

# Running With Purpose

This year's girls state champion, senior Alex Rossi, shared on a more personal level why running with everything God gave her, goes deeper than a state title. "I ran [at the meet] not just for myself and my teammates, but also in memory of my mother and Anyssa," she explained.

"When runners run they need a purpose, and *they* give me purpose. My mother passed away when I was a baby and when I run, I run with her to make her proud. And Anyssa gives me strength to dig deeper when I get to a point where I don't think I have any more to give."

Anyssa Hinojosa was an Incarnate Word Academy student and teammate of Alex's who passed away last year and would have also been a senior this year. "I have conversations with her when I run," continued Alex. "I say, 'Ok Anyssa I need a little more,' and she helps me push on."

"When people see me running, I want them to know that I am not running alone; my mother and Anyssa are with me as they are today—as angels."

