coaching and working with young people through baseball. All of our players and coaches involved over the decades worked really hard at being the best representatives of CHS and our community on and off the field.

My best memories are all 39 years of it, seriously. The process of working together as a group for a common purpose and being a part of so many young men's lives was very rewarding. I've also said many times how enjoyable it was to watch the players (and families) celebrate together on the field after a hard fought win

North Montgomery Championships
WRC — 1973
SAC — 1985, 1987, 1989, 1996, 1997, 2000
Sectional — 1975, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2018
Regional — 1987, 2000 (2A)
Semi-State — 2000 (2A)

Southmont Championships
Sectional — 1979, 1986, 1988, 1998 (2A), 2002 (2A), 2017 (2A)
Regional — 1998 (2A)
WRC — 1973
SAC — 2003



State champions mark swimming success

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

A nationwide search for the aquatics director position at Crawfordsville High School landed Gus Arzner in Crawfordsville in the early 1990s.

While Arzner instantly turned the Athenian program into a winning machine, including an impressive 154-12-1 record, individuals across Montgomery County have turned in dozens of top performances in the last 50 years.

Crawfordsville's Sally Johnson got the winning started early. Johnson won the 200 individual medley in 1975 and 1976, the 100 freestyle in 1977 and the 100 butterfly in 1978. She also placed in the top-8 in two more individual events.

On the boys' side, the Athenians eased into success with their first of 11 state champions when Chris Malott won the 50 freestyle in 1984.

All without a pool and a young teacher who jumped at the opportunity to coach because that was his passion.

"Why did I get into teaching physical education? Well because I wanted to coach. And I started coaching right away and it wasn't things I thought I would coach," Brian Norris, who coached Crawfordsville swimming for nine years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. "I coached swimming the first nine years and something I thought I would never coach. And that was when we would have to go over to Wabash College in the morning and everything else. Bruce Whitehead being the athletic director helped me as a new coach a lot. So I found it easy to do."

Crawfordsville's own pool didn't come for a few more years — but the lack there of didn't stop the Athenians' success.

Josh Mikesell made history that still stands today.

Mikesell won the 100 backstroke four-straight years

Crawfordsville Swim Championships

Boys

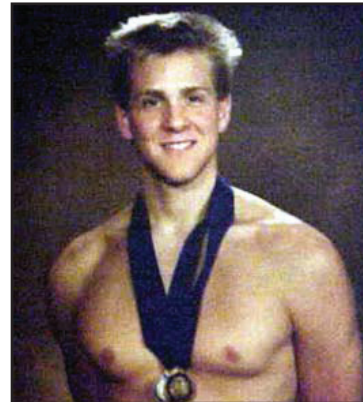
SAC — 1981, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Sectional — 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021

Girls

SAC — 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2017, 2019

Sectional — 1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2017, 2018, 2019



from 1985-88. He also won the 200 individual medley in 1988.

Crawfordsville wasn't the only county team making a splash in the 1980s.

Southmont's Kevin Hedrick, who is now the Crawfordsville aquatics director and Athenian head coach, set a state meet record in 1983 to win the 100 freestyle.

"Swimming to me was pretty much everything and my chance to belong to something and chance to be something," Hedrick said. "It was exciting back then to be somebody and to have an opportunity to work hard and see the benefits of that. That's been a cornerstone of pretty much everything I've done since then. It's something that once it gets in your blood, you live and die it and want to pass it along and give kids that same opportunity."

In total, the Mounties had 13 top-8 finishes in the decade across both genders — including Erika Cottrell's nine podium finishes including a

relay.

Holly Humphrey was side-by-side in terms of success with Mikesell at Crawfordsville, winning the girls' 100 freestyle in 1986 and the 50 freestyle in 1987. She had eight top-3 finishes at the state meet. Debi Humphrey won the 100 butterfly in 1989.

Nick Arzner won his first of four titles in the 200 freestyle in 1995. He won both the 100 and 200 freestyle as a senior in 1997.

Crawfordsville's Chad Ames is the last Montgomery County state champion — winning the 100 butterfly in 2002.

