ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
A CHESTERTON ACADEMY

Eight Straight! St. Michael Gents Claim Sixth at Cross Country State Finals for Their Eighth Consecutive 'Top Ten' Finish

Ladies Take 15th; Veronica Paga, Mea & Cole Wesley Earn All State Honors

PETOSKEY – November 10, 2026 – St. Michael High School (SMHS), the only Classical Catholic high school in Northern Michigan, announced today that its Boys Cross Country (XC) team placed sixth at Saturday's Division-4 State Finals.

The Guardians were led by Cole Wesley who earned first-time All-State honors with a 28th place finish in 16:56. As at the Regional, he was followed by Grady Hanes (41st in 17:11), Cooper Feagan (43rd in 17:13), Atticus Cadarette (54th in 17:26), and Phillip Anderson (119th in 18:29).

Seniors Owen Bartoszewski and Elijah Pulver also competed for the Guardians, finishing in 182nd and 199th in 19:31 and 19:55, respectively.



Cooper, Atticus & Cole: State Scorers for Three Years Running!



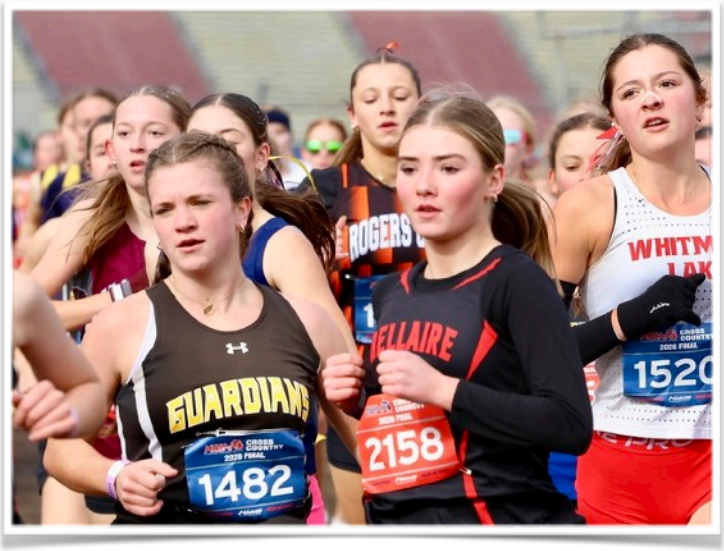
Phillip Anderson Completes the Guardian Scoring

In team scoring, the Guardian-five tallied 20, 32, 35, 42, and 82, for 211 points, landing them in sixth – just three points behind fifth-place Mesick and just fifteen back of fourth-place Whitmore Lake. As expected, Holland Calvary menaced the field, winning for the second year in a row by placing six runners in the top 17 and tying a State record score of just 35 points. Breckenridge, a team good enough to win the D-4 title almost any other season, was runner-up with 86 and perennial power Hillsdale Academy was third at 169. (Lower is better in XC scoring.)

Guardians Head Coach Larry Rudnicki mused, "Given where we are right now, I can't complain. Our gents, especially Cole and Phillip, turned it up a notch from a solid Regional championship performance to close with a great showing at State."

"Aside from the incredible strength of Holland Calvary and Breckenridge, what stands out in D-4 Boys is the stark separation of the top six teams from the rest of the field. We were a stone's toss from fourth, gaining massive ground on Mesick, and even Hillsdale, since they clobbered us at Portage – while we put 50-plus on 7th-place Leland and more than 100 points on 8th-place Sacred Heart (and all other teams). We couldn't have done that even a few weeks ago. I credit the guys for their late season focus and smart, patient racing on Saturday."

In the D-4 Girls race, St. Michael finished 15th. Veronica Paga and Mea Wesley led the way, earning All-State honors by placing 17th and 24th in 19:58 and 20:07, respectively. In doing so, they became just the second and third lady runners in program history to ascend the State Finals podium.



Veronica Paga Confidently Navigates the Early Going

Amity Moore was the third Guardian to cross the finish line placing 98th in 21:49. She was followed by fellow freshmen Chloe Coveyou, Kateri Kranz, and Bree Milliron.

In team scoring, the ladies tallied 11, 16, 62, 144, and 145, for 378 points and fifteenth place, the second best finish in program history.

As expected, Hillsdale Academy won its first-ever State championship with 117 points, comfortably outpacing second place Onekama at 169, which relied on the '6th-woman' tie-breaker to claim runner-up honors. Whitmore Lake, also at 169 and winner of the last three State titles, settled for third.

Coach Rudnicki continued, "Our ladies exceeded expectations by a few places on the strength of podium performances from Veronica and Mea. Sticking to a patient race plan, they moved up from 40th and 51st at the mile to finish 23 and 27 places higher. While Veronica's race bore striking similarity to her excellent Regional run, Mea had to regroup after a somewhat lesser outing last weekend – and did she ever!"

Click HERE for D-4 Boys results and HERE for D-4 Girls results.

"I'd like to thank parents for their encouragement and support, as well as Assistant Coach Lindsay Moore for her innumerable contributions this season. Thanks also to our generous benefactors, without whom we couldn't do this at all. Finally, thanks be to God for yet another memorable season, filled with joys and consolations as we learn to carry our crosses and endure the inevitable challenges of Christian life."



Mea Wesley's Final Surge for the Podium

St. Michael High School is ***High School with a Higher Purpose*** and a proud member of the Chesterton Schools Network. Established in 2013, the St. Michael mission is to nurture and elevate a new generation of joyful leaders educated in the Classical tradition and truth of the Catholic faith. For more information, please visit our website at stmichaelchesterton.org.

