7A-5A



Ella Garcia Lourdes



Agatha Gonzalez Ferguson



Melissa Gonzalez **Doral Academy**



Olivia Guzman Lourdes



Sara Lawrence Coral Reef



Izabela Molina **Doral Academy**



Ainhoa Molleja **Doral Academy**



Julia Schmidt **Palmetto**



Angie Vazquez **Doral Academy**

All-Dade Volleyball

7A-5A FIRST TEAM

POS., NAME, SCHOOL, YR. OH, Ella Garcia, Lourdes, Jr. Stats: 285 kills, 212 digs, 61 aces. OH, Agatha Gonzalez, Ferguson, Sr. Stats: 263 kills, 30 aces, 220 digs, 161 points. S, Melissa Gonzalez, Doral, Jr. Stats: 753 assists, 114 digs, 40 aces. OH, Olivia Guzman, Lourdes, Jr. **Stats:** 261 kills, 52 blocks. MH, Sara Lawrence, Coral Reef, Sr. Stats: 177 kills, 78 blocks, 60 aces. MH, Isabella Molina, Doral, Sr. Stats: 131 kills, 31 blocks, .452 hitting pct. OH, Ainhoa Molleja, Doral, So. **Stats:** 254 kills, 102 digs, 54 aces. OH, Julia Schmidt, Palmetto, So. **Stats:** 352 kills, 137 digs, 26 aces. LIB, Angie Vazquez, Doral, Sr. **Stats:** 431 digs, 37 aces, 581 receptions.

SECOND TEAM

S Jenna Acosta, Lourdes, Sr.; OH Vanessa Dobal, Coral Reef, Sr.; S Lexi Diaz, Palmetto, Sr.; S Mia Gonzalez, Ferguson, Sr.; MH Erin McMullen, Doral Academy, Jr.; LIB Isabella Marrero, Lourdes, Sr.; OH Isabella Pedrosa, Southwest, Sr.; OH Allison Pedroso, Coral Reef, So.; OH-DS Violette Zayas, Mourning, So.

THIRD TEAM OH Daniela Dobal, Coral Reef, So.; OH Sophia Gonzalez, Lourdes, So.; OH Isabella Marquez, Ferguson, Sr.; S Olivia Marrero, Lourdes, So.; S Corina McDanal, Coral Gables, Fr.; LIB Kristyn Membreno, Ferguson, Sr.; OH Aaliyah Mixon, Palmetto, So.; OH Brianna Napole: Doral Academy, Fr.; OH Samira Persad, Reagan, Fr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Coral Gables: Audrey Noval, Avery Felix, Celina Richardson, Bianca Benson; Coral Reef: Emily Gomez, Amanda Augusten, Mia Gonzalez; Doral Academy: Sarah Diaz, Sophie Torres; Goleman: Kiersten Joy, Jayla Cardozo, Melissa Betancourt, Adriana Leal; Krop: Annabel Vargas, Camila Kac, Dylan Zuckerman, Aaliyah Bernard, Sara Arboleda; **Lourdes**: Amanda Travieso, Alexa Espin; **Miami Beach**: Ruby Robbins, Kristina Kravchuk, Lis Bremer; **North** Miami: Weedchenska Jeanbaptiste, Mya Bethel, Dimyah Jackson, Malena Valcin, Maeva Neptune; Palmetto: Ava Graziano, Mylie Sanchez, Sienna Lawrence, Bianca Lequerica; Reagan: Jennifer Buaiz, Mariangel Mendoza, Gabriela Prieto, Nicole Clemente; Southridge: Joliessa Perez, Chantall Osorio, Mary Frank Quinones, Ana Septien, Lanijah Tennant; **Southwest**: Arieles Diaz, Sophia Pineiro, Nohelia Lacayo, Sarah Lewis; **TERRA**: Anarelis Galvez, Angeline Barrios, Caitlyn Vivian, Mya Lopez; **Varela:** Beatrice Nunez-Carreno, Abigail Nunez Isabella Gonzalez, Mariana Carruitero.

