

Holly girls run to state crown

Special to The Journal

ANN ARBOR — Nobody, says Holly High Coach Duane Raffin, expected the Bronchos to win the state Class A girls' cross country championship Saturday afternoon at the University of Michigan Golf Course.

Raffin was one of those disbelievers.

"Who in heck would have guessed this?" Raffin asked after his team captured the school's first Class A cross country title. The Holly boys won Class B titles in 1977 and 1978.

"It's amazing," he added. "Last year, we (the boys' team) expected to win it all; no ifs, ands or buts about it, and we fought to get in the top 10.

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Bell nipped at finish

By BRENDAN SAVAGE

Journal sports writer

Laura Bell never saw her coming.

Leading by 100 yards with about a half-mile remaining Saturday, Lakeville High's star runner looked like a shoo-in to finish first in the team race of the Class B state cross country meet.

But as a dehydrated Bell struggled to finish the 5K race, Petoskey freshman Kelly Smith seemingly came out of nowhere to steal victory at Tyrone Hills Country Club.

Smith made up an estimated 25 yards in the final 100 yards of the race, literally passing Bell right at the finish line to win by four-tenths of a second.

"I was just thinking, 'I'm going to finish second so I might as well finish fast,'" said the lanky Smith, still sporting an ear-to-ear grin 20 minutes after the race. "I didn't think I was going to (catch her) until the very end when I passed her.

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BELL

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"I don't think she knew I was coming."

She didn't

Warm weather and a fast pace in the early going left Bell in a daze as she came down the homestretch on Tyrone Hill's ninth hole. In fact, Bell was so bewildered that she never saw Smith cross the finish line one step ahead.

"I was kind of out it," Bell said later, forcing a smile between bites on a chocolate chip cookie. "I went out in a 5:20 mile. That was a little fast and I think I started to dehydrate around two miles."

Bell had to be treated for heat exhaustion immediately after the race. She spent about 40 minutes under a blanket drinking liquids before finally getting up to move around.

She walked gingerly for a few minutes but eventually started to look more like her old self.

"I'm just glad to be alive," Bell said with a laugh.

Smith's winning time of 18:53.75 helped Petoskey finish fourth in the team standings behind Jackson Lumen Christi, Calcedonia and Fremont.

Lakeville was 12th as Bell clocked 18:54.15.

"It's a pretty good time," Bell said. "I had never broken 19 (minutes) before this year. Anytime you break 19, it's a good time."

"But I wasn't too concerned about the time with the way I felt."

Bell, the Class B state champion in the 3,200 meters last spring, was coming off a record performance in last week's regional. She smashed the course record at Frankenmuth while beating the host school's Jennifer Barber by 39.54 seconds.

Barber won the girls' individual state title in Saturday's meet.

What made Smith's victory over Bell more remarkable is the fact that she was Petoskey's No. 2 runner until two weeks ago, when the team's top runner broke her foot. Smith's only other victory was in the regional one week earlier.

Lakeville Coach Ken Walrath had never seen a come-from-behind victory as dramatic as the one Smith earned.

"Not from that far back," Walrath said, shaking his head. "She just kicked. And that was quite a kick."

Lakeville's other runners and their finishes were junior Emily

Kaiser in 46th place, senior Kellie Hammond in 54th, sophomore Monica McGrath in 115th, senior Julie Root in 129th, freshman Jamie Root in 135th and sophomore Jennifer Howard in 145th.

Linden's boys had the best finish of any Flint-area team with a fourth-place showing behind Big Rapids, Cedar Springs and Cadillac.

Senior Jason Deese led the Eagles by finishing sixth in 16:19.93. His younger brother, junior Barry Deese, was seventh in 16:24.97.

Other Linden runners and their finishes were junior Aaron Williams in 44th place, sophomore Mike Bryl in 53rd, junior John Cross in 80th, freshman Jeff Messenger in 138th and senior Scott Revord in 143rd.

Ortonville finished ninth in the boys' race with 271 points and Oxford was 16th with 319.

In the boys' individual race — for runners who did not qualify on a team — Hartland junior Adam Kuzinski finished eighth with a time of 16:49.73 for the best finish of an area runner.

In the girls' individual race, Corunna senior Wendy Wahl was 17th with a time of 20:25.50.

Frankenmuth's Barber won the girls' individual race with a time of 18:52.36 and Richland Gull Lake's Randy Logan won the boys' individual race in 16:14.13.

Bendle fifth in Class C

Bendle High placed fifth in the Class C finals at Torrey Pines golf course in Fenton. The Tigers finished with 212 points while Olivet scored 113 to edge Southfield Christian by one point. Byron placed eighth with 243.

Byron's Lori Crawford was the top local finisher, ending 10th in 20:20.8. Bendle freshman Amanda Gould led the Tigers with an 11th-place finish in 20:21.2.

In the individual race, Atherton's Amanda Foutch placed seventh in 20:08.3 while Lake Fenton's Kristie Duey placed 48th in 21:50.3 and Chrissy Lemieux of Atherton was 51st in 22:03.7.

