# SPORTS \$

#### XC | from p 8

34th (19:48.5), Trevyn Colton 39th (20:10.7), Cael Strode (20:47.7), Fynn Thompson 87th (24:49.7) and Lincoln Van Horn 88th (24:54.4).

While she admits she doesn't get hung up on rankings very much, there are a variety of metrics that, together, leave Wolverine head coach Brooke Wilson feeling very good about how her boys have been running as a group.

"For me, our goal is always to stay injury free that's what's most important to me. To get to state, I think everybody has to drop their time by another 30 seconds or so," Wilson said. "That's still their goal. The challenge is high, but Gabe made it to state last year and Luke was super close last year, so I would think he would make it this year too."

The Wolverines are doing as well as they have in a few years running as a pack, which can

help their team score tremendously, Wilson said.

"The kids get along great, they're fun to be around and are great kids," Wilson said.

The girls have only three runners out, with freshman Abby Nelson usually leading the results. Junior runner Kaylee Van Horn is the team captain, and rounding out the team is another freshman in Kenzie Lilly.

Van Horn's times have dropped from over 28 minutes in the first meet of the season to under minutes in Creston where she finished 44th (25:26). In that meet, Nelson was 16th (22:35.5) and Lilly 58th (29:58.4).

"Having three girls on the team is hard. We try to work individually because we know that's how anybody's going to get into state if they want to," Van Horn said. "I try to keep the girls motivated to the point that even if we don't have a team, it's still worth trying. The girls are working hard. Abby has worked really hard for this and I'm hoping she can get into state this year."

None of Wilson's three girls have quit. For that, she's thankful.

"We want them to enjoy the running and be happy you can do it. I want it to be something they can take with them after high school," Wilson said.

Nelson practices with the boys team, which Wilson thinks helps her out on the course.

"I think that helps her

be able to keep up her speed. She doesn't give up, there's no complaining. She does what she's supposed to do," Wilson said. "I think Abby has a chance to make it to state. Creston was a good race, but Ballard was so hot. I don't think we can base that off of anything. We will just have to see. I would expect she'll just get better and better as the season goes on."

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