4A-2A FIRST TEAM

POS., NAME, SCHOOL, YR.
OH, Gigi Artilles, Westminster Christian, So.
Stats: 466 kills, 36 aces, 30 blocks, 207 digs.
S, Alyssa Cadavid, Westminster Christian, Sr. Stats: 65 kills, 38 aces, 155 digs, 801 assists. OH, Julia Lewkowitz, Ransom Everglades, Jr. Stats: 396 kills, 235 digs, 46 aces.
OH-LIB, Zoey Matias, Westminster Christian, Jr. Stats: 267 kills, 54 aces, 407 digs, 64 assists. S Maya Pace, Gulliver, Sr. Stats: 787 assists, 207 digs. OH Julia Rose Rivera, Gulliver, Jr. **Stats:** 251 kills, 42 blocks, 147 digs. MH Jackie Taylor, Gulliver, Sr. **Stats:** 418 kills, 108 blocks. OH Ana Sofia Tobar, St. Brendan, Sr. Stats: 225 kills, 158 digs, 282 service points.

SECOND TEAM

OH Annelise Alvarez, St. Brendan, Sr.; OH Hailey Brenner, Gulliver, Sr.; S-OH Chloe Garcia, Divine Savior, So.; OH Sasha Kawas, Divine Savior, Fr.; OH Jordan Medina, St. Brendan, Sr.; LIB Addison Pollock, Ransom Everglades, Jr.; DS-OH Alex Washington, Westminster Christian, So.; LIB Sophia Wong, Gulliver, Sr.; OH Sydney Zanca, Riviera Prep, Jr.

THIRD TEAM

OH Giovanna Colina, Palmer Trinity, Jr.; OH Sofia Ibarra, Carrollton, Sr.; OH Mia Jean Claude, Ransom Everglades, Jr.; OH Kayla Lopes, Divine Savior, So.; OH Ivaney Marquez, Archbishop Carroll, Jr.; MH-S Mariel St. John, Riviera Prep, So.; LIB Sophia Valbuena, Divine Savior, Sr.; OH Dayleen Valdes, True North, Fr.; OH Sydney Wilson, Mater Lakes, Jr. **HONORABLE MENTION** Archbishop Carroll: Laidaly Ponce, Daniela Taboada, Chriselle Ferdinand, Zoe Mejia;

Carrollton: Aubrey Bales, Andrea Lopez, Luciana Lee, Priscilla Fernandez; Colonial Christian: Caitlyn Campbell, Esther Nawryn, Alaina Long, Michelle Loynaz; Divine Savior: Luiza Bergamaschi, Kristina Mendoza; Gulliver: Kate Welty, Micaela Navarro, Catalina Palazio; La Salle: Helenn Montilla, Grace Blanco, Lucia Gonzalez; Mater Lakes: Sophia Bermudez, Fabiana Castro, Arianna Almonte, Tiziana Balestra; Miami Country Day: Isabella Cabrera, Katerina Dumas, Tiana Tolles, Isabella Brod; **Monsignor Pace:** Cortnee Smith, Carra Pierre Louis, Mariyanna Cardwell, Serenity Jackson, Maria Isabel Castillo; **Palmer Trinity:** Cailynn Sullivan, Malena Sluman, Sofia Reed-Gomez, Kiera Roaa; **Ransom Everglades:** Stephanie Wallen, Lindsey Ng, Kennedy Hagen, Andrea Ortiz; **Riviera Prep:** Valeria Nucete, Bailee Casas, Maddison Bess, Elsa Baumer; **St. Brendan:** Mia Ortiz, Emelee Lopez, Danielle Hernandez, Isabela Gonzalez; **Somerset South Homestead:** Fabiola Molina, Devyn Housh, Alondra Rivera, Deyani Torriente; **Sunset:** Samantha Liberti, Giuliana Gaitan, Haily Gonzalez, Desirae Gonzalez, Dayanis Caballero; True North: Gaby Miriki, Veronica Fumero, Bianca Gomez, Giuliana Guerrero; Westminster Christian: Jaz Nicolas, Lia Gonzalez, Gia Romano, Cassie Thomas, Alexa Essig.

