

Curcio Inks Three Student-Athletes

Written by Justin Bohn

Wednesday, 21 March 2012 11:09

Three student-athletes signed a National Letter of Intent to join Appalachian State's cross country and track & field programs on Wednesday, announced by head coach Michael Curcio. The incoming

class includes: Mitch McLeod (Carrboro, N.C./Chapel Hill), Joshua Ellis (Bethesda, Md./Walter Johnson) and Jonathan Bivens (Matthews, N.C./Weddington).

Mitch McLeod, Carrboro, N.C./Chapel Hill

Helped lead his team to a 3A Division State title as a junior and a runner-up finish as a senior ... led his 2010 team to a ninth-place finish at Nike's NxN Southeast Competition and finished 56th out of 228 individuals ... earned all-state, all-region and all-conference recognition as a junior and senior ... was a member of the Chapel Hill High School record breaking 4x800 relay team ... took the 3A State title in the 3,200-meters as a junior.

Curcio's Comment: "Mitch has been up in the mountains the last few years at our summer camps, and is originally from New Hampshire. He will fit in well with the area and the team. We expect he will be able to come in and move into the distance area on the track and combined with Josh and Jonathan for a great trio of young cross country talent."

Joshua Ellis, Bethesda, Md./Walter Johnson

Helped guide his team to their fourth-straight state championship with a third-place finish at the 4A state meet ... ran a personal-best 15:59.6 at the Nike NXN Southeast Regional to finish 40th out of 255 runners and helped his team finish in seventh-place ... was a member of the All-American 4x800-meter indoor relay team as a sophomore.

Curcio's Comment: "Josh has been part of championship caliber teams all thru high school and led his team to a state championship in cross country with a fifth-place finish to earn all-state honors. He shows great range with a win at the Virginia tech indoor invitational in 4:20 mile time. We are looking to him to add depth in a strong core group of upper-class milers."

Jonathan Bivens, Matthews, N.C./Weddington

Placed second with a time of 15:51.00 at the 2011 NCHSAA State Championship ... won the 2011 NCHSAA 3A Midwest Regional with a time of 15:45.00 ... took on the title at the prestigious Wendy's Invitational last fall ... earned a eighth-place finish in the 1,600-meters at the 2012 1A/2A/3A NCHSAA Indoor State Championships.

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Curcio's Comment: "Jonathan has done a great job showing progress during entire fall 2011 season. He won the 3A race at the prestigious Wendy's invitational at McAlpine Park. He peaked at the right moment for an individual runner up performance at the state championships. We anticipate he will really open some eyes this outdoor track season."

Photo Courtesy: Mike Curcio, ASU Athletics