



FACES IN THE CROWD

► Photograph by KOHJIRO KINNO

LEX AND LEO YOUNG

Hometown: Camarillo, Calif.

School: Newbury Park High

Date of Birth: Feb. 20, 2005

Sport: Cross-Country

National Team Ranking: No. 1

► **BEFORE** Lex and Leo Young were breaking high school cross-country records, their racing endeavors began on a smaller scale: smoking classmates in impromptu races to the fence and back during elementary school recess.

“Lex and I switched off being faster or slower,” says Leo, younger than Lex (*above, left*) by a minute. “Around middle school, Lex took

the lead for a couple years, and now we’re even.”

Identical twins and teammates, Leo and Lex are ranked as the No. 4 and No. 7 high school cross-country runners in the country, respectively. They have always trained side by side, video-blogging their running escapades to their self-produced YouTube channel titled L&L.

At the Woodbridge Cross Country

Classic in Norco, Calif., in September, Lex and Leo, both juniors, helped Newbury Park break the national three-mile team time record (69:30.9). Leo ran the course in 13:38.1, a second faster than the previous national high school best.

That mark had been set by the twins' older brother, Nico, who took Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year honors in 2019–20 after winning the Nike Cross Nationals. He then set the national indoor record in the 3,000 meters. He now competes at Northern Arizona and won a team NCAA championship last March.

"Everything [Nico] did in high school seemed so extraordinary," says Leo. "To see myself do something I could remember [him doing] two years ago—the fact that I was able to do that absolutely blows me away."

The twins have spoken to college coaches, but neither one is ready to say whether his next step will be as a duo. There's a good chance, though, that one will never be far behind the other. —*Nathan Ansell*

GYMNASTICS

FEVER DREAM

► **A WEEK** before the 2021 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, Stephen Nedoroscik couldn't practice. He was up all night coughing and battling a 103° fever thanks to a viral infection. Finally fever-free for 48 hours, he flew to Kitakyushu, Japan, where he arrived just three days before the competition, missing podium training. Still, Nedoroscik won gold on the pommel horse on Oct. 23, becoming



the first U.S. gymnast to win a world title in the event.

When Nedoroscik, a two-time NCAA champion from Worcester, Mass., returned Stateside, he learned he was suffering from another ailment: a fractured wrist.

"My doctor was very surprised I was able to put any weight on it. He's actually going to do a case study." Recovering at home, Nedoroscik, 23, says the win "feels amazing. It's always what I've wanted to do for Team USA."

—*Danielle Clayton*



JULIA HAWKINS ► Sport: Track and Field ► Hometown: Ponchatoula, La.

Hawkins, 105, ran a 1:02.95 in the 100-meter dash at the Louisiana Senior Games, becoming the first female athlete to compete in the event's 105-plus age bracket. "Hurricane" Hawkins, a retired teacher who didn't start running until she turned 100, previously set the 100–104 age group record in the 100 meters [39.62] in 2017.



SEVEN CASTAIN ► Sport: Soccer ► Hometown: Sandy, Utah

Seven, a senior midfielder at Waterford High, scored four goals in a 4–3 defeat of Rowland Hall to win the 2A state championship, snapping the Winged Lions' four-year title streak. A TCU commit, Seven scored 71 goals, a Utah single-season record, in 17 games.

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