Credits: The All-Dade girls' volleyball team was selected by Deputy Sports Editor Andre

Fernandez with input from local coache

Andre C. Fernandez: @FernandezAndreC

4A-2A



Gigi Artilles Westminster Christian



Alyssa Cadavid Westminster Christian



Ransom Everglades



Zoey Matias Westminster Christian



Maya Pace **Gulliver Prep**



Julia Rose Rivera **Gulliver Prep**



Jackie Taylor **Gulliver Prep**



St. Brendan

All-Dade Cross-Country

Boys



Marcelo Mantecon Belen Jesuit

Columbus



Alejandro Romagosa



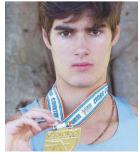
Joseph Ruiz



Justin Ruiz Belen Jesuit

Henry Stark

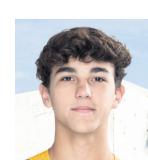
Palmer Trinity



Joshua Ruiz

Belen Jesuit

David Serra Ransom Everglades



Evan Torres Belen Jesuit

BOYS' FIRST TEAM

Marcelo Mantecon, Belen Jesuit, Fr. Of note: 15:09.09 at state (3A state runner-up), season-best 14:48 Alejandro Romagosa, Columbus, Sr.

Of note: 15:36.0 at state (6th in 4A); season-best 15:19.6 Joseph Ruiz, Belen Jesuit, Sr. Of note: 15:40.2 at state (5th in 3A); season-best 15:21

Joshua Ruiz, Belen Jesuit, Sr. Of note: 5:51.5 at state (8th in 3A), region champion, season-best 14:38.8, three sub-15 races

Justin Ruiz, Belen Jesuit, Jr. **Of note**: 15:49.3 at state (6th in 3A), season-best 15:23 David Serra, Ransom Everglades, Sr.

Of note: 15:19.5 at state (2A champion), season-best 15:05.4

Henry Stark, Palmer Trinity, Sr. **Of note**: 15:30.8 at state (1A state champion), season-best 15:06 Evan Torres, Belen Jesuit, Sr.

Of note: 15:57.3 at state (13th in 3A)

SECOND TEAM

Mauricio Escalona, Braddock; Michael Gongora, Braddock; Marc Gonzalez, Mater Lakes; Alexander Lopez, Columbus; Luis Marti, Coral Reef; Anthony Scarcello, Columbus; Mario Sueiras,

THIRD TEAM

Linus Boettcher, Coral Gables; Andres Canas, Braddock; Diego Esverri, Columbus; Anthony Fotso, Coral Gables; Diego Magarino, Belen Jesuit; Augustin Muyl Pineda, Doral Academy; Mateo

HONORABLE MENTION

Belen Jesuit: Marco Prieguez, Joseph Soccaras; Braddock: Jacob Castanedo, Liano Lacayo, Lucas Torres; Booker T. Washington: Noah Scheinblum; Columbus: Diego Garcia, Frederico Llaguno; Coral Gables: Reece Durand-Hernandez, Ziad Kamal, Jason Norona, Luis Rodriguez; Coral Reef: Diego Angel, Lucas Oliveira; Doral Academy: Jonathan Alvarez; Gulliver Prep: Tim Rutten; LaSalle: Emmanuel Roca; MAST: Robert Garcia, Jeronimo Vigil; Mater Lakes: Kevin Aguilar, Adrian Ruiz; **Miami Country Day**: Brady Lubetsky; **Palmer Trinity**: Gregorio Ramos; Ransom Everglades: Nelson Manstein, George Wood-Leness; Sunset: Gabriel Carr; Varela: Deangelo Griffith.

GIRLS' FIRST TEAM

Grace Aldrich, Carrollton, Jr.

Of note: 18:27.4 at state (5th in 2A)
Kaycie Aquilino, St. Brendan, Sr. Of note: 19:25.2 at state (18th in 2A) Anabella Cardona, Braddock, Sr. Of note: 18:57.1 at state (9th in 4A) Nicole Dragoni, Southridge, Sr. Of note: 19:14.1 at state (16th in 4A) Daniela Hernandez, Carrollton, Fr. **Of note**: 19:24.7 at state (17th in 2A) Sophia Linfield, Ransom Everglades, So. **Of note**: 19:27.1 at state (19th in 2A) Alessandra Perez, Lourdes, Fr. **Of note**: 18:52.8 at state (10th in 3A) Daniella Perez-Cartaya, Palmer Trinity, Sr. **Of note**: 19:21.5 at state (14th in 1A)