Andrea Russell is North Montgomery's lone top-8 placer — finishing eighth in the 100 backstroke in 1995 and 1997. Southmont's Hilary Mishler finished fifth in the 100 backstroke and eighth in the 200 individual medley in 2009, while Crawfordsville's Missy Robinson was third in the 100 breaststroke in 2009

SEE SWIMMING 23

North Montgomery Swim Championships

Boys

SAC — 1976

Girls

SAC — 1993

Sectional — 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976

Southmont Swim Championships

Boys

WRC — 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984

Sectional — 1981, 2011

Girls

WRC — 1977, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1985

SAC — 1986, 2001

Sectional — 2000, 2001, 2020

Crawfordsville Top-8 At State

- 1975 — Sally Johnson — (200 IM, 1st)
- 1976 — CHS — (200 Medley Girls Relay, 4th)
- 1976 — Sally Johnson — (200 IM, 1st)
- 1976 — Sally Johnson — (100 Free, 2nd)
- 1977 — CHS — (200 Medley Girls Relay, 3rd)
- 1977 — Sally Johnson — (200 IM, 2nd)
- 1977 — Sally Johnson — (100 Free, 1st)
- 1978 — Sally Johnson — (100 Fly, 1st)
- 1979 — Kennon Blackwell — (50 Free, 6th)
- 1984 — Chris Malott — (100 Fly, 8th)
- 1984 — Chris Malott — (50 Free, 1st)
- 1984 — Chris Malott — (100 Free, 4th)
- 1985 — Josh Mikesell — (200 IM, 5th)
- 1985 — Josh Mikesell — (100 Back, 1st)
- 1986 — Josh Mikesell — (200 IM, 4th)
- 1986 — Josh Mikesell — (100 Back, 1st)
- 1986 — Holly Humphrey — (50 Free, 2nd)
- 1986 — Holly Humphrey — (100 Free, 1st)
- 1987 — Josh Mikesell — (200 IM, 2nd)
- 1987 — Josh Mikesell — (100 Back, 1st)
- 1987 — Holly Humphrey — (50 Free, 1st)
- 1987 — Holly Humphrey — (100 Free, 2nd)
- 1988 — Josh Mikesell — (200 IM, 1st)
- 1988 — Josh Mikesell — (100 Back, 1st)
- 1988 — Holly Humphrey — (50 Free, 3rd)
- 1988 — Holly Humphrey — (100 Free, 2nd)
- 1988 — Debi Humphrey — (100 Fly, 7th)
- 1989 — CHS (200 Medley Girls Gobel, Smith, D. Humphrey, H. Humphrey, 2nd)
- 1989 — Holly Humphrey — (50 Free, 2nd)
- 1989 — Holly Humphrey — (100 Free, 3rd)
- 1989 — Debi Humphrey — (100 Fly, 1st)
- 1990 — Debi Humphrey — (100 Fly, 5th)
- 1991 — CHS — (200 Girls Medley Gobel, Smith, D. Humphrey, D. Cook, 5th)
- 1991 — Debi Humphrey — (50 Free, 5th)
- 1991 — Debi Humphrey — (100 Fly, 3rd)
- 1992 — Marcie Black — (100 Free, 5th)
- 1993 — Marcie Black — (200 Free, 4th)
- 1993 — Marcie Black — (100 Free, 4th)
- 1994 — Nick Arzner — (200 Free, 2nd)
- 1994 — Nick Arzner — (100 Fly, 5th)
- 1994 — Ryan Arzner — (100 Back, 6th)
- 1994 — Ryan Arzner — (200 IM, 6th)
- 1994 — Marcie Black — (200 Free, 8th)
- 1994 — Marcie Black — (100 Free, 7th)
- 1995 — Nick Arzner — (200 Free, 1st)
- 1995 — Nick Arzner — (100 Fly, 2nd)
- 1995 — Tony Manna — (100 Free, 8th)
- 1995 — Marcie Black — (200 Free, 5th)
- 1995 — Marcie Black — (100 Free, 5th)
- 1996 — Nick Arzner — (200 Free, 1st)
- 1996 — Nick Arzner — (100 Fly, 2nd)
- 1997 — Nick Arzner — (200 Free, 1st) ... 1:38.06 state meet record
- 1997 — Nick Arzner — (100 Free, 1st)
- 1999 — Chad Ames — (200 Free, 3rd)
- 1999 — Chad Ames — (500 Free, 5th)
- 1999 — Klynt Gerde — (100 Back, 7th)
- 2000 — Chad Ames — (500 Free, 7th)
- 2000 — Klynt Gerde — (100 Breast, 4th)
- 2000 — CHS J. Arzner, Gerde, Ames, Peacock — (200 Medley Relay, 3rd)
- 2000 — CHS Gerde, J. Arzner, Peacock, Ames — (400 Free Relay, 4th)
- 2001 — Chad Ames — (200 IM, 7th)
- 2001 — Chad Ames — (100 Fly, 5th)
- 2001 — John Arzner — (100 Free, 7th)
- 2001 — John Arzner — (100 Back, 8th)
- 2002 — Chad Ames — (100 Fly, 1st)
- 2002 — Chad Ames — (200 IM, 2nd)
- 2004 — Jeremy Kline — (100 Back, 8th)
- 2004 — CHS Bill Arzner, Brad Ford, Jeremy Kline, Michael Belanger — (400 Free, 6th)
- 2005 — Jeremy Kline — (100 Back, 6th)
- 2005 — CHS Adam Arzner, Dillon York, Jeremy Kline, Jordan Blackwell — (400 Free Relay, 6th)
- 2006 — Cameron Hobson — (200 IM, 8th)
- 2007 — Cameron Hobson — (100 Back, 2nd)
- 2007 — Cameron Hobson — (200 IM, 7th)
- 2009 — Missy Robinson — (100 Breast, 3rd)
- 2010 — Missy Robinson — (200 IM, 5th)
- 2017 — Caleb Whicker — (Diving, 7th)

