



MITCA

Michigan High School Coaches Association Cross Country Coach of the Year

Each year, MITCA nominates one Boys Cross Country Coach and one Girls Cross Country Coach for consideration as a:

- National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) National Coach of the Year (CoY)
- National Federation High School Coaches Association (NFHSCA) Sectional CoY with possible escalation to National CoY

Nominations may come from any MITCA member or school.

The MITCA Executive Board votes on the nominees and forwards their selection to the Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA); the MHSCA will then forward the nominee to the NHSACA and NFHSCA

Criteria

Nominee must be current MITCA member.

In the table:

* NHSACA Finalist % NFHSCA Sectional CoY
\$ NHSACA National CoY # NFHSCA National CoY

Year	Male Name	School	Female Name	School
2026	Michael Nikkila	Hillsdale Academy	Casey Livingston	Whitmore Lake
2025	Tim Dalton % *	Northville	Mike Buslepp %	Romeo
2024	Daniel McElheney %	Forest Hills Eastern	Doug Jager * \$	Grand Rapids Christian
2023	Eric Swager	Chelsea	Julie Duffing	Traverse City St. Francis
2022	Jay Puffpaff	St. Louis	Jill Evers %, #	Kent City
2021	Cliff Somers *	Fremont	Lisa Taylor	Traverse City Central
2020	Dean Blackledge %	Hanover-Horton	Terry Tatro	Hart
2019	Mike Kloss *	Harbor Springs	Mark Zitzelsberger	Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart
2018	Bryan Heid	Corunna	Tim Simpson	Lansing Catholic
2017	Scott Werner % *	Pewamo-Westphalia	Steve Long % *	Otsego
2016	Cliff Somers *	Fremont	Emily Kloss % *	Harbor Springs
2015	Asa Kelly *	Benzie Central	Dave King *	Beal City
2014	Tim Simpson	Lansing Catholic	Nancy Smith %, *	Northville
2013	David Jordon %, *	Concord	Steve Porter %, #, *	Milan
2012	Brian Salyers *	Milford	Douglas Jager *	Grand Rapids Christian
2011	Tony Magni \$, %	Detroit Catholic Central	Mike Smith *	Saline
2010	Christopher Young *, #	Ionia	Dean Blackledge *, %	Hanover-Horton
2009	Don Sleeman \$, %	Ann Arbor Pioneer	Eldon "Pete" Moss #, *	Benzie Central
2008	Paul Nilsson \$, %	Williamston	Cecil Burch*, %	LeRoy Pine River
2007	Jaime Dudash % *	Dexter	Doug Jager %	Grand Rapids Christian
2006	Art Kraii % *	Wyoming Lee	Tamara Benjamin %, *	Thornapple-Kellogg
2005	Paul Nilsson *, %	Williamston	Mike Smith *	Saline
2004	Kim Spalsbury*	Grand Ledge	Mike Woolsey #, \$	Jackson Lumen Christi
2003	Eldon Moss *, %	Benzie Central	Pat Pastula %	Hillsdale
2002	Don Dickmann %	Petoskey	William Ciciarelli *	Rochester Adams
2001	Jim Lister *	Stockbridge	Brad Prins	Rockford
2000	Robert Smith *	Novi	Dave Wenzel*	Gaylord
1999	John Soderman *	Caledonia	John Quiring %, *	Okemos
1998	Gordon Aldrich \$, %	Corunna	Eldon Moss *	Benzie Central
1997	Rich Tompkins %, *	Fremont	Jerry Lasceski %	Akron-Fairgrove
1996	Pat Richardson #	Grass Lake	Kevin Hanson *	Sterling Heights Stevenson
1995	Robert Ritsema *	Brighton	Deb Zonca	Troy Athens
1994	Wayne Roberts	Sandusky	David Hodgkinson	Caledonia
1993	Don Sleeman *	Ann Arbor Pioneer	Gary Meehan *	Brighton
1992	Randy Wilkins	Lakeland	Pat Clarke	Chelsea
1991	Tony Magni #	Detroit Catholic Central	Steve Porter	Milan
1990	Rich Tompkins *, %	Fremont	Duane Raffin *	Holly
1989	Dave Bork *	Monroe	Lee Averill *	West Bloomfield
1988	Pete Spieles %, *	Charlevoix	Bryan Westfield *	Ann Arbor Pioneer
1987	Patsy Arpino	Jackson Lumen Christi	Barry Kloenhammer	Dewitt
1986	John Quiring	Okemos	Fred Hunt	Capac
1985	Bruce Dyer	Ann Arbor Greenhills	Kevin Hanson	Sterling Heights Stevenson

1984	Tony Magni	Detroit Catholic Central	Eldon Moss	Benzie Central
1983	Richard Tompkins	Fremont	Mike Woolsey	Jackson Lumen Christi
1982	Jim Gardiner	Grand Rapids Catholic Central	Dale Phillips	Marquette
1981	John Warners *	Grand Rapids Christian	Bill Perry	Davison
1980	Charles King	Concord	Gary Meehan	Brighton