

Catholic, Korhonen Lead 'B' Harriers

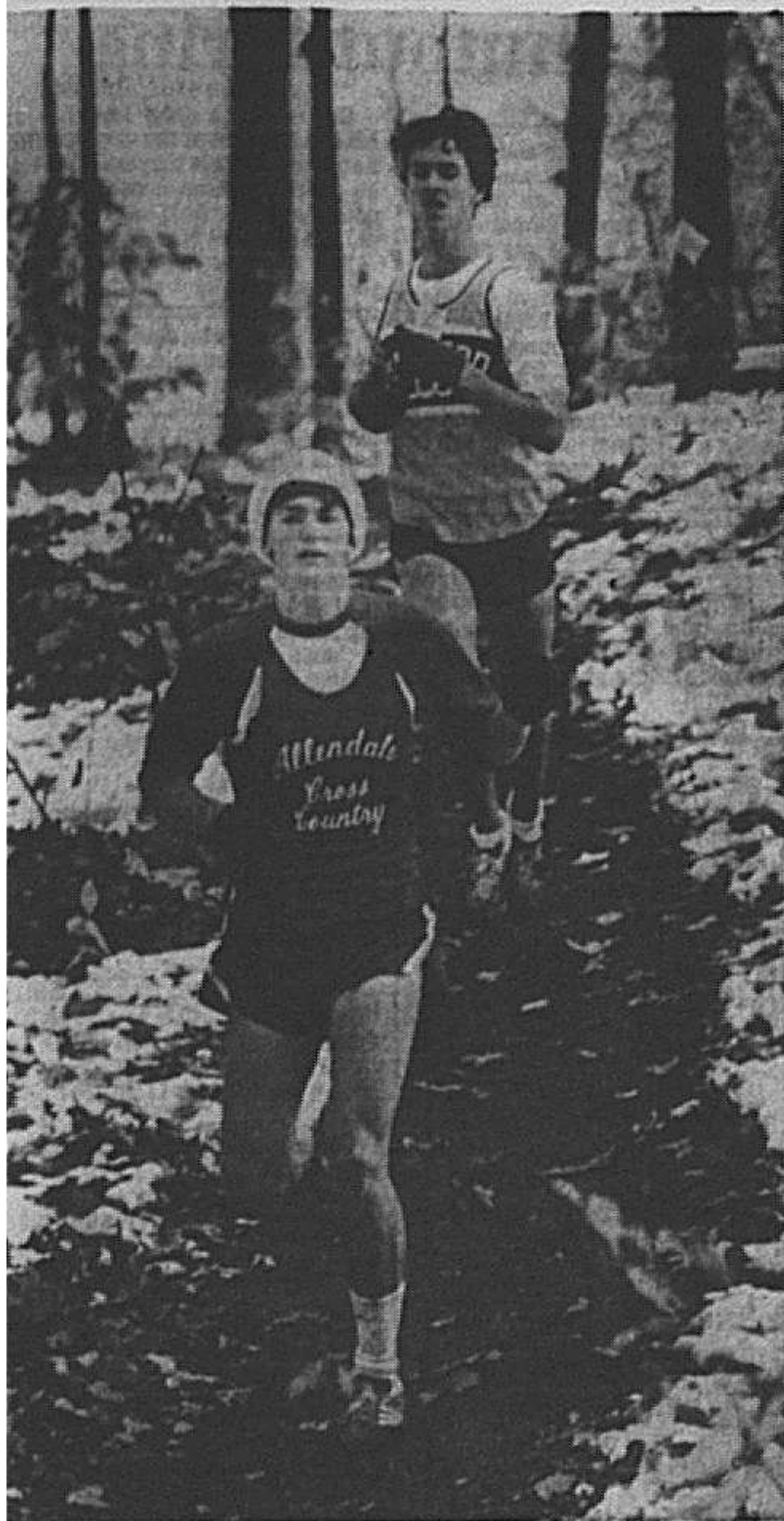
Catholic Central High School and Rusty Korhonen of Forest Hills Central were running wild at the Class B state cross-country championships Saturday near Flint.

Catholic Central, City League champion and rated No. 1 in the state, claimed the team championship and Korhonen, champion of the O-K Conference Red Division, finished first in the individual race.

Coach Jim Gardiner's Cougars of Catholic Central were led by fifth-place finisher Jeff Costello.

Runners in other classes didn't fare quite as well, though Lee's girls took second in the state Class D competition at Johnson Park. Allendale's Gina VanLaar, defending Class D state champion, collapsed while leading her race and couldn't finish.

A wrapup of the action can be found on pages 11-12E.



Press Photo By DAN VAN DUNEN

Rob Moore of Allendale paces Steve Hubbard of Concord, but finished second in Class D team race.

Snow, Mud Take Toll In D Run

By Lori Mathews-Less

All the Class D coaches and participants at the state cross country meet at Johnson Park agreed on one vital area, running on a snow-and-mud slickend course in freezing conditions would definitely be a challenge.

Many of the runners encountered problems with the severe cold, the hardest hit victim being Allendale's defending state champion Gina VanLaar.

In the girl's individual race VanLaar had no problems outdistancing the other participants and by midpoint of the 3.1 mile race she was several hundred yards ahead of the closet competitor, Sabrina Batchelder of Pottersville.

With the finish line less than a mile away, VanLaar collapsed after apparently hyperventilating. She had to be carried to a shelter house where she received medical attention from Dr. Jim Harkema of Lansing.

"The cold air probably hurt Gina's lungs so she didn't breathe as deeply as she should have," Harkema said.