Not quite 50 years of softball

Jeff Nelson and
Jared McMurry

Journal Review

High school softball in Montgomery County can't stretch its roots back for 50 years, but the girls version of the most American sport still has plenty of history.

From its beginnings before the state and the IHSAA got the state tournament started, softball were rolling and flying around the county.

The IHSAA tournament started in the spring of 1985, and both North Montgomery and Crawfordsville fielded teams.

Southmont got into the fray in the spring of 1988, and has had recent success, including a run to the 2A state championship game in 2014. The Mounties have four sectional and one conference title, all in the last dozen years.

A look farther back brings both North and the Athenians into the picture, though.

Sally Dill was the first coach at Crawfordsville. The Tuttle PE teacher started the program and was recruited by AD Bruce Whitehead to be the head coach.

The program eventually landed in the hands of Brian Norris, who led Crawfordsville to four sectional titles in a seven-year span, and seven Sagamore Conference crowns in an 11-year stretch.

"Not growing up here, my family wasn't sure we were going to stay very long," Norris

Crawfordsville Championships
Sectional — 2001 (2A), 2002 (2A),
2003 (2A), 2008 (3A)
SAC — 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002,
2004, 2008, 2009

North Montgomery Championships
Sectional — 1993
SAC — 1997

Southmont Championships
Sectional — 2009 (3A), 2014 (2A),
2015 (2A), 2019 (2A)
SAC — 2007

said, "and here we are, 45-50 years later and still living here. It's just the community itself. It felt like home. The community embraced us and I was comfortable coaching in the school system. Bruce Whitehead (AD) helped me a lot."

Running the show at CHS for 25 years, the coach got to look back.

"I feel good about what our teams accomplished," he said. "We went from winning one or two games a year to the point where we were conference and sectional champions."

One of the main ingredients of the Athenians success in those years was Britney (Froedge) Carpenter, who led her Crawfordsville teams to a few of those conference and sectional titles.

Then, after a successful college softball career, she traded a regular bat for a fungo (practice) bat and her glove for a clipboard.

With Carpenter in the dugout, Southmont went to the state championship game, rid-



Journal Review

Southmont 2014 seniors McKenzi Jordan, Korbin Myers, and Cali Wetli hold up the state runner-up trophy.

ing the right arm of McKenzi Jordan and an excellent eight behind her.

"The best part of my playing and coaching careers at both Crawfordsville and Southmont is, without a doubt, the relationships that have been forged in the community with the athletes, families, and fans I have been blessed to know and work with," Carpenter said. "The bond between teammates as well as from a coaching standpoint with the players and their families has been a blessing that can't be overstated. I think being from a small, tight-knit community amplifies that aspect of local sports. My life is far richer for all the great people I've met throughout my years as a player and coach in the community, and I've been blessed to be able to share in

that with my family as well."

The earliest softball success for local teams, however, was up North.

A sectional championship was earned in 1993, and the Chargers won the Sagamore in '97.

Ric Walke was on the clipboard for the SAC championship team.

"We finished second in the conference in '96 and '98," he said. "All three years we were second in the sectional to WeBo. We had some really good athletes on those teams; some went to play D1 sports. Chuck Kriston was a huge help as AD, and I was very fortunate to have him there, Larry Minks as an assistant coach and players that wanted to compete and they competed hard."

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE 13

Barton said. "And it's an opportunity for our young coaches to go to them and see how they built their programs from the ground up."

Johnson's current star, Macy Bruton, is set to challenge both Kidd and Nelson for some county records.

Crawfordsville Championships
Sectional — 1973, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2007
(3A)
SAC — 1990, 2011

Journal Review

Kelly Johnson is the longest tenured coach in Montgomery County, taking over the Crawfordsville volleyball program in the mid 1980s.