Bendle finishers: 11 — Amanda Gould 20:21.2; 41 — Jennifer Doyle 21:56.2, 44 — Marlene Kingsbury 21:58.4, 56 — Molly Farther 22:28.6, 65 — Carlo Murd 22:44.6, 66 — Chaste White 22:45.6; 108 — Shanna King 24:14.5

Byron finishers: 10 — Lori Crawford 20:20.8, 40 — Jene Cobanilla 21:53.3, 45 — Melonie Crawford 22:20.52 — Kendra Nakola 22:22.1, 116 — Angie Mavlid 25:21.6, 119 — Eileen Moorhead 26:14

In the boys' Class C meet, Charlevoix won its fourth consecutive team title by edging Sandusky 101-102. In the individual race, Ryan Powers of Bendle placed 44th in 17:56.2. Dan Varner, also of Bendle, placed 56th in 18:14.4 and Byron's Jon Gurtson placed 63rd in 19:16.4.

HOLLY

CONTINUED FROM D1

"We take a girls' team that couldn't even win our league (Holly finished second behind Lakeville in the Metro League) and we wind up beating teams like Ann Arbor Pioneer and Traverse City, who everybody knows are the best teams without a doubt."

Holly edged second-place Ann Arbor Pioneer 146-152. Kearsley placed 15th with 360 points.

Mary Mick finished 11th overall in 19:59 for the Bronchos, followed by Jennifer Weisdorfer (14th) 20:19, Jenna Dewaelsche (18th) 20:38, Deborah Barton (28th) 20:59 and Michelle Parker (75th) 22:01.

Raffin, who began coaching

cross country at Holly 27 years ago, said the hilly course proved to be a factor in helping the Bronchos pull off the upset.

"The first 600 yards was uphill," he said. "This was probably the most challenging state course that was run in the last 5,000 years. It was tough, and all of our girls managed to finish."

Kearsley's Andrea Cantu (20:17) and Sherne Schotter (20:38) placed 13th and 19th, respectively.

Top 10 team results

1 Holly 146, 2 Ann Arbor Pioneer 152, 3 Milford 153, 4 Traverse City 169, 5 Redford Union 220, 6 Grosse Pointe South 234, 7 Sterling Heights Stevenson 271, 8 Dearborn Edsel Ford 300, 9 Grosse Pointe North 316, 10 Portage Northern 325.

Top 5 finishers

1 Kathryn Scoville (E. Lansing) 19:21, 2 Bridget Mann (Ann Arbor Pioneer) 19:49, 3 Robyn Brandon (Grandville) 19:49, 4 Rachel O'Byrne (Grosse

Pointe South) 19:50, 5 Colleen Dones (Dearborn Edsel Ford) 19:51.

Area individual finishers

9 Stacie Cecil (Swartz Creek) 19:59, 18 Heather McEllen (Davison) 20:40, 39 Kate Laffer (Carman-Ainsworth) 21:19, 57 Danyelle Schott (Chal) 21:42, 61 Elizabeth Smith (Davison) 21:59, 70 — Alison Murphy (Swartz Creek) 22:21, 75 — Marty Ladd (Central) 22:29, 82 — Anne Wagner (Swartz Creek) 22:54, 88 Stacey Sparks (Flushing) 22:34.

Creek 7th in Class A

Ann Arbor Pioneer clinched the boys' state Class A title with 110 points. Swartz Creek placed seventh with 255 and Clio 18th with 393 points.

Kearsley's Gary Kinnee (16:42) and Bill Garant (16:43) finished 12th and 13th, respectively, for the area's best individual performances.

Swartz Creek's David Barkley and Glenn Holevac crossed the finish line in 16:55 for 12th and

13th places, respectively.

Jeremy Hulburt placed 39th overall in 17:22 and Chris Pangerl clocked in at 17:35 for 56th place for Carman-Ainsworth.

Top 10 team results

1 Ann Arbor Pioneer 110, 2 Walled Lake Western 151, 3 Milford 161, 4 Dearborn 172, 5 Milford Lakeland 176, 6 Monroe 182, 7 Swartz Creek 255, 8 Holland 304, 9 Novi 322, 10 Grand Rapids Christian 327.

Top 5 finishers

1 Brian Pickl (Milford) 15:59, 2 Bill Crosby (Walled Lake Western) 16:13, 3 Mike Hillman (Ann Arbor Pioneer) 16:17, 4 Ron McNeill (Grand Ledge) 16:26, 5 Russell Inman (Detroit U-D) 16:27.

Area individual finishers

20 David Barkley (Swartz Creek) 16:55, 21 Glenn Holevac (Swartz Creek) 16:55, 24 — Todd Lindstrom (Central) 17:10, 53 — David Grunewald (Swartz Creek) 17:25, 69 — Dan Smith (Central) 17:35, 79 — Rob McDowell (Swartz Creek) 17:40, 80 — Chad Montague (Central) 17:40, 82 — Rick Pifer (Swartz Creek) 17:42, 101 — Lyle Latta (Central) 17:53, 106 — Rick McDowell (Swartz Creek) 17:55, 108 — Ken Rockwell (Central) 17:57, 120 — Dan Thelen (Central) 18:07, 149 — Mark Grunewald (Swartz Creek) 18:28, 152 — Shannon Cameron (Central) 18:29.