

Clio's Kelly Shumate unchallenged in state harrier race

By BILL KHAN

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The title Kelly Shumate earned Saturday afternoon was girls' Class A cross country champion.

But the Clio runner showed she is in a class by herself in taking her second straight individual title.

Even against the best runners in the state, Shumate crossed the line 37 seconds before the second-place finisher, clocking 18:01 at IMA Brookwood Golf Course.

But even winning by several hundred yards has its disadvantages — but they don't beat the advantages.

Shumate said, "There were a lot of (college) coaches there and they look at your times and it's hard to run a good time (when you're not being pushed) — but it's better than being close."

Shumate, who ended a brilliant prep career in the meet, said she has received offers from several major colleges but hasn't committed to any of them.

Her efforts, however, couldn't prevent Clio from finishing seventh in the meet with 244 points, a disappointing finish according to Coach Jean Stockford.

But ninth-ranked Flint Northern got personal best times from each of its runners to finish third behind champion Temperance Bedford (108) and Brighton (132). The Saginaw Valley Conference and city champion Vikings had 173 points.

Grand Blanc, which finished a close second to Clio in the Big Nine Conference and regional meets, placed fifth with 236 points.

In the boys' meet, the Flint area was also well represented, with Swartz Creek finishing fourth, Grand Blanc seventh and Kearsley ninth.

Grosse Pointe North, behind the one-two finish of Joe Schmidt and Mark Denis, was the easy winner. North put five runners in the top 26 and scored 64 points to runner-up Detroit Catholic Central's 108. Warren Tower was third with 139. Creek had 184, edging fifth-place Sterling Heights Stevenson.

Northern, which won the girls' meet last year, capped an uphill



It's close at the starting line where a group of Grand Blanc and Flint Northern girls react to the gun...



... but Clio's Kelly Shumate runs alone at the finish line as she captures the individual Class A title.

season on an upbeat note with its third-place finish.

The Vikings had only two runners for their first meet and finished with five, the minimum required to score in cross country.

Carlene Isabelle ran a personal best 18:46 to place fourth behind Shumate, Kara Walcher of Temperance Bedford and Lisa Clark of Brighton. Marlene Isabelle, Colleen Cady, Pam Brown and Melissa Colley also had their best times.

"They ran super," elated Viking Coach Doug July. "Our fifth girl ran a minute faster than she ever did. She's just a ninth-grader. Carlene ran real well. We hoped to finish in the top five and anything else is gravy."

Clio Coach Stockford said before the meet her team would have to put five runners in the top 50 in order to place high. But she was disappointed that the Mustangs had two runners finish 87th and 96th, after the top three runners were first, 19th and 41st.

"We were strong through three runners," Stockford said. "I'd say the fourth and fifth runners were a disappointment. They needed to be in the top 50, but had 80 and 90."

Finishing 19th for Clio was junior Beth Reynolds and 41st was Beth Bushong.

Paced by its junior trio of Yvette Carriere, Dawn Hedding and Marcia Whidden, Grand Blanc finished fifth.

It was a consistent effort for the Bobcats, who didn't put anyone across the line until Carriere ended 17th in 19:23. Hedding was 25th and Whidden 33rd.

In the individual race, Kearsley freshman Jennifer Ostrom was fourth in 19:13. Howell's Jeannete Kot won the race in 18:42.

Davison's Larinda Heavner was 12th in 19:45, and teammate Colleen Smith was 25th in 20:11.

Other area runners included Kearsley's Tish Kriechel (27th), Kearsley's Jill Draper (30th), Flushing's Karen Klein (31st), Flushing's Tina Rubstorfer (60th) and Swartz Creek's Rachel Rogers (73rd).

In the boys' meet, Swartz Creek's fourth-place finish was led by sophomore Erik Koskinen, who placed 10th in 15:58. Tom Bishop crossed 23rd in 16:09, Matt Dupuis was 43rd, Joe Kohler 44th and Darrea Martin 64th. The last runner

crossed in 16:44.

Dragon Coach Dave Carey said his runners were disappointed with their showing, but he said they had nothing to be ashamed of.

"We're used to being way out in front. They looked at their places and say, my God, I'm 40th, when they're used to being third or fourth. But if you look at the times, they did a good job."

Grand Blanc standouts Dan Schultz and Mark Mitroka finished fourth and eight, respectively. Schultz was timed in 15:50, Mitroka in 15:56.

But after that, the Bobcats' next finisher was Brian Allen, 40th.

Kearsley's Mike Wiltse was 25th in 16:11, followed by Jeff Wilson (41st) and Doug Wheeler (48th).

In the individual race, Davison's Gerald Ducap was 21st and teammate Jim Perry 53rd. Robert Lemuel of Northern was 37th, Todd Hubbard of Clio 43rd and Amo Bathish of Central 52nd.

The winner of the race was Centerline's Phil Schoensee, whose 15:30.82 clocking was the best in the state.

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