"Because of that she didn't get as much oxygen as she needs to run her normal pace and that was the reason for her collapse."

Gina's mother, Helen, said she knew her daughter might be having problems when she saw her round a corner and hit her head on a tree.

"One time last year this happened to Gina but she's been running really strong this year so we weren't too worried about it happening today," VanLaar said.

Batchelder finished first in the race with a time of 21:08. Karen Amundson of Battle Creek St. Phillips was second and Shelley Spratt of Southfield Christian third.

Defending state champion Wyoming Lee in the girls team division gave a very fine performance but couldn't quite overtake an extremely strong Concord squad.

See D Run, page 12E

Triumph in Class B Cross-Country Finals

By Bruce Johns

FENTON — The honors were deserved Saturday afternoon in the state's Class B cross-country championships at Tyrone Hills Golf Course.

Temperatures in the 30s and winter-like winds were the chief opponents for the 24 boys teams and 22 girls teams battling for titles and the 160 other runners competing as individuals.

Grand Rapids Catholic Central swept to the boys championship with 145 points, and the top individual performance was by Rusty Korhonen of Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, who toured the rolling terrain in 16:19.

Coach Duane Raffin of Holly, who has seen his share of state championships, called the event "the best Class B final I've ever seen" but quickly added: "It sure was cold, though. I can't remember when it was this cold. The wind was the thing."

Following Grand Rapids Catholic in the boys team scoring were Dearborn Divine Child with 193 points, Essexville Garber 196, Hemlock 209, Marysville 209, Okemos 218, Mason 223, Waner Fitzgerald 243, Royal Oak Shrine 267 and Holly 279. Spring Lake was 12th with 308 points and Grand Rapids Christian 15th with 342.

Jackson Lumen Christi was No. 1 among the girls teams with 99 points, followed by Hartland with 130, Dexter 144, Muskegon Catholic Central 166, Gladwin 236, Livonia Ladywood 237, Marysville 240, Mason 255, Royal Oak Shrine 256 and Grand Rapids Christian 266. Ionia was 13th with 310 points and Wyoming Rogers 16th with 344.

Valari Ambrose of Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard successfully defended her title as top individual among the girls with a time of 19:56.

Grand Rapids Catholic Coach Jim Gardiner, confined to a wheelchair because of a broken neck sustained in a swimming accident, was elated about his team's performance.

"I just can't believe it," he said. "It's our first state cross-country championship ever. We improved all year and gradually moved up to No. 1. I think the key was Jeff Costello (last year's individual champion). All year long he has led our team, and the other kids have been

tough running together and scoring great."

Gardiner expressed surprised that 145 points was good enough to win. Marshall scored 96 to capture the 1981 crown, when Catholic Central was runner-up with 120.

"I thought it would take 100 or under to win today," he said. "I don't know if it was the weather or not; maybe the hilly course had something to do with it."

Costello triggered Catholic Central's scoring with a fifth-place finish, followed by Denis McGrath (16), Steve MacDonald (31), Mike Finn (39) and Steve Cashman (54).

Class C at Watervliet

Perry's Marty Alward took honors for boys individual 5000-meter race.

For the boys' team, Charlevoix finished first, with 73 points, while Benzonia-Benzie Central took girls' team honors with 60.

Calvin Christian finished 18th in the team competition. South Christian's Tim Johnson took 12th in the individual race.

In boys' team races, Cass City's Greg Bliss led the way, at 16:43, while Donna Donakowski finished at the head of the girls' team, with 19:58.61.

The best girls individual time was run by Cindy Reed, of Napoleon, at 19:36.9.

Class A at Flint

O-K Conference Red Division boys champion Jenison placed 10th in the state meet held at IMA Brookwood Golf Course in Flint. The Wildcats compiled 323 points, but were well behind state champion Grosse Pointe North. North had just 64 points and ran away with the team race. Detroit Catholic Central finished second with 108 points and Warren Tower was third.

Joe Schmidt and Mark Denis finished one-two to pace Grosse Pointe North. Phil Schoensee of Centerline won the individual race in a time of 15:30.82. East Kentwood finished 17th with 374 points. The Falcon girls fared a little better. They were 15th with 338 points. Temperence Bedford ended up winning the girls title with 108 points and Brighton was second.

D Run

from 11E

"I think, at first, the girls were a little disappointed at taking second place," Lee Coach Art Kraal said.

"But, they ran well and I was really proud of their performance. Taking second in the state championship while losing to a team like Concord is certainly nothing to be ashamed of. They just had a better team and that was all there was to it."

Concord took the championship with 68 points followed by Lee with 97.

In the boys team race, Allendale's Rob Moore, who hadn't lost to a Class D runner all year, led the pack through most of the race, but was unexpectedly upset by Concord runner Steve Hubbard who finished with a time of 16.56.7 as compared to Moore's 17.11.5.

"I was just as surprised as everyone else because Rob's times have been a lot better than mine all year long although we have never run against each other before," Hubbard said.

"I just felt really strong today and I think where I gained ground was on the hills because everyone seemed to slow up a little. All of us on the squad really wanted to take back-to-back team championships. I wasn't the only one who did well, our whole team did what we had to."

Hubbard's effort clinched first place for Concord with 55 points. Southfield Christian was second with 91, followed by Pottersville with 108 and Lee with 127.

The winner of the final race of the day, the boy's individual, was Dan Edright of Suttons Bay with a time of 16.59.9.



Press Photo By DAN VAN DUNEN

Gina VanLaar of Allendale runs before hyperventilation hit.