Daniela Fraga, Lourdes; Mia Fernandez, Miami Country Day; Abbigail Laine, TERRA; Sabrina Martinez, Riviera Prep; Eloise Miles, Palmer Trinity; Olivia Rodriguez, Lourdes; Caro Timiraos,

THIRD TEAM

Julieta Baudini, Doral Academy; Avril Donner, Coral Gables; Leandra Ferrell, Southridge; Isabella Fernandez, Mater Lakes; Mily Gutierrez, Sunset; Karina Martinez, St. Brendan; Samantha Ruiz, Coral Reef; Jasmine Trotz, Braddock

HONORABLE MENTION

Braddock: Kayla Feeney, Jade Garcia; Carrollton: Veronica Larrea; Coral Reef: Desiree Ruiz; Ferguson : Samantha Pinnavia; Guliver Prep : Alessandra Di Mise, Andrea Ferreiro, AleahSawver: Lourdes: Andrea Comas-Sanchez, Cristina Sanchez, Lucia Castillo-Rios, Hayley Arroyaye: Mater Lakes: Gabriella Gutierrez; Miami Beach: Abby Hoffman; Palmer Trinity: Natalia Reyes; Ransom Everglades: Patricia Drulard, Anna Lavernia, Sofia Rua, Alexandra Russoniello, Julieta Salvat; South Dade: Judeny Thomas; Southridge: A'Nylah Lee, Amaya Pleas.

Credits: The All-Broward cross-country teams were selected by Miami Herald Sportswriter Jordan McPherson based primarily on state meet results.

Girls



Grace Aldrich Carrollton



Kaycie Aquilino St. Brendan



Anabella Cardona



Nicole Dragoni

Southridge

Braddock



Daniela Hernandez Carrollton



Ransom Everglades



Daniella Perez-Cartaya Alessandra Perez Palmer Trinity Lourdes

Gulliver's Taylor and Doral's Gonzalez are Miami-Dade Volleyball Players of the Year

BY ANDRE FERNANDEZ afernandez@miamiherald.com

Neither Jackie Taylor or Melissa Gonzalez thought they'd reach the heights they did when they started playing volleyball.

For Taylor, the daughter of the late NFL and Miami Hurricanes football star Sean Taylor and a soccer player growing up, playing volleyball started out as just a hobby.

Four years later, Jackie is a star middle hitter at her father's alma mater and a state champion about to continue her career at the University of North Carolina.

For Gonzalez, playing the sport as a setter didn't seem like the most thrilling or rewarding.

Now a junior at Doral Academy on the radar of multiple colleges, Gon-

zalez is one of the best players in the state at her position and has helped the Firebirds secure a pair of trips to the state final

For their accomplishments, Taylor and Gonzalez are the Miami Herald's Miami-Dade Girls' Volleyball Players of the Year.

Taylor earned Classes 4A-2A honors after she powered Gulliver to its first ever state championship in November when the Raiders completed a 29-3 season with a victory over Orlando Bishop Moore.

Taylor totaled 418 kills and 108 blocks by leading Gulliver's attack to new heights which earned her a full ride scholarship to play for the Tar Heels.

"Winning the last game of the season on a good note was a perfect end-



Gulliver's Jackie Taylor is 4A-2A Player of the Year.

ing," Taylor said. "There was no other way to finish that game. It was meant to be. A lot of the stars aligned when it came to the state championship



Doral's Melissa Gonzalez is 7A-5A Player of the Year.

game. It felt like it was supposed to happen." Like her father, who set

a state record for overall touchdowns in a season with 44 - a record that still

stands - during his senior year at Gulliver, Taylor finished her high school career with a state title.

And Taylor doesn't shy away from her legacy. She embraces it.

Taylor wears a thin gold necklace with three charms bearing the number 26 - her father's number - around her neck.

"I have a bunch of them," Taylor said, referring to the charms with her father's number. "I've really taken (his legacy) and made it become part of me and continued it which is super important.

"Just to be able to carry that with me and it be ingrained in me and something I carry through whatever I do on or off the court. It's an inspiration."