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SWIMMING

FROM PAGE 20

and fifth in the individual medley in 2010. North Montgomery's Emily McIlrath placed 10th in the 100 breaststroke in 2009.

North Montgomery's success hasn't always showed up in the state tournament, but former longtime coach John Walker's girls teams were always competitive at the county and conference and always ready to go. Walker recalls his final county championship meet which resulted in a three-peat thanks to a strong swim from Megan Merica in the 400 meter relay.

"I could see Megan's determination and technique rise up as she attempted to make up about half a pool length," Walker said. "It seemed like an impossible task. As the race was concluding, I could

see that Megan was still high up in the water, her power seemed relentless. The two swimmers went into the wall together, as close together as possible. Megan had out-touched her by .001, the smallest interval possible."

North Montgomery's Gus Maxwell never placed in the top-16 at state, but qualified all four years before graduating in 2017 and owns six North Montgomery records.

Crawfordsville diver Caleb Whicker took the podium at the state meet with a seventh-place finish in 2017.

There's been plenty of team success too as Crawfordsville's boys have claimed 19 Sagamore Conference titles in the last 50 years, including eight-straight from 2000-2007. They also own 20 IHSAA Sectional titles — all since 1994 and six of the last seven. Crawfordsville's girls have won

TENNIS

FROM PAGE 15

for the friendships that I made, coaches that I had, and wonderful memories during both volleyball and tennis. At the time, it was extremely rewarding to have great volleyball and tennis careers; however, in the long run I was able to realize that it set me up for additional life experiences that I am grateful for."

North Montgomery's boys' have been able to prop up some recent success too — winning five sectional titles since 2004.

Southmont recently just ended a 28-year sectional drought — winning its first boys' sectional title since 1991 in 2019. The Mounties repeated in 2020.

"It's been very enjoyable to watch it grow," Southmont

coach Nathan Poynter, who played on the 1984 sectional title team, said. "When we were there we had a fair amount of success and then it was almost heartbreaking when it fell off for a while, but it does come in cycles. And we come back in '08 and had some decent seasons and finally grown a lot of interest and at a younger age."

Poynter's older brother was on the 1980 team and his Dad coached the 1991 team. Continuing the family tradition — Chris Cox was on the 1984 sectional team, while his brother Jimmy was on the 1991 team and son Adam has been the No. 1 singles player on the last two title teams. Southmont also won the Sagamore Conference in 2020.

Southmont's lone girls' sectional titles came in back-to-back years in 1995 and 1996.

Southmont Championships Last 50 Years
Boys
Sectional — 1980, 1984, 1991, 2019, 2020
SAC — 1991, 2020
WRC — 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984
Girls
Sectional — 1995, 1996
WRC — 1981

North Montgomery Championships
Boys
Sectional — 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2015
SAC — 2007, 2008
Girls
Sectional — 1997, 1998, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2017, 2018, 2019
SAC — 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

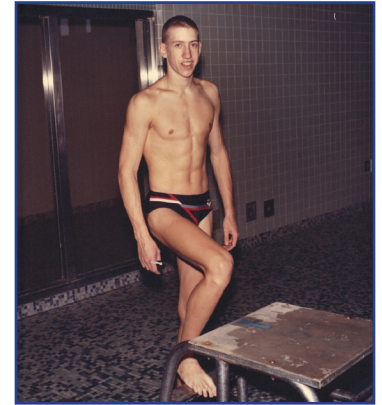
Southmont State Top-8 At State
1978 — Brad Eads — (50 Free, 5th)
1981 — Jeff Hedrick — (100 Fly, 5th)
1983 — Kevin Hedrick — (100 Free, 1st)
1983 — Kevin Hedrick — (50 Free, 2nd)
1985 — Erika Cottrell — (200 IM, 3rd)
1985 — Erika Cottrell — (100 Fly, 5th)
1986 — Erika Cottrell — (200 IM, 3rd)
1986 — Erika Cottrell — (100 Fly, 6th)
1986 — SM (400 Free Girls L. Wright, A. Huckstep, N. Cottrell, E. Cottrell, 5th)
1987 — Erika Cottrell — (200 IM, 3rd)
1987 — Erika Cottrell — (100 Fly, 2nd)
1988 — Erika Cottrell — (200 Freestyle, 4th)
1988 — Erika Cottrell — (100 Fly, 2nd)
2009 — Hilary Mishler — (100 Back, 5th)
2009 — Hilary Mishler — (200 IM, 8th)

North Montgomery Top-8 At State
1995 — Andrea Russell — (100 Back, 8th)
1997 — Andrea Russell — (100 Back, 8th)
2009 — Emily McIlrath — (100 Breast, 10th)

Journal Review

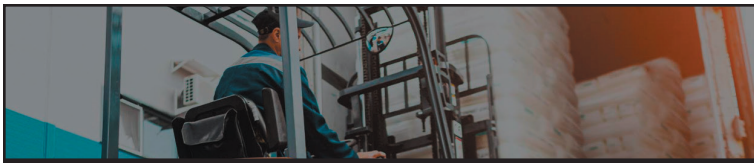
Right, Kevin Hedrick won a state title in 1983 in the 100 free for South.

