

# Swartz Creek finishes second in 'A' harrier meet

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HOWELL — An observant cross country fan looking over the final results of Saturday's Class A state meet had this to say about Swartz Creek High's boys' team: "Swartz Creek probably wishes they counted all seven runners," he said. "They would have had it."

He was right. Unfortunately for the Dragons, only the top five runners count in cross country.

For the second straight year, Redford Catholic Central had the best five runners in the state, but the Shamrocks didn't win by the enormous 118-point margin they did last season.

Swartz Creek, led by third-place runner Erik Koskinen, gave the No. 1-ranked team a tough battle to finish in second place by a 141-171 count at Dama Farms Golf Course.

Grand Blanc, which was second to Catholic Central last year, placed fourth.

Holly was 14th and Kearsley 19th.

If all seven runners counted, the Dragons would have won the meet, 376-403. It was like Creek Coach Dave Carey predicted before the meet when he said, "Catholic Central has the best five runners in the state and we have the best seven."

No matter how you added it up, there was no way to dispute the champion girls' team.

Dearborn Edsel Ford fielded a team of four all-staters, and became the first team to ever have the top three finishers. That accounted for a state-record score of 32. Runner-up Milford was 119 points back.

Mary Peruski (18:10.23), Elizabeth Lehenbaur (18:25.78) and Kris Salt (18:26.24) crossed 1-2-3 for Edsel Ford. Only three other girls in the state ran under 19 minutes, including Laura Matson of Bloomfield Hills Andover, who won the individual race in 18:09.4. Leanne Rose was eighth in 19:31.91 for the champs. Edsel Ford's fifth runner was 18th.

"Those 32 points would have won a triangular meet," marveled Kearsley Coach Dave Thiel, whose 10th-ranked Hornets finished a disappointing 15th with 403 points. Clio was 18th with 456.

The all-state list didn't include a girl from the Flint area, with Clio's Molly Stuart missing by six seconds. Her 11th-place finish was the area's best.

It was a dramatically different story for the area's boy runners.

In addition to owning two of the top four teams, the Flint area can boast eight of the 21 all-staters.

The all-state list is headed by Tim Fraleigh of Ann Arbor Pioneer and David Honann of Garden City, who won the team and individual races, respectively. Fraleigh's time of 15:24.1 was the best.

The area's all-staters include Koskinen (third), Scott Colvin of Grand Blanc (10th), Greg Turgeon of Kearsley (11th), Jeff Wilson of Kearsley (12th), Rich Lockhart of Grand Blanc (13th) and Mark Zauel of Holly (14th). Making all-state

through running the individual race were Clio's Ron Lindstrom (fourth) and Flint Northern sophomore Anthony Hamm (seventh).

Creek's runner-up finish was gratifying for its coach, after the Dragons' ninth-place effort amidst high hopes last year.

"I'm glad it's over," Carey said. "We ran well under pressure for a change. We've worked so hard with the kids for years and you hope it comes to a day when things work out for them."

"The kids had a lot of pressure on them all year. When you start winning stuff, people expect you to win all the time. Last year we ran poorly in the state meet. I gave them their old finish tags from last year and they wore them just as a reminder."

Unlike last year's cakewalk, this year's championship was a nail-biter for Catholic Central Coach Tom Magni.

"I was wishing it was over after the first mile because we were winning and

after the second mile because we were winning," Magni said. "I saw our fifth man was fading and we just hung on."

Creek's scoring included Koskinen (15:37) third, Harold Mueller (16:09) 20th, Art Main (16:23) 31st, Steve Rogers (16:41) 54th and Paul Sisvosky (16:45) 63rd.

Grand Blanc finished in the top 10 for the eighth time in nine years, but it was an unusual season for the Bobcats.

"We didn't win a meet this year," Grand Blanc Coach Bob Stallcup said. "This was the first year we've ever done that. Going to dual meets is ridiculous. We only ran against Kearsley and Holly this year and lost both by three points. We've beat 90 percent of the people we've run against, but we've never won. We keep going to invitationals and coming in second and third."

In addition to all-staters Colvin and Lockhart, the Bobcats got scoring from Ken Kincaid (57th), Jay Burgess (67th) and Brent Elford (83rd).