SETTING THE TONE

While splashy kills and spikes or blocked shots at the net often draw the most thrills from the crowds during a volleyball match, Gonzalez takes satisfaction in making sure her teammates experience such moments.

This season, Gonzalez was the engine that drove Doral back to the state semifinals in Class 7A for the second time in three seasons.

"You set them up and make them look good. When you set it up where someone gets a great kill, that's the biggest satisfaction," Gonzalez said. "It's just about good communication overall. Not everyone likes to hit the same ball. It's just communication and patience."

Gonzalez finished with 753 assists, 114 digs and 40 aces.

Andre C. Fernandez: @FernandezAndreC

Gulliver's Rodriguez and Doral's Arnaiz are Dade Girls' Volleyball Coaches of the Year

BY ANDRE FERNANDEZ afernandez@miamiherald.com

Emilio Rodriguez and Julio Arnaiz helped set the bar pretty high for themselves when they were in high school.

As members of the affectionately known, "Bald Eagles" boys' volleyball squad at Southwest High in 2003, Rodriguez and Arnaiz were teammates on the first unbeaten boys' volleyball state championship team in Miami-Dade County history.

Two decades later, they are each leaving their marks as coaches.

Rodriguez just completed his third season at Gul-

liver Prep by guiding the Raiders to their first state championship. Meanwhile at Doral Academy, Arnaiz just led the Firebirds to the state final four for the second time in the past three seasons in his fifth season at the school.

As such, Rodriguez and Arnaiz are the Miami Herald's Miami-Dade County Girls' Volleyball Coaches of the Year.

Both Arnaiz, the winner for Classes 7A-5A, and Rodriguez, the Classes 4A-2A winner, are part of what's become a coaching legacy in Dade on both the boys' and girls' side started by their former Southwest coach Mauricio Diaz.

Arnaiz, Rodriguez and



(right) are the Dade Coaches of the Year.

Gulliver's Emilio Rodriguez (left) and Doral's Julio Arnaiz

Lourdes coach Pedro Pe-Riviera Prep and the boys' nate, who has led his squad squad at Southwest. Rodriguez turned a Gulto the regional finals each of the past two seasons, are liver squad that had won among several of Diaz's only one match in 2020 former players coaching in into a cohesive unit led by University of North Car-Dade. Diaz, himself, still coaches the girls team at olina commit and 4A-2A

Player of the Year Jackie Taylor. At state, Gulliver scored two impressive four-set comeback wins over Tampa Holy Names and Orlando Bishop Moore.

"For some reason, we play much better when we are playing from behind," Rodriguez said at the state tournament. "It's stressful, but these girls showed zero quit."

Arnaiz, who coached at St. Brendan prior to his stint at Doral, has helped turn the Firebirds into regular state title contenders. This season, guided by starting setter and 7A-5A Player of the Year Melissa Gonzalez, Doral persevered while top middle hitter Izabela Molina dealt with an injury that kept her out for a month.

The Firebirds overcame rival Boca Raton in five sets in the regional final before falling in the 7A state semifinal to Tampa Plant, which was ranked No. 1 overall in the state.

"We came from not winning a district title since 2015 to winning three [consecutive] district titles, regionals championships and two trips to state," Arnaiz said at the state tournament. "Now we have to take it to the next level when we get to state."

Andre C. Fernandez: @FernandezAndreC

Palmer, Ransom, Belen, Carrollton runners earn Dade Cross Country Runner of Year honors

BY IORDAN MCPHERSON jmcpherson@miamiherald.com

Palmer Trinity's Henry Stark and Ransom Everglades' David "Chuli" Serra ended their high school cross-country seasons with individual titles. Marcelo Mantecon was integral in helping Belen Jesuit keep its dynasty going. And Grace Aldrich's individual efforts this season paced a breakout season for Carrollton.

It's for these reasons the quartet is the Miami Herald's Miami-Dade Cross Country Runners of the Year. Start, Serra and Mantecon are splitting the Boys' Runner of the Year, while Aldrich is the outright Girls' Runner of the Year.

Let's start with Stark and Serra, the seniors who brought home individual hardware in their final seasons.

