

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Who's fastest on feet?

Charlotte Latin's **David Coyle** was all-conference a year ago, and Latin's **Erin Collins** was all-state.

They'll lead strong cross-country teams this year.

Latin's boys were third in the state last year, and the girls were fourth.

But the Hawks boys will chase Country Day and star **Derek McGarry** this season. And don't think Providence Day doesn't have runners. Don't they always? **Ayron Dubinsky**, a first-team All-Mecklenburg performer, will lead the girls, and Charlotte Christian's girls will get a boost from **Shannon Kennedy**.

In the Southwestern 4A, East Mecklenburg's boys are good. So what else is new? All-conference, all-region runner **Pen Perry** returns to lead the Eagles boys, and teammates **Thomas Elrod**, **Russ Taylor**, **Greg Prudhomme** and **Kevin Cutts** will make East strong. Mvers Park runners **Rob**



GARY O'BRIEN/Staff

Pacing herself: Ade-tokumbo Adeniji runs laps in the courtyard of Harding High to get ready for the upcoming cross-country season.

Reynolds and **Rebecca Fuller** are also strong candidates to make a run at individual state titles. Providence has three all-conference girls runners — **Carol Haskin**, **Kelly Wolff** and **Beth Herrman**. Providence won the state title last year.

South Mecklenburg's **Josh Morgan** was all-conference a year ago.

In the MEGA-7, let's just paint it North Mecklenburg blue. The Vikings' girls are a potential powerhouse. They're led by **Natalie Hollar**, **Kim Grier**, **Elizabeth Sudduth** and **Whitney Campbell**.

As for the boys, try North again. **Lee Long**, **Alan Marsh** and **Ryan Baker** will lead the way.

Predictions: (MEGA-7 4A, Boys) 1. N. Mecklenburg; 2. Ashbrook; 3. W. Mecklenburg; 4. Harding; 5. Olympic; 6. E. Gaston; 7. Hunter Huss. (Girls) 1. N. Mecklenburg; 2. W. Mecklenburg; 3. E. Gaston; 4. Olympic; 5. Harding; 6. Ashbrook; 7. Hunter Huss.

(Southwestern 4A, Boys) 1. E. Mecklenburg; 2. Providence; 3. Myers Park; 4. S. Mecklenburg; 5. Independence; 6. W. Charlotte; 7. Garinger. (Girls) 1. Providence; 2. E. Mecklenburg; 3. Myers Park; 4. S. Mecklenburg; 5. Independence; 6. W. Charlotte; 7. Garinger. (CI-SAA, Boys) 1. Country Day; 2. Charlotte Latin; 3. Providence Day; 4. Charlotte Christian. (Girls) 1. Charlotte Latin; 2. Country Day; 3. Providence Day; 4. Charlotte Christian.

— *Langston Wertz Jr.*