

Johnson sparks Marquette harriers

GLADSTONE — The tradition continues for the Marquette Senior High School cross country teams.

Saturday afternoon, Coach Dale Phillips' boys' squad captured its sixth straight title while the Redettes — behind Carla Johnson — won their 11th consecutive Upper Peninsula championship at the Gladstone Golf & Country Club.

In boys' Class A-B action, the Redmen tallied 45 points in outdistancing second place Menominee, which had 68. Ironwood placed third with 103 while Sault Ste. Marie, 105; Kingsford, 114; Escanaba, 150; Negaunee, 153; Gwinn, 159 and Gladstone, 233 rounded out the field.

Chad Watcauch of Sault Ste. Marie claimed the overall title for Class A-B boys with a time of 17 minutes, 18 seconds over the 3.1-mile course. Jason Ladd of Menominee took second in 17:39 while teammate Bruce Anderson placed third in 18:01. Kelly Keefe led the Redmen

with a fourth place finish in 18:04 and Dmitri Jajich, also of Marquette, finished fifth in 18:06.

"I felt we had a good, strong performance," Phillips said. "Jajich was a surprise and we knew Keefe would be up there. We knew what we had to do to win the meet and they gave it their all.

"The conditions were muddy," he added. "It rained a lot and there was a head wind at different points of the meet."

In the Class A-B girls' meet, Johnson defended her individual title for the third straight year in leading the Redettes.

Marquette posted 24 points while second-place Ironwood had 64. Sault was third with 98, while Escanaba, 107; Kingsford, 117; Gladstone, 144; Menominee, 186 and Negaunee, 202 rounded out the scoring. Gwinn had no team score.

Johnson posted a winning time of 20:43, edging Mary LaMaide of Menominee, who had a time of 21:01. Bobie

Rodriguez of Marquette placed third in 21:16 while teammate Lisa Larson claimed fourth in 21:19. Angel Kusz of Ironwood captured fifth at 21:23.

Johnson is the first girls' three-time winner of the U.P. Finals, Phillips said.

"She ran an intelligent race," he said. "She let Bobie and (Mary) LaMaide go out quickly, and that took a lot out of them. She kept closing the gap. I knew it would be a close race.

"We got a good performance from the girls," Phillips added.

In Class C boys' competition, Stephenson took top honors with 43 points. Hancock placed second with 63 while Westwood, 86; Houghton, 92; Ishpeming, 131; Calumet, 157; Newberry, 203; West Iron Co., 212; Iron Mountain, 221; and Norway, 248 rounded out the field.

Chris Lett of Houghton posted the top time at 17:01, edging Matt Rodeheffer of Hancock, 17:31. Dave Bouchard of Newberry came in third in

17:39 while Dan Schnell of Stephenson and Westwood's Ryan Potila recorded times of 17:51 and 17:54, respectively.

Hancock took home top honors in Class C-D girls' competition with 43 points. Calumet claimed second with 61 while Iron Mountain was third with 75.

Stephenson was fourth with 80; while Westwood, 98; Carney-Nadeau, 138; West Iron County, 172 and Mid Peninsula, 194, followed. Houghton, Ishpeming, Newberry, Norway, Munising, Chassell, Crystal Falls-Forest Park, Superior Central and Big Bay de Noc had no team scores.

Newberry's Christie Nutkins was the C-D winner with a time of 20:49. Calumet's Carrie Nakkula was second at 20:50 while Teri Lawton of Hancock claimed third in 21:03.

Fourth went to Westwood's Amy Larson, 21:22; while Lisa Wiitala of Hancock finished

Please see Page 2-B, Col. 3

Marquette 10-21-90