COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Former standouts excel at Albion

Numerous local athletes from Chelsea and Dexter are competing for Albion College this fall sports campaign.

For the Britons' men's soccer team, Chelsea natives junior Bryan Hayes, junior David Knox and sophomore Clayton Wilson will suit up this fall. The Britons open the year Saturday hosting Heidelberg (Ohio) College.

Chelsea freshman Chris Moyle will run for Albion's men's cross country team this season. The Britons, runners-up last year in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, begin the season Saturday at Holland in the Bill Vanderbilt Invitational.

On the gridiron, Chelsea senior Brett Putman is a member of Albion's football squad. The Britons open the 2005 season Saturday at Butler University in Indianapolis. Albion's home opener is Sept. 17 against the Uni-

Dexter residents lead teams to titles

Dexter residents Gordon Makin and Neil Makin helped lead their teams to top finishes at last Saturday's seventh annual Frog Island 3-on-3 Soccer Tournament in Ypsilanti.

Gordon, a fourth-grader at Wylie Elementary School, sparked the Super Blues to the 10-and-younger division championship. He scored two goals in the Super Blues' 3-0 win over the Lincoln Blitz in the tournament final.

Neil, 8, a first-grader at Cornerstone Elementary School, helped the Spiffires capture the 9-and-younger bracket title. Overall, he scored five goals during the tournament, including two in the Spiffires' 4-2 victory over the Ypsilanti Dragons in the championship game.

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MEME

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The 50 freestyle became the first of three consecutive swimming events decided by less than one second, when Sami Daily out-sprinted Milan's Leslie House to win in a state time of 25.64. Schultz placed third and Fashinder fifth.

This year's Dexter diving squad looks to be one of the team's strengths this season. The group started the 2005 campaign in fine fashion, sweeping the top three spots in the competition. Junior Cassie Vincke won with 205.50 points, closely followed by senior Claire Coffey with 194.65 points. Sophomore Janelle Heidt placed third, scoring 140.85 points.

Dreadnaught diving coach Manny Billegas is looking forward to coaching this year's quartet of divers.

"If this meet is any indication of how the year is going to be, then we will be in good shape come SEC and state meet time," he said. "Our girls had a taste of success at the end of last season and have come into the new year with a level of dedication and commitment that is incredible."

Back in the lanes, the crowd was treated to a pair of excellent races, the first between Ally Daily and Milan's Courtney Roberts in the 100 butterfly. After swimming the first 50 yards in a virtual dead heat, Daily's state time of 1:02.89 fell just short when Roberts nipped her at the wall. Dede Daily placed third and Schultz fourth.

In the 100 freestyle, it was Sami Daily placing a close second in a state clocking of 54.03, with Kim Melinsky finishing third and Diepenhorst fourth.

Woods returned to the pool and glided to an easy win in the 500 freestyle, qualifying for the state meet in a time of 5:11.78. Boren placed third.

Dexter's sprint relay team of Sami Daily, Ally Daily, Boren and Woods touched first in a state qualifying time of 1:43.55.

Kim Melinsky placed second, Fashinder third and sophomore Natalie Fluent fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Two of the state's top breaststrokers faced each other in the last individual event of the meet, when Ally Melinsky matched up with Milan's Roberts. Melinsky's strong stroke kept her even with Roberts through 75 yards, but the Big Red All-State star held on for the win.

Melinsky qualified for the state meet in the event, topping the clock in 1:06.53. It was the senior's best ever