23 sectional titles in 50 years and 21 Sagamore Conference championships.



Journal Review

North Montgomery's Kelly Kyle and Kiera Bonebrake placed 4th in the state doubles tournament in 2011.



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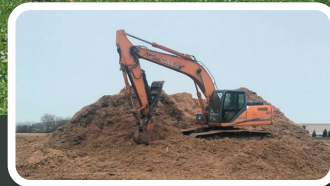
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County is a local wrestling hotbed

Jared McMurry

Jared McMurry

Welliever.
That's the first name that pops into people's heads when they think of Montgomery County wrestling.

And for all the right reasons. Three hall of fame coaches that have produced a whole lot of history.

John Welliever was the coach at North Montgomery when the doors opened, while Dan Welliever made his mark at Crawfordsville as a longtime assistant for Don Avery and later as head coach. At one time in the early 1980s, the Welliever family spanned all three county schools.

"There was a day when I was at Crawfordsville, brother John was the coach at North Montgomery, brother Bill has two boys wrestling for North Montgomery, and Jamie was down at Southmont," Dan Welliever said.

Dan's son Jamie placed third in the state for Southmont at 126 in 1981. Since, he's coached the Mounties to a number of championships including the 2001 IHSAA semi-state.

"2001 was so exciting because we are such a small school that reached team state in a single class system where we had to go through several much larger schools to get there," Jamie said. "We had some very impressive wins over Zionsville and Westfield to win regional, and then beating Frankfort at semi-state after they beat us at conference was special. It was great to be one of the top-8 schools in the state with all those big schools."



Journal Review Photos

Jamie Welliever was an assistant coach when his son Boone was third in the state in 2017.

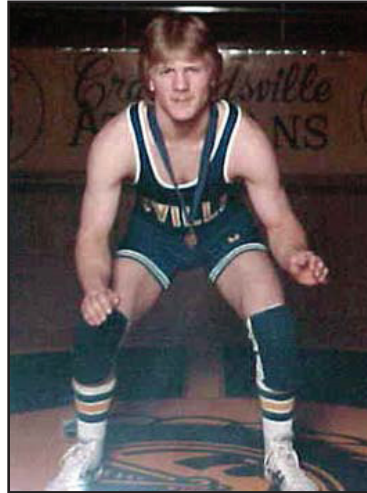
At North Montgomery, John Welliever handed over the program to assistant JD Minch, who turned the program up another notch - including a regional title in 1991.

"Wrestling wasn't really a sport but more of a way of life," Minch said of what he tried to share with his athletes. "It's about situations, setting goals for yourself and to become a better person. To learn to accept victory and defeat and how to deal with those."

Minch guided North Montgomery to four of its 10 sectional titles and won a pair of Sagamore Conference titles before Maurice Swain replaced him upon retirement for the 2010-11 season.

Swain led the Chargers to a Class 2A IHSWCA team-state runner-up finish in 2014 and produced six of the Chargers first eight state placers - including Tanner Webster, who placed second at 170 in 2017.

"One thing that it meant to play for this community is that the younger kids look up to you and you can leave an impact on



Doug Haslam was a state champion in 1986.



Tanner Webster is North's all-time wins leader and was a state runner-up in 2017.

their lives," Webster said. "Being successful in high school sports was all about having the right people to push me and having a positive culture around."

Chris Ervin took over the

Crawfordsville program from Dan Welliever and admired the history of Athenian wrestling, which includes Doug Haslam, who won the county's only state title in the last 50 years at 126 in 1985.

"For me, the history of Crawfordsville, I appreciated that," Ervin said. "I thought that was really cool and tried to be a steward of that history."

Crawfordsville hasn't won a sectional or Sagamore Conference since 1986, but it wasn't for a lack of quality wrestling. North Montgomery and Southmont have just been that good.

"I don't think people understand how good Montgomery county wrestling has been the last 15 years," Ervin, who retired from coaching after the 2020 season, said. "There's probably not a high school sport across the county where we've had that many kids competing in the state finals. I've got a lot of respect for Montgomery County wrestling because of the people involved."

