



JOURNAL PHOTO

Kearsley's Ed Matash, Davison's Chris Morgan

Kearsley harriers second in state

By MIKE KILLBREATH
Journal sports writer

Bill Perry was doubly disappointed Saturday at IMA Brookwood where Davison's hopes for a state championship were ruined.

The Lady Cards dropped a 114-116 nod to Northern to follow a rather sub-par and disappointing performance by Davison's boys who finished fifth after holding down the No. 1 state ranking all year. Perry's girls were also the state's No. 1-rated team.

While Northern captured the female honors, Kearsley carried the area hopes among the boys. Larry Wiltse's defending state champion Hornets, who finished as the Big Nine Conference runner-up behind Davison this fall, finished second 19 points short of champion Dearborn Edsel Ford's winning 121-point effort.

Davison, which beat Kearsley by 24 points in the Big Nine meet, had the best three-man score with Chris Morgan finishing eighth, Bob Addison 12th and Gerald Ducap 19th.

Kearsley's challenge was led by senior Ed Matash who transferred when Alpena's school system closed because of financial difficulties two weeks ago. Matash, who helped Kearsley come within only nine points of Davison in last week's regional, improved on his regional run with a fine 15:57.13 clocking that was good for eighth place.

Kearsley would have placed fourth without Matash, but would have still had 29 more points than Davison which waited 70 places for its next runner after Ducap.

Matash and Morgan were the only area runners to crack the top 10 which was headed by Jamie Elliott of Royal Oak Dondero. Elliott posted a 1.02 second triumph over Greg Palardy of champion Edsel Ford which also had the 10th-place finisher in Glenn Klassa.

Edsel Ford's remaining points were provided by David Langley in 31st place, Joe Bachert in 32nd and Greg Stewart in 46th. Bennett Dykstra was 52nd and Mark Boudrea 71st for solid balance behind them.

Birmingham Brother Rice, anchored by 5-6 finishers Joe Davey and Chris Dorcey, was a distant third behind Edsel Ford and Kearsley. Brother Rice had 192 points to nip Milford with 194. Grosse Pointe North nipped Grand Blanc, 266-267, for sixth place and the top 10 was completed by Grand Rapids Union (276), Lansing Eastern (289) and Royal Oak Dondero (292).

Grand Blanc, third behind Kearsley and Davison in both the Big Nine and regional competition, was led by Dan Schultz in 33rd place and Ron Hill in 35th. Craig Richardson followed in 51st, Mark Mitroka was 64th and Rich Brabbs 84th.

Matash's performance and Joseph Todd's best effort of the season offset a sub-par day by the rest of Kearsley's runners. Mike Wiltse, who had been Kearsley's No. 1 man most of the year, slumped to No. 4 and finished 30th. Todd was 21st in a personal best of 16:18.66 while Doug Wheeler was 26th and Ed Arntz 54th to complete Kearsley's five-man scoring.

Jeff Mundt of New Baltimore Anchor Bay won the individual race for the top 10 runners at each regional not on qualifying teams. He won in a time of 15:42.36.

Kalamazoo wins in C

Kalamazoo Christian totaled 55 points to clinch the boys' Class C state cross country title and Dewitt won the girls' Class C title with 121 points Saturday.

Dan Dixon took fourth place to pace Kalamazoo which posted five runners in the top 20.

Bus mixup hurt chances, says coach at Ainsworth

By TOM SUSSI
Journal sports writer

After Ainsworth's performance in the state Class B cross country meet at Oxford Saturday, Spartan boss Kenn Domerese probably wishes the school's bus didn't show up at all.

The Spartans, who won the Metro League meet to force a co-championship with season dual winner Holly two weeks back and clinched their third regional title last week, ended the successful season on a sour note.

Ainsworth finished in 21st place, 335 points in back of first place Marshall.

"We did terrible," said Domerese. "I figured we could be in the top three teams for sure and fifth at the very worst. We just didn't have it."

Ainsworth wasn't the only local power that didn't have it Saturday afternoon. Linden, which won its 10th straight Genesee Eight Conference championship last week, placed 20th and Holly, ranked third in the state poll most the season, tallied 250 points for ninth place.

The girls' story Saturday was much the same as the boys. Powers, the regional champ, finished 13th behind first place Dexter. Mt. Morris, third in last week's regionals, finished 24th.

Ainsworth's troubles, however, started before the race when the bus arrived 30 minutes late. Domerese said the mixup occurred when Athletic Director Jack Baldwin requested a 10:30 a.m. bus instead of Domerese's 10 a.m. requested departure time.

"I hate to look for excuses," said Domerese, "but when you have a team like we had this year that did just about everything and you've done everything right to prepare for the meet and the kids trained properly and got plenty of sleep the night before the meet, there's no other reason why we did so badly except all the excitement it took to get there.

"In some sports you can do that and get away with it (show up late). But running is much too mental. The kids are already basket cases before the meet starts and something like this just adds to all their jitters."

A pleasant surprise was Holly senior Matt Stack clocking at 16:05 for fourth place after being sidelined for both the Metro and regional meets because he broke training rules.

Other top finishers in the boys' division were Charles Trese (Ortonville) 6th, Pat Miller (Mt. Morris) 11th, Ken Shea (Lapeer East) 14th, Terry Snyder (Ainsworth) 34th, Robert Fisher (Beecher) 41st and Dave Miller (Holly) 41st.

The best area girls' were Cathy Burkart (Powers) 19th, Kary Van Gorp (Holly) 25th, Diane Devereaux (Powers) 42nd and Julie Brooks (Holly) 46th.

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