

An in-house competition

Curran twins pushing each other to excel

By DAVID OBERHELMAN
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Identical twins Joe and Dan Curran were perhaps never closer — on a running track at least — than at the Top Times Indoor Classic on March 27.

At the University of Illinois Armory in Champaign, the Naperville North seniors finished first and second in the Class AA 3,200-meter run in personal-best times of 9:20.55 and 9:21.72 for Dan and Joe, respectively.

Steve Curran, their father, said it was the first time he recalled his sons finishing one-two in the 3,200.

Boys track While neither gives in to the other in a race or a workout, Joe is generally regarded as the more driven of the two 18-year-olds.

But he didn't allow his brother's win at the Top Times Classic to get under his skin.

All that much. "We both wanted to win that race, obviously," Joe said. "Dan came out on top, but at the same time he pulled me along to a great time as well, so it worked out in that manner.

"It's one of those things where it's always incentive to go out there next time and try to get him. Same way for Dan — if I do better in a workout or I get him



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CURRAN FAMILY

Naperville North distance runners Joe Curran, left, and twin brother Dan at the Stanford University track during a family vacation in December.

Currently training at more than 70 miles weekly before they'll scale back to increase their speed, the Curran boys increase the load to 90 miles weekly in the off-season.

"We're both looking forward to next year doing the 8K and 10K distances in cross country

next fall as a West Point runner and cadet.

It's not a statement. It's a preference.

Although they both started running at the same time, initially following their father on vacation jogs in California the

it," Dan Curran said. "I worked hard and everything, but I was surprised where I was on the varsity team my freshman year.

"Brian and Dave were great influences on showing the work ethic that you need to get to the top," he said, "and just being

Curran said. "But they have more similarities than they might realize."

· Such as agreeing to disagree. "I've talked to them a lot about political and historical things and I'm starting to get the sense that they're a little bit on