The Chargers and Mounties success has continued recently.

North Montgomery won a record four-straight SAC titles from 2016-19 and have had four wrestlers each place twice in the state since 2013 - most recently Drew Webster, who was third at 220 in 2020.

Southmont's Boone Welliever joined his Dad, Jamie, as the highest-finisher in Southmont history - taking third at 145 in 2017.

While girls wrestling in the state of Indiana has yet to be adopted by the IHSAA - North Montgomery has had two two-time IHSW state champions in Cailin and Catie Campbell.

Crawfordsville Championships
SAC — 1972, 1973, 1974, 1983, 1986
Sectional — 1974, 1975, 1986
Regional — 1975
Crawfordsville State Placers
Mike Thompson — 3rd at 105 in 1972
Hal McGahey — 4th at 177 in 1973
Brad Eggers — 4th at 185 in 1974
Mike Hodges — 2nd at 98 in 1983
Tim Servies — 3rd at 167 in 1983
Doug Haslam — State Champion at 1985 in 126
Dylan McBride — 6th at 285 in 2010

North Montgomery Championships
WRC — 1974, 1975
SAC — 1990, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Sectional — 1976, 1982, 1990, 1991, 2006, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019
Regional — 1991
Team State Runner-Up — 2014
North Montgomery State Placers
Nick Borta — 7th at 152 in 2013, 6th at 160 in 2014
Tanner Webster — 6th at 170 in 2016, 2nd at 170 in 2017
Seth Johnson — 4th at 106 in 2017, 8th at 132 in 2019
Drew Webster — 5th at 220 in 2019, 3rd at 220 in 2020

Southmont Championships
WRC — 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983
SAC — 1994, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2020, 2021
Sectional — 1977, 1978, 1981, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016
Regional — 2000, 2001, 2008
Southmont State Placers
Jamie Welliever — 3rd at 126 in 1981
Jason Kelsey — 8th at 140 in 2006
Nate Hodges — 7th at 160 in 2006
Nick Hodges — 5th at 189 in 2008 and 2009
Zach Worm — 7th at 182 in 2016
Boone Welliever — 3rd at 145 in 2017
Riley Woodall — 7th at 182 in 2021



North is only gymnastics champion

Journal Review

North Montgomery enjoyed gymnastics success in the 1970s.

The Chargers won beginning level IHSAA Sectional title in 1976 with an all-around title from Lisa Wray and balance beam first from Cindy Kane.

At the regional that year, Joy Cohee won the beginning level all-around and Lisa Wray the floor exercise. Karen Rogers won the intermediate level vaulting and Cindy Krutzsch the floor exercise.

At the state finals, Joy



Journal Review

Cohee was third in the all-around beginning level.

Recent success has been marked by Rhiannon Harpel at North Montgomery, Abbie Lain at Crawfordsville and Macy Zachary at Southmont. Lain won the 2020 sectional crown in the floor exercise.



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Journal Review

Crawfordsville football went to the semi-state in 1989.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 9

we got from the kids in the school, their parents, and the community as a whole.”

Once again, community.

Maybe a current coach said it best.

“What stands out to me the most about high school sports in this community is the quality of head coaches this county has had through the years, former North standout and current Athenian football coach Kurt Schlicher said.

Crawfordsville Championships
Sectional — 1983, 1989
SAC — 1972, 1977, 1982, 1985, 1989, 1991

“For me people like Charley German, Terry Bartell, John Froedge, Rick Schavietello, Rick Malone are just a few names that come to mind from years past. Coaches like these have helped paved the way for a new generation of coaches. I have strived since day 1 as a coach to do my best to try and live up to the example of those who came before me.”

Montgomery County embraced girls' sports

Jared McMurry
Journal Review

When Title IX passed in 1972, the Indiana High School Athletic Association pushed its member schools to add girls' sports as quickly as possible.

There was very little pushback in Crawfordsville as Montgomery County embraced girls' sports.

"The push really came from the IHSAA to get these girls sports tournaments going, which meant schools needed to add girls sports," Bruce Whitehead, who was the Crawfordsville athletic director for 25 years, said. "There was a lot of resistance, not necessarily in Crawfordsville, but there were a lot of communities where there was."

The argument was schools were barely able to fund their boys' sports, how would they start funding girls sports?

Many didn't at first, but the relief came soon.

Anita Rupar, who coached tennis for 30 years at Crawfordsville, remembers parents donating rackets and balls for the season. Rupar was a pioneer in organizing girls' sports in the community once Title IX was passed.

