

Girls' varsity track captures meet wins and school records early in season

James Nosek | Staff Writer

Senior Monica Lake has had nothing short of a successful high school career. She has won a state title, won numerous conference championships and led the GMC statistically in her personal events, including this year in the 1600 meter run.

But this success is something that Lake said she likes to share and enjoy with her teammates more than anything. This season, Lake has been able to mix her own successes with the teams, as the Mason varsity girls' track team has had a fast start to the early season—placing first in both the LaSalle Invitational in March and the Coaches Classic Track Championship in early April.

“Every meet, I’m trying to get as many points as I can to help my team win,” Lake said.

Getting first place finishes in important regular season events, and breaking a few school records in the process, has head coach Tony Affatato very pleased with the status of his team.

At the Lebanon Relays on April 13, both the 4x1600 MHS record, which was previously held by the 2007 squad, and the Sprint Medley record, which was previously held by the 2004 relay team, were broken. The 4x1600 relay was broken by



From left to right: junior Lauren Wood, senior Bridget McElhenny, junior Tori Martin senior Monica Lake and head distance coach Kelly Affatato.

photo contributed

about 34 seconds.

“Our strength this year is being very balanced as a team,” Affatato said. “We have been good all across the board-- in both our field and running events-- and that has really been an advantage for us.”

Affatato said winning the Coaches Classic was one of the main highlights of the season because of the size of the event, which included around 40 teams, but a bigger and more well-known event is next on the Comets' schedule.

Tonight Mason will compete in the 49th annual Volunteer Track Classic, an event they placed third in last season, and will represent Ohio as one of the 23 different states running in the event. Teams from Canada will also be running.

“It is good to get away and face some good competition,” Affatato said. “It is a nice treat to run against some different teams.”

Although the Comets will focus on finishing the regular season on the highest note possible, the post season is where they have thrived in the past, and this year that is no exception.

“The goal is to try and send as many runners to a state title,” Affatato said. “Even if some don't win, it is still a great accomplishment to get there.”

With the high standards put in place, Lake said her Comets will try their best to repeat the successes of last year, and build on them as well.

“We have really high expectations,” Lake said. “We want to defend our titles from last year, and get back to state.”

TRADING PUNCHES

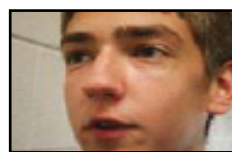
Why is it that every athlete who gets mixed up with a Kardashian ends up in a huge mess professionally and personally? (ie; Lamar Odom, Kris Humphries) ?

The reason they end up in a huge mess is the fact that when an athlete starts dating one of them, their life goes even further under the microscope. The press cover them in a negative light right away because people like to see the dirt on the Kardashians. This is added pressure that puts strain on these athletes professionally and personally. This is why these athlete end up in huge messes. I just hope it doesn't occur with music stars... good luck Kanye.



Joseph Spencer

I think it's a pretty simple explanation why athletes get their world turned upside down when their with Kim Kardashian: she's crazy. Just watching her show I came to the conclusion that she would be a horrible person to date because she's too into herself and she is about as dumb as the pencil I wrote this with. Her good looks don't balance out her stupidity. So, for all the athletes that have been with her, specifically Kris Humphries, I feel bad for you guys. Look how Kris is doing without her in his life. I would feel the same way.



James Nosek

All of the Kardashians are portrayed as California bimbos who are pretty much famous for no reason, so once you're associated with that, it's hard not to be sucked into that shallow "Kardashian" world. Ever since the Kardashian family got their own TV show, they've had bad reputations built up around them, so when an athlete gets involved, it's automatically negatively recieved because of the negative views people have of the Kardashians. When you get involved with people like that, it's hard not to have that negativity spill over into their professional life.



Katelyn Cain