

Area runners not happy with results in Class A state cross country meet

By **BRENDAN SAVAGE**
Journal sports writer

Gary Kinnee was disgusted. A fifth-place finish in his final high school cross country meet wasn't what the Kearsley High All-Stater had in mind.

But that's exactly what happened Saturday at IMA Brookwood, where Kinnee finished fifth in the boys' team portion of the Class A state championships.

Grand Blanc's Bob Dickie finished fourth in the boys' individual race while Holly's Deborah Barton and Hartland's Heather Moore finished seventh and ninth, respectively, in the girls' individual race.

"I can't believe it," Kinnee said, shaking his head. "I should have won the stupid thing. I thought after the first mile that I had it won. Nobody wanted to go and I was leading.

"At two miles, I was still good. Then with about a quarter-mile to go, he went by at a Carl Lewis pace."

Kinnee was referring to Redford Catholic Central's Mike Mittman, who blew past the pack of lead runners heading into the homestretch and won with a time of 15 minutes, 55.80 seconds on the 3.1-mile course.

Kinnee clocked 16:01.37 while finishing fifth in the Class A meet for the second straight year.

"I'm so disappointed," Kinnee said while ripping the numbered tag off the front of his shirt. "I'm a senior, it's my last meet and I can't do what I want. The other meets I didn't care about. I just wanted to win this one.

"I didn't think he (Mittman)

was that good. 4:50 is as quick as I've ever went out (in the first mile) and I was at 10:11 at two miles. I beat all these guys last year and I was top the senior coming back.

"But I blew it when I needed to win."

The meet marked the fourth straight time Kinnee ran in the Class A finals. He was 30th as a freshman and 12th as a sophomore before finishing fifth the last two years.

Kinnee helped Kearsley score 364 points to finish 14th in the 27-team boys' field. Flushing was 19th with 488 and Swartz Creek 23rd with 568.

Like Kinnee, Dickie was hoping for a better finish. But he wasn't nearly as distraught as his Big Nine Conference counterpart.

"I had my sights set on doing the best I could for today and I did," said Dickie. "I was hoping to do a lot better, but I got caught in the back of the pack early in the race.

"There wasn't too much to be happy with today. I've ran faster than that in a number of races. But you just do what you can and that's all you can ask for."

Clint Verran of Lake Orion, who Dickie beat in last week's regional, was the individual winner with a time of 15:54.22. Dickie, who is good friends with Verran, clocked 16:06.76. Central's Jim Reif was 10th in 16:18.10.

Monroe won the boys' team title with 57 points, easily topping Catholic Central (109) and Rochester Adams (163).

The girls' title was won by Traverse City with 117 points.

Brighton was second with 160 followed by Ann Arbor Huron (221) and Walled Lake Western (235).

Kearsley was 21st with 481 and Flushing 26th in the 27-team field with 602.

Kearsley's Janelle Shepherd was 23rd in the girls' team race with a time of 19:58.94. Christy Goodison of Sterling Heights Stevenson was the winner in 18:48.63.

Alexis Lund of Muskegon Reeths Puffer clocked 18:52.32 to win the girls' individual race. Barton was seventh in 19:19.52, Moore was ninth in 19:25.34 and Holly's Danielle Kovach was 12th in 19:33.55.

Other area placers

Boys' team race

Kearsley — 48. Randy Kinnee 16:48.92; 69. Janelle Brown 17:03.73, 112. Wayne Thayer 17:33.90, 130. Mike Monroe 17:48.60, 160. Rick Taljanick 18:06.85, 172. Ryan Loistallo 18:29.47.
Flushing — 25. Kevin Faltz 16:32.29; 52 Steve Tunnidiff 16:52.36, 109. Matt McKone 17:30.43, 136. Richard Tonda 17:52.14, 166. Neil Hurley 18:16.15, 178. David Welch 18:46.94, 185. Joseph Corkran 19:17.60.

Girls' team race

Kearsley — 102. Lon Sturgill 21:23.75, 105. Kris Wilson 21:25.71, 120. Marieke Harpe 21:32.81, 131. Dottie Lindsay 21:44.98, 166. Andrea Sies 22:46.72, 175. Kim Michalik 23:37.27.
Flushing — 31. Caroline Leven 20:13.76, 108. Amanda Harvath 21:26.85, 127. Jennifer Oben 21:41.07, Sierra Thomson 22:46.10, 171. Carrie Talh 23:07.78, 177. Amanda Gorkbi 23:46.08, 178. Nichole Callender 24:00.04.

Boys' individual race

22. Jason DeWeese, Holly 16:36.03, 51. Brent Bushey, Carman-Ainsworth 17:03.25, 63. Bill Thompson, Northwestern 17:13.23, 64. Nathan Hemanway, Owosso 17:13.55, 57. Maurice Dantzer, Northern 17:38.87, 83. Ivan Norman, Southwestern Academy 18:03.61, 89. Mondorell Ross, Central 18:25.76.

Girls' individual race

20. Trasso Rowell, Owosso 20:11.75, 83. Eric Marcar, Carman-Ainsworth 21:45.35; 88. Mandy Ladd, Central 22:02.59, 89. Kate Laffen, Carman-Ainsworth 22:10.57, 91. Michelle Dandaneau, Swartz Creek 22:15.18, 95. Elizabeth Smith, Davison 23:30.40.