

## Josh Evans enjoys view from the top

Written by Jim Ecker

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Linn-Mar sophomore Josh Evans is not merely the top cross country runner in the Mississippi Valley Conference anymore.

He's now one of the best runners in the state and has been ranked No. 1 by the Iowa Track Coaches Association the past two weeks.

Evans showed why Tuesday when he won the Linn-Mar Invitational at the Tuma Soccer Complex by 29 seconds.

Evans vaulted to the No. 1 spot in the state rankings after a strong second-place showing Sept. 17 at the Heartland Classic in Ames, where he beat runners who had been ranked 1-2 in Iowa.

Evans climbed from No. 3 to No. 1 in last week's rankings based on that strong performance in Ames and stayed No. 1 in this week's poll. He's just a sophomore and still only 15 years old, yet he's already considered the top distance runner in Iowa.

"It's pretty cool to see that," he said Tuesday after winning the Linn-Mar Invitational in 15 minutes, 34 seconds over the flat 5-kilometer course. "It will be fun the next couple of years."

Cole Decker of Dowling Catholic had been ranked No. 1 in the state, but Evans beat him by 16 seconds at the Heartland Classic.

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