"In Crawfordsville there were a group of teachers and mothers that got together once Title IX was passed," she said. "Several of us who were interested in girls sports got together."

After two years of playing tennis under the umbrella of the Girls Athletic Association — the IHSAA sanctioned the sport in the spring of 1975. And just like the first organized state basketball tournament in 1911 — the Athenians were the champions thanks to the doubles team of Melinda Fertig and Sara McGaughey.

While Rupar helped the transition to girls' sports at Crawfordsville — Marilyn Davidson left Crawfordsville



for New Market when Southmont opened its doors and helped pave the way for not just girls' sports at Southmont, but across the state of Indiana.

Chuck Kriston, who was the athletic director at North Montgomery from 1978-1999, can remember helping build the softball stadium because of a financial hold-up.

"When we started softball, there wasn't any money in the school corporation budget to do much with that, so we ended up using athletic funds to build our own softball field," Kriston said. "I can remember myself and several of our parents were laying sod on our softball field in a rainstorm."

North Montgomery did do two things to help build their girls' programs. First, they made it a goal to bring equality to coaches' pay and hosted a ton of tournament championships along the way.

And they had plenty of success too.

North Montgomery won 25 sectional titles in the 1970s and 80s, including 12 in volleyball. Southmont won 25 conference championships in the same time period.

Whitehead remembers Crawfordsville's success mostly coming in swimming, despite the Athenians not



Journal Review Photos

Top, North Montgomery won its first girls basketball sectional crown in 1976. Above, Southmont won its first girls golf sectional title in 2019.

having a home pool.

"Girls swimming had tremendous success," Whitehead said. "Gail Pebworth was coaching our girls team at the beginning."

Sally Johnson became a four-time swimming state champion in the early days for the Athenians.

There is no doubt girls' sports were ahead of their

time in Montgomery County and looking back on 50 years of sports in Montgomery County it's easy to see why they've had many of the same successes as the boys.

The right people were in the right place at the right time — not just promoting girls' sports — but accepting them just the same as the boys.

HERITAGE

FROM PAGE 3

Paul Curtis was in his second season, and he was still in charge of the Athenians, and nobody outside the city limits liked them anyway.

That's how it started, and the stories continue to this moment.

It is Indiana high school basketball.

The three schools have all had some successes, some disappointments.

Southmont won the WRC championship twice in the 80's and has a single sectional title, under Roger Fleetwood. His 119 wins are most all-time at South.

"I had great kids there, they had some good young players," he said. "I was under a great principal in Mike Hallas, and Bob Tandy was the superintendent. I absolutely loved him and he was my favorite superintendent that I've ever worked for."

Crawfordsville Championships
Sectional — 1972, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1989, 2014 (3A)
SAC — 1973, 1974
Regional — 1979
SAC — 1973, 1974, 1987, 2019
Crawfordsville Boys 1,000 Pt Scorers
(Since 1971-72)
Matt Petty (1989) — 1608
Matt McCarty (1994) — 1410
Jesse Hall (2021) — 1137
Caleb Rasmussen (2012) — 1033
Rich Fuller (2003) — 1026

Recent grad Cam Chadd is the all-time leading scorer for the Mounties.

The Chargers pocketed three WRC titles before moving to the Sagamore Conference, and they have won four since that move. They also own 11 sectional championships.

DJ Byrd is the leading scorer in Chargers hoops history, and went on to play at Purdue and is a college coach now. He comes from a truly county family as his dad was one of the top

Southmont Championships
Sectional — 1994
WRC — 1984, 1985
Southmont Boys 1,000 Pt Scorers
Cam Chadd (2018) - 1479
Travis Bowen (1998) - 1369
Austin Burton (2012) - 1218
Kyle Shirk (1992) - 1100
Devon Burton (2014) - 1092
Trent Murray (2011) - 1065
Eric Froedge (1980) - 1019
Kaleb Swick (2017) - 1015
Max Mercer (1985) - 1000

players at Southmont.

"I have a lot of great memories of my time at North Montgomery," Byrd said. "It was special to be able to play with a lot of players that I grew up playing basketball with. I credit our success to the coaches we were fortunate to have, as well as the teammates and friends that I competed with & against."

Scott Radeker is the all-time winningest coach in North Montgomery history — and guided the Chargers

to four sectional titles — including three with Byrd.

The Athenians continued to win sectionals in the 70's, taking five. The also won the regional in '79.

Things slowed down from there. There was a title in '85, and again in 1989, when Matt Petty hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer on his birthday to beat McCutcheon. The next was 25 years later, in 2014.

