

# Northern's girls win state title in cross country

☐ Kearsley boys finish second. Page E5

By MIKE KILLBREATH  
Journal sports writer

Northern's girls, better known for their basketball and track accomplishments, tacked on some state-wide recognition in cross country by running to their first Class A harrier crown Saturday at IMA Brookwood.

The unheralded Northern girls upended No. 1 ranked Davison with a balanced attack led by sisters Carlene and Marlene Isabelle. Clio's Kelly Shumate was the overall race winner.

The Isabelles, who return next year to make Coach Norb Badar's harriers a strong contender to repeat, follow in the footsteps of Northern's more famous twins Pamela and Paula McGee who helped start the streaks in basketball and track. Northern has won three Class A basketball crowns in a row and is eyeing a third straight in track.

Badar, who has enjoyed previous state championships with the boys' track team, was forced to bite his nails to the bitter end Saturday when the Vikings were locked in the most exciting state-meet duel in the short history of girls' competition.

Badar's crew, nipping Davison by a slim 114-116, claimed the victory when No. 5 runner Colleen Cady finished 2.7 seconds ahead of Davison's No. 5 runner LaRinda Heavner. Cady's 20:29.9 clocking was good for 43rd place while Heavner finished 46th.

Davison held a 33-39 advantage through the first three runners, but Northern closed the gap to a single point when Monica Hampton completed one of her best efforts. Hampton's 20:11.6 time was good for 32nd place, five positions ahead of Davison's No. 4 runner Colleen Smith

Jayne Johnston was fifth, Mary Gleason 12th and Denise Seeley 16th to provide Davison's superior strength through the first three runners. Senior Tina Williams was 21st to back Northern's Carlene and Marlene Isabelle who were third and 15th, respectively.

Redford Union made it a three-team fight and settled for third place with 129 points. Flushing finished fourth with 140 points and Brighton slipped past Clio, 193-196, for fifth place. The top 10 was rounded out by Temperance-Bedford with 201 points, Ann Arbor Huron with 239, Troy Athens with 242 and Warren Cousino with 255.

Clio's Shumate, who was runner-up in last week's regional behind Midland's Kayla Skelly, was the



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Kelly Shumate

run-away winner in Saturday's team race. Her 18:28.1 time was 14.4 seconds better than Skelly's winning time in the individual race for the top 10 runners in each regional not on qualifying teams.

Shumate was followed by Lisa Burger in eighth place and Beth Reynolds in 18th, but Clio waited until 82nd and 87th for its final scorers.

Flushing, which was third behind Big Nine Conference co-champions Clio and Davison and fourth in the regional, grabbed the No. 4 spot behind a balanced assault led by 13th-place finisher Leslie Olin. Dawn VanBrocklin followed in 20th, Julie Lumsden was 34th, Karen Klein 35th and Kathy LaBarge 38th.

While Flushing was reversing its regional finish with Clio, Northern also reversed the finish of the 1-2 teams by switching spots with Davison which took over the No. 1 rating with its victory over Clio in the Big Nine meet. That prevented Clio from finishing the regular season as the state's No. 1 rated team for the second year in a row.