

## **First to the Finish Invitational – Detweiller Park, Peoria**

### **Open race**

#### **Taylor Wagner (19th, 20:34.9 for 3.0 miles), No. 1 team finisher**

*For your freshman debut at Detweiller, how would you evaluate your race?*

**“I felt that my race was pretty good. I definitely felt at the end I could have pushed myself harder than I did but overall I still think I had a pretty good race.”**

*You seemed to move well throughout the race*

**“At the first mile mark I looked at my watch and it was 7:00. I definitely had wanted to be going at a better pace than that so I realized that I had to step it up and then I started just passing and trying to get up. I hoped to be at a 6:50 instead of 7:00 so it was still around what I wanted to be at. I just wanted to make sure that I could push myself.”**

*Were you pretty satisfied with your final two miles?*

**“I would pick a girl and then I’d be like. ‘OK. I’m going to stay with her.’ I’d just watch her. If I caught up to her, then I’d pick another one, and then just keep going like that.”**

*Did you realize that you moved into the top 20?*

**“I actually thought I got 21st. There was a girl from Lyons Township in front of me and someone was saying you’re 20th, you’re 20th. And I was right there behind her and she did beat me over the finish (in a strong sprint), but I originally thought I got 21st.”**

*Did you earn a fair amount of medals running for Westview Hills Middle School?*

**“Yes I did. Well, mostly in my eighth grade year because my sixth and seventh grade I kept getting better every year. Eighth grade was after I actually did the Hinsdale Central running camp for the first time and then that year was when I really did well.”**

*How was your first Detweiller experience?*

**“It was a really great experience to be able to run the state course. It was just a very fun day and I learned a lot of stuff. It was just really fun being with all of the girls.”**

*Did anyone give you advice about the Detweiller course going into the race?*

**“Just that this is a fast course and obviously, it’s the state meet course so that it was a very good experience to be able to run here and just get the feel of it.”**

*How was the course footing?*

**“At most parts it was pretty good. The course is very flat. Some parts, though, it was very muddy so you just have to (be careful). Most of the time I stayed to the left side where most people go through the center so it’s very muddy there. I tried to stay out to the edges so it wasn’t as bad.”**

*Did you pace at all with freshman Lucy Fischer (52nd, 21:22.4)?*

**“Throughout the first mile. Right when we started the race, maybe we were at the 400-meter mark I was kind of out of it a little bit and I looked up and I saw Lucy maybe 10 meters of me. I’m like, ‘I’ve got to catch up to her,’ so we stayed together for about a mile and then I worked my way up.”**

*Does this race just show you can run a little bit faster?*

**“I think I’m definitely learning about how well I can run the 3.0 miles. Since I’m pretty sure it’s only our third meet, I’m definitely learning a lot about how I can race and I definitely think I can get out harder now and I can be up there, not just by working my way up, but I can stay up there and be consistent with it.”**