"I am just thankful and very proud to have been a part of Crawfordsville High School Basketball," the CHS all-time leading scorer said. "and all of the history and tradition that came along with it! I always felt a great responsibility to the school and the basketball program to perform at the highest level every night and carry on the tradition of past Athenians."

The county rivalries continue.

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Coverage Team • • • • •

“I consider it an honor to have been able to cover area sports teams for most of the past 50 years. For those of you who know me, you know I am a bit of a historical freak. I have loved nothing more than to document the achievements of athletes, coaches and teams during my 15 years as the Sports Editor over three different times at the Journal Review.”

Barry Lewis, Former JR Sports Editor

“It has truly been an honor for me to cover all our area sports and area athletes these years, and to work with the coaches and athletic directors to tell the stories of the student-athletes and the teams. I have press passes from everywhere, but nothing is better than pulling up a seat at a high school game or event. Thanks to everyone over all these years.”

Jeff Nelson, Longtime Sports Correspondent

“Covering sports in my hometown is a dream come true. The athletes, coaches, parents and community supporters of high school athletics makes this the best job in the world. Nobody loves their sports like Montgomery County.”

Jared McMurry, JR Sports Editor

“In my 20+ years of broadcasting local sports, it's not the records that stand out to me; it's the "teams." The athletes that also become bothers and sisters in a family-like atmosphere make for the best stories. We are lucky in this county to have had some wonderful coaches who teach companionship and fellowship as well as teamwork.”

Bill Rubenstein, WIMC Broadcaster

“I was always impressed with the amount of solid athletes North, South and Crawfordsville provided in all sports. They have a strong tradition in all sports. No matter the sport, all three schools would always be contenders for a deep postseason run.”

Matt Wilson, Former JR Sports Editor

“High school sports in Montgomery County is unique from other communities. That's why I enjoyed my time as sports editor so much. The enthusiasm for sports here and the rivalries between the schools make it so much fun. But it's the student-athletes, coaches and administrators that made it most special for me. I'll always cherish and appreciate those relationships.”

Jim Johnson, Former JR Sports Editor

“C'ville was the oldest school with the largest alumni base, so if there was a question on which event to cover based on our resources, all other things being equal, the Athenians usually got the nod. In Marion, the Giants are king, no questions asked. In Johnson County, where I currently cover sports part-time, Center Grove generally gets top billing. There is no "top billing" in Montgomery County, nor should there be.”

Adam Wire, Former JR Sports Editor

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- Inability to hear clearly, especially in noisy environments
- Frequent misunderstandings in conversation
- Frequent requests for clarification or repetition
- Need to see people talk
- Fatigue from straining to hear
- Dizziness, pain or ringing in the ears
- Avoidance of social situations
- Volume turned up on TVs and radios



If you or a loved one is experiencing the signs of hearing loss, seek help. Don't wait until it is too late. Have your hearing tested and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure you can hear the world around you.

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Au.D., CCC-A, Doctor of Audiology
Owner

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County Voices ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

“It’s something special. I’ve spoken to a lot of people about the ability to come back and give back to the school that gave me a lot as a student-athlete and a corporation that employed both my grandfather and father and the chance to try and lead some outstanding coaches and learn from a lot of outstanding veteran coaches, especially early in my career. I can’t think of a better opportunity than to be able to come back and work at my home school and for that school corporation.”

Bryce Barton, Crawfordsville

“I found out real quick that athletics in the North Montgomery community is pretty important. Being a consolidated school, the school is basically the center of the community. What’s neat about North Montgomery is by the time a kid reaches high school age, they’ve been in that building so many times that it’s not a big shock to them. That’s another thing I learned right away is how important the rivalry is between the three county schools.”

Matt Merica, North Montgomery

“The schools that consolidated into Southmont had long enjoyed athletic success, particularly in basketball. But the question in 1971 was whether athletes at this new school could compete against larger schools. Ken Coudret and his 1971 football team answered that question with a resounding yes and instilled in Mountie athletes a sense of pride that has carried through the 50 years of the school’s history. Many great athletes and teams followed. I was proud to wear the uniform, and I thought we could win every time we ran out onto the field. As a coach now, I still see the player’s pride and confidence when they put on the uniform. Over time, we have witnessed in our student athletes the confidence, competitiveness and positive attitude that results from participating in athletics at Southmont. That Mountie pride has changed lives and helped our graduates make an impact later in life.”

Dan Taylor, Southmont

THANK YOU

Bryce Barton

Matt Merica

Aaron Charles

Ed Stuffle

Ed Stuffle

Barry Lewis

Bill Boone

Kevin Hedrick

Samantha Cotten

Gary Linn

Dave Williamson

Jane Coudret

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