

TORNADO SPORTS

Sports Feature

The Right Direction

by Scott Merusi

While sitting outside Cross Country Coach Norm Witek's office waiting to interview him, I heard him talking with a runner from this team. I listened as the two talked about upcoming meets, and strategies. As the subject turned from racing to graded, there was an abrupt change in the tone of the conversation. Witek replaced the small talk with a stern lecture on making good grades. Witek served notice that his books should be just as important as the race he was to run.

Norm Witek's ability to guide runners in the right direction has meant positive results. Over the last decade, Brevard Cross Country team has won the Region X title ten times. They have also placed consistently in the Nationals, with a second place finish last year. Witek's teams have won thirty-seven dual meets over the last five years.

Thin and lean at 6'2", 160 pounds, Witek says "We are only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. The team has to understand we need seven runners. The responsibility is on them because somewhere down the line if they don't take on this responsibility, it could cost them a meet, even the National Championship." Because of the dynasty he has created, Witek must keep on top of the pile. Some look upon him as having it made in terms of the ideal Cross Country team, but Witek is not one to sit back, and watch a good harvest rot.

"We're not going anywhere unless the whole team is with us. Work-outs are usually geared to not having the sophomore leading the pack when running, but having the whole team up there." Witek looks for runners who will

fit his mold of what a true runner should be: "A runner that not only has the potential to win a race, but the ability to help another runner if the situation arises, a cramp or just not feeling good during the race."

Most schools let the coach do the coaching, and the administration do the paper work, but Witek supervises everything connected with his team. He does all his own recruiting, despite a limited budget, without the aid of feeder schools, something a number of schools depend on. He schedules all transportation and trips, and he books the team's accommodations. With all of his extra work, though, Witek still has time to be a winning coach. "It all comes down to preparation; if you don't prepare, and communicate to the team what you need in advance; then there is no reason to have a coach," Witek remarks.

Brevard is ranked third nationally in the Cross Country poll. Witek says he is hopeful that his team will do well. Having an injury to one of his All-American runners and having another top runner not return has made Witek revise his goal. Once having the goal of winning the National Championship, Witek must now be content with just winning a trophy at the Nationals.

Witek feels that this year he has a team with the best attitude, dedication, and talent in the nation. It is up to Witek to take this team and turn it into a fine-tuned running machine. If this machine that Coach Witek builds breaks down, or if injuries occur, then it will have to, as Coach Witek puts it, "run on pure guts". Coach Witek would not have it any other way, because in his coaching philosophy there is only one way to go—"The Right Direction".



Andy Nicholson, and R.C. Hill go up for a header during the Tornados 3-1 victory over Western Carolina. (Photo by Steve Rabey).

Tornados Win Tournament

by Scott Merusi

The Brevard College Tornados swept their own tournament, The Brevard Soccer Invitational, for the first time in its three year history. They defeated Montreat Anderson (3-0) and Western Carolina (3-1). Later, the Tornados traveled to Georgia, dropping a pair of 2-1 decisions to Emory University and Andrew College. The team now has a 4-4 record with nearly half the season gone.

Coach Don Scarborough expected the season to be tough, but he feels it will be only a matter of time until Brevard gets back onto the winning ways. Scarborough contends that if the team plays up to its capabilities, it will be tough by the end of the year. He also feels minor changes in the line-up may help get the team back on the tract, so look for some fresh faces in the Tornado roster this week.

Soccer Update

by Scott Merusi

Brevard's Tornados managed a 1-1 tie with DeKalb Community College last Tuesday night. DeKalb jumped out to a quick lead in the first half, and enjoyed the advantage until late in the game. With two minutes left, Andy Nicholson scored on a one touch from the eight to knot the score.

The teams played two tough overtime periods with Brevard getting close but unable to put the ball in the back of the net.

Dan Clay's Diary

by Dan Clay

Dan Clay, along with the others on the Cross-Country team travelled to Knoxville, Tennessee, last weekend and defeated the Tennessee Junior Varsity. It was their 37th consecutive dual meet victory.

Brevard vs. Tennessee
Junior Varsity
Saturday October 3, 1981
Knoxville, TN
55 degrees, hilly, difficult course
Brevard 25 - Tenn. J.V. 31

This meet was a rather unique experience for our young team, as we ran in the same race with the Tennessee and Miami of Ohio varsities. However, we were only scored against Tennessee's Junior Varsity, which we defeated for our first non-shutout win of the season, 25-31. Brad Albee, myself, and Randy Ward

were the top three Brevard finishers. Jim Hickey moved up to the fourth position, followed by Gerald Hutchinson. Monte Orchard and Mike Miller broke into the top seven for the first time.

Monte Orchard also proved to be valuable to the team, his

great driving skill at high speed through city traffic allowed us to arrive at the meet site without undue delay, as several of the highways are being renovated for the World's Fair. The competition from the varsity runners of Tennessee and Miami was very stiff, and the course was hilly with poor footing. There was not one place on the entire course where one could get into a smooth rhythm. Most of the team members felt that we were capable of doing much better, but we were happy to get away as soon as possible with the win.

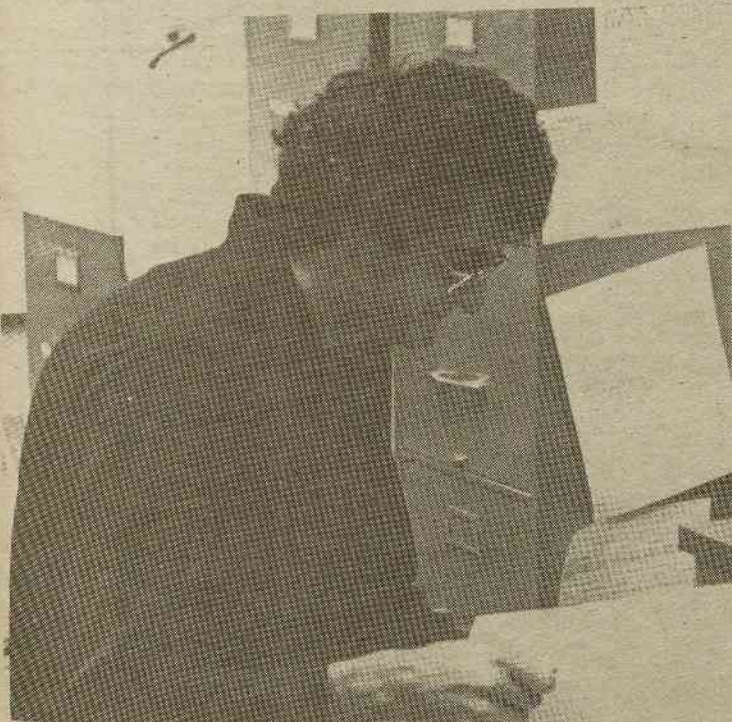


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Norm Witek is a busy man whether coaching the nationally ranked Brevard Cross Country team, or spending time in his new administrative position of the school's Athletic Director.

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