BJ's Printables Female Athlete Of The Week: Hemmer’s Work Ethic Drives Knights Cross Country Success

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EDWARDSVILLE — Marion Hemmer’s work ethic and toughness helped define a season that brought the Metro-East Lutheran junior to Detweiller Park in Peoria, where she finished 201st in the IHSA Class 1A girls state cross country championships Nov. 7, 2026.

Hemmer covered the three-mile course in 21 minutes, 13 seconds, representing the Edwardsville school.

Metro-East Lutheran head girls cross country coach Kevin Reiseck said Hemmer’s approach resembles her brother’s, particularly her toughness and willingness to work through challenges.

“She works really hard,” Reiseck said. “She had a really good year again."

Hemmer, a member of the Class of 2028, also placed 19th in 20:43.6 at the 2025 IHSA Class 1A regional in Trenton-Wesclin.

Hemmer is a BJ's Printables Female Athlete Of The Month for the Knights.

Reiseck said Hemmer has great potential and loves running, with an interest in continuing the sport in college.

Hemmer also competes in track, and Reiseck said he looks forward to that part of her athletic career. She has played basketball in the past for MELHS.