Stark cruised to the Class 1A individual title in a time of 15:30.8, nearly 18 seconds ahead of the next closest competitor in



Henry Stark, Palmer Trinity.

Young (15:48.7).

Largo Indian Rocks junior Blake

It was the culmination of a

raced at state every year since

2019 when he was an eighth

grader. That first year, he fin-

ished 228th out of 232 runners

at 22:01.33. He shaved nearly

two minutes off his time as a

freshman to finish 101st in

in the Class 1A meet, clocking in

masterful rise for Stark. He



David Serra, Ransom Everglades



winning it all this year.

For Serra, this is his second

time as a co-Cross Country

being one of the winners in

2022. Serra was the Class 2A

runner-up a season ago in his

first cross-country season. He

Runner of the Year after also



Marcelo Mantecon, Belen Jesuit



Grace Aldrich,

Carrollton

2020, then another three minfollowed that up with a run of utes as a sophomore to finish 15:19.5 this season, seven-and-a-28th in 2021 and then yet anhalf seconds faster than his other minute as a junior for a sixth-place finish in 2022 before

performance a season ago. Serra and Stark's victories marked the first time that multiple Dade runners have won state championships since 2011 when Belen's Elliot Clemente and Ransom Everglades' Bert Irigoyen each won individual

As for Mantecon, he finished as runner-up in Class 3A with a time of 15:09.9 - a time that would have won the state title in both Classes 1A and 2A. Mantecon's time was 15 seconds faster than any other freshman at the state meet and it paced a Belen team that had five of the top 13 runners in the Class 3A meet en route to their state-record 15th team state championship overall and seventh consecutive state

Three of Belen's top five runners were seniors, so coach Frankie Ruiz will look to Mantecon to lead the charge as the Wolverines reload in 2024.

Aldrich, a junior, finished fifth in the Class 2A girls' meet in a time of 18:27.4, 25 seconds faster than anyone else from Dade at state.

Her effort led a Carrollton team that also finished fifth, a 16-place improvement after finishing 21st as a team last

Belen's Ruiz, Lourdes' Aguas, Carrollton's Hermelee are Dade Cross Country Coaches of Year

BY JORDAN MCPHERSON jmcpherson@miamiherald.com

It was another banner year for Frankie Ruiz's Belen Jesuit cross country team. Meanwhile, Danny Aguas' team at Lourdes made its mark as the top team in Miami-Dade County, while Dylan Hermelee led a resurgent season at Carrollton.

As a result, the three are the Miami Herald's Miami-Dade Cross Country Coaches of the Year. Ruiz is the outright Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year, while Aguas and Hermelee are co-Coaches of the Year on the girls' side.

State championships have become all but a formality for Ruiz and Belen Jesuit. The Wolverines' Class 3A title this season was their seventh in a row and 15th overall — both FHSAA records. All five of Belen's point scorers finished in the top 13 of the 238-runner field. Their Nos. 6 and 7 runners, for good measure, finished 41st and 54th.

But the state championship was just the beginning for Belen. Ruiz's team went on to win the Nike NXR Southeast Regional Championship in



Belen Jesuit cross country coach Frankie Ruiz.

Cary, North Carolina, two days after the state championship to qualify for the Nike NXN

Nationals in Portland, Oregon, where they finished fourth.

Aguas' Lourdes team finished third in the Class 3A girls' meet, with each of his top-five runners finishing in the top 60 in the field. It marked Lourdes' first top-three finish at state since 2019 and fifth top-10 finish over the past six years.

And Lourdes should be in good position to build on this season's success. Only one of Aguas' top five runners at state — Caro Timiraos — was a senior. Freshman Alessandra Perez paced the team with a 10th place finish, while sophomore Daniela Fraga (37th)

and junior Olivia Rodriguez (38th) were also in the top 40 at state

Not to be outdone, Hermelee's Carrollton team also had a tremendous season. The Cyclones finished fifth in Class 2A. It's a 16-place improvement from their 21st-place performance last sea-

And Carrollton, like Lourdes, is returning most of its production next year. Only one of the Cyclones' top seven runners this season — Olivia Jose — was a senior, so Carrollton's ascension should continue in 2024.