



Beatty, Napier and Sokolov head to state competition



Photos by Liz Whitehurst

By Liz Whitehurst

As Jim Beatty began the 3200 meter race, dark, ominous clouds were already descending on the boys sectional meet. As he ran, the sky became darker and the spectators began to move toward the field house doors.

Just as Beatty crossed the finish line, winning the 3200 meter race with a time of 9:51 and earning a place in this weekend's state competition, the announcer asked everyone to move into the field house due to a tornado warning. Hours later, the rest of the meet was rescheduled.

"It was awesome," said Andy Napier, ACHS senior and another state qualifier. "There were black clouds everywhere."

Beatty's dramatic finish last Friday helped the Sequoits continue their season into the state competition.

Oleg Sokolov's second place finish in the high jump and Napier's first place finish of the 1600 meter race with a time of 4:26 also earned them spots in this weekend's state competition at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL.

Sokolov, who jumped 6'3" to qualify for state, tied the first place jumper from North Chicago in height, but had more misses.

Both Beatty and Napier will face particularly difficult competition at state, according to head coach Norm Hahn.

"There are a lot of very good distance kids this year," said Hahn. "It will be tough."

Napier will run the preliminary race today, and if he makes top twelve, will continue to finals on Saturday. Napier said his goal is to make it to finals.

Beatty will run tomorrow, and must secure one of the top nine times in order to place.

Either way, both runners just hope to do their best.

"I just want to go out with a strong performance," Napier said.

Also, Hahn said, the competition will motivate them.

"Both have a chance to do the best they've ever done," said Hahn. He said that despite the tough competition, both have a good chance to make it to finals.

Hahn said Sokolov will most likely have to jump at least 6'5" in order to make it to state finals.

In addition to the weather at sectionals, Beatty and Napier had to overcome significant obstacles this season.

Napier had foot surgery last fall, from which he is still recovering.

"It's still not one hundred percent" said Napier.

Beatty missed meets earlier in the season due to foot and ankle problems.

"My times aren't as fast as I would have liked," said Beatty. "But I finished the season

strong, which is what I was aiming to do."

The team itself also finished strong, particularly at the sectional meet, where they took sixth.

The distance section came out strong at the sectional meet, as did the throwing section. Overall, the team's sixth place finish out of 15 teams pleased Hahn.

The team also performed well at conference, where they also placed sixth overall, this time out of 12 teams.

"We finished higher [at conference] than most people had anticipated," said Beatty.

The success of Beatty, Napier and Sokolov represents an overall trend in boys track at ACHS: strong individual performances, despite average team finishes.

"We shine in certain areas," said Napier

While Beatty and Sokolov were able to compete last Friday, Napier had to run the next morning, due to the weather. Hahn said he doesn't think it had much of an effect on the race.

"Andy is very competitive," he said.

Napier said he would have preferred to run on Friday.

"The intensity [on Saturday] was lacking," said Napier. "It didn't have the atmosphere of a sectional meet."

Still, he said he was satisfied.

"I'm glad I'm going down state," said Napier. "I'm looking forward to this



ABOVE LEFT: Sophomore Mike Lodesky is coming around the turn in the 4x800 meter relay. LEFT: Senior Oleg Sokolov placed second in high jump at sectionals last weekend which qualified him for state. Jim Beatty won the 3200 meter race and Andy Napier came in first in the 1600 meter race. Along with Sokolov, their wins earned them a spot in this weekend's state competition.

Tennis finalists take on state

Hagedorn and Reimer defeat Warren at Sectionals to secure spot at state tournament

By Korin Knutson

After last weekend's sectional tournament, Sam Hagedorn and Ryan Reimer, ACHS seniors, placed fourth at the sectionals tournament and are competing at the state tournament.

Hagedorn and Reimer have been doing well up to this point in the season. They had a record of 17-6.

"The two boys brought impressive game to the tournament last weekend and have huge serves and big ground strokes," said head coach Bryan Plinske.

Hagedorn and Reimer's first match for qualifying was against Round Lake. After beating them, they went on to face Warren. Despite the fact that the match was rained out and continued the next day, they still were able to defeat Warren, who is their biggest competition.

"Warren is one of our biggest competitors and we had to beat them to qualify for state," said Hagedorn.

With a record of 17-6, the two boys beat all the teams they needed to in order to qualify for state.

"Making it to state was definitely

one of my goals and Ryan and I did a good job. We beat all the teams we needed to. We beat all of the top schools," said Hagedorn.

According to Reimer, "Hagedorn and I pulled out all the stops when we needed to in order to knock out the competition."

The boys' goal this season was to make it to state.

"I really wanted to go to state this year and tried my hardest to accomplish that goal," said Hagedorn

Plinske was glad they accomplished their goals.

"I am very proud of Sam and Ryan. They set their goal early in the season and worked for it each and every day. They played big when they had to," said Plinske.

Plinske is confident Hagedorn and Reimer will do well at state.

"They have the potential to do very well. They are a strong doubles team who can overpower opponents. They have a different style that works for their strengths.

According to Plinske, Hagedorn and Reimer can win a couple of main draw matches and then make some noise in the back draw.

The state competition will be held

at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights.

The Sequoits came in third place at sectionals last weekend. Andrew Nichols beat Grayslake, 7-5, 6-0 in his first match. Robert Reynolds

and Ryan Leng beat Grant, 6-0, 6-2, in their first match.

"The team did really well. Their wins were important for the team placement," said Plinske. Their record was 10-7 and tied for

fourth place at their conference tournament two weeks ago.

"The team has really been successful up to this point. Everyone has been pushing each other to be the best they can. No one wants to let the team down," said Plinske.

“**Making it to state was definitely one of my goals and Ryan and I did well.**”
—Sam Hagedorn
ACHS Senior