

Bendle freshman stands tall

By MARK CSAPO
Journal sports writer

FRANKENMUTH — It was only 100 yards into the race and Carrie Gould found herself literally fenced inside a pack of 121 runners.

Three miles later, the 4-foot-6 freshman from Bendle stood tall as the Class C girls' state champion. Gould's time of 19:23.5 was a course record at Frankenmuth's Memorial Park and astonished the crowd of about 1,000 from around the state.

"I WAS way behind, but I had to keep telling myself I could do it," said Gould, who finished her inaugural varsity season unbeaten. "I just believed in myself. It feels good."

Gould, like many other runners Saturday, was forced inside on the first turn. The course curved closely around a fence that separates a softball field and took the competitors through several pits and holes.

The poor early vantage point pushed Gould deep into the pack.

"Everybody boxed me in and I

started crying," said Gould, no doubt the smallest runner among the 382 athletes in the four races. "I was scared. Once I got boxed in, I didn't think I could win. I was terrified I couldn't do it."

Gould inched her way into the top 10 after a half-mile and moved into the third spot near the one-mile mark, but still about 15 seconds behind front-running Traci Knudsen of Suttons Bay. Gould passed second-place April Barfoot of Whitehall at the 2¼-mile mark and then switched places a couple times with Knudsen before pulling away with a half-mile to go.

SHE WON by 5½ seconds over Barfoot, who passed Knudsen near the end. Knudsen was third, 10.9 seconds behind Gould.

"Carrie's just a fantastic runner with a lot of heart," Bendle Coach Rose Wilkins said. "We knew the other two girls would challenge her, but Carrie knows what she can run. She reserves herself at the front of races and paces herself."

The old course record was 19:25, set by Laura Bell of Lakeville in 1990.

Carrie's sister, Amanda, earned All-State honors for the second straight year by finishing 12th in 20:38.4. Amanda was boxed in the same as Carrie, but fought her way into the led at the ¾-mile mark before dropping back.

"Amanda almost cuts a trail and sets a pace for Carrie and the rest of the team," said Wilkins, whose squad finished in a tie for 10th. "We knew she (Carrie) would get cut off, so the rest of the team looked out for her."

AMANDA FOUTCH of Atherton won her third straight All-State medal by ending 15th in 20:45.2, just three-tenths of a second ahead of the next runner. The first 15 finishers in each race are named All-Staters.

The Wolverines' girls' and boys' team didn't fare as well, however. The girls were ranked No. 1 coming into the finals, but finished tied for sixth. The boys, ranked eighth in the polls, came in 16th.

Please see TALL — D2



JOURNAL PHOTO/BRUCE EDWARDS

Bendle's Carrie Gould heads down the homestretch en route to a Class C state title.

TALL

CONTINUED FROM D1

"Like I said all season long, the rankings don't mean anything," Atherton Coach Dan Sandborn said. "We had to put it all together in the state finals and we didn't. There are so many factors. I can't get inside the kids' heads, but it may have been the pressure. I thought we got out to a good start, but then we ran a little bit timid.

"But we had an excellent season. One meet doesn't make or break a season."

Chris Kaighen of Goodrich was the highest area boys' finisher, coming in 22nd in 17:33 in the individual race. Leena Kapale of Lake Fenton missed All-State honors by 3.6 seconds when she finished 16th in the girls' individual race.

Weather conditions for the race had temperatures in the low 30s with very little wind. The course itself drew harsh criticism from people all over the state. The first mile wound back-and-forth through spectators before setting out into the park.

Runners encountered mud, ditches, holes, fences, bridges, hills, ridges, trees and even had to cut past a metal soccer goal. It made for a rugged cross-country course in which many runners fell throughout the race, including a four-person pileup in the boys' team race at the first turn near the fence.

"There were also no clocks on the course — not even at the finish line.

"I don't think it's a good state meet course," Sandborn said. "There are too many quick turns. A lot of kids fell, but there's no

excuses. Everybody runs the same course under the same conditions."

Class C state cross-country meet

Boys' team race

Team standings — 1. Sandusky 86; 2. Suttons Bay 102; 3. Carson City Crystal 121; 4. Leslie 134; 5. Charlevoix 163, 6. Kalamazoo Christian 175; 7. Clare 180; 8. Onsted 237; 9. Napoleon 238; 10. Lakeview 258; 11. Sanford 260; 12. Mayville 277; 13. Erie Mason 312; 14. Centreville 348; 15. Edwardsburg 360; 16. **ATHERTON** 384; 17. Flat Rock 385; 18. Riverview Gabriel Richard 414.

Top 15 All-Staters — 1. Chad Rich (Sandusky) 16:36.8; 2. Matt Smith (Charlevoix) 16:42.1; 3. Jeremy Bogard (Kazoo Christian) 16:50.2; 4. Lance Aldrich (CCC) 16:51.6; 5. Ben Pickel (Lakeview) 16:52.2; 6. Matt Livingston (Sandusky) 16:52.9; 7. Justin Curry (CCC) 16:54.7; 8. Joe Crawford (Clare) 17:01; 9. Kyle Stallman (Suttons Bay) 17:03.6; 10. Denny Creisher (Leslie) 17:04; 11. Patrick Hirschbach (CCC) 17:08; 12. Mike Duncan (Napoleon) 17:11; 13. Richie Brinker (Sandusky) 17:12.4; 14. Robert Watt (Onsted) 17:13.7; 15. Tom Park (Suttons Bay) 17:19.5.

Atherton state finalists — 28. Matt Burger, 17:42.6; 81. Charlie Ballmer, 18:35.8; 82. Brett Walker, 18:36.5; 96. Josh Groat, 18:54.6; 97. Chris Finlon, 18:55; 101. Nathan Walker, 18:59.5; 123. Nathan Perdue, 20:04.4.

Boys' individual race

Top 15 All-Staters — 1. Boyce Littlefield (Hortford) 16:24.49; 2. Chris Johnson (Michigan Lutheran Seminary) 16:34; 3. Anthony Lambert (Kingsfield) 16:56; 4. Eric Hill (Addison) 16:58; 5. Al McFellin (Summerfield) 16:59; 6. Casey Rakoczy (Coleman) 17:00; 7. Chris Stoick (Marlette) 17:03; 8. Jason Maurer (Breckenridge) 17:04.5; 9. Terry McKown (Concord) 17:06; 10. J. Michalski (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) 17:08; 11. Todd Rasmussen (Mason County Central) 17:13; 12. Charles Stokes (St. Louis) 17:13; 13. Kevin Rossiter (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) 17:16; 14. Neil Boaze (East Jordan) 17:17; 15. J. Choppel (Marlette) 17:19.94

Atherton state finalists — 22. Chris Kaighen (Goodrich) 17:33; 30. Shane Lehst (Lake Fenton) 17:43; 31. Kevin Stiles (Goodrich) 17:45; 61. Brian Edwards (New Lathrop) 18:31

Girls' team race

Team standings — 1. Onsted 136; 2. Carson City Crystal 140; 3. Ida 152; 4. Williamson 183; 5. Suttons Bay 188; 6. **ATHERTON** and Whitehall 200; 8. Edwardsburg 218; 9. Southfield Christian 224; 10. **BENDLE** and Reese 238; 12. Maple Valley 241; 13. Addison 257; 14. Clare 273; 15. Colton 278; 16. Centreville 298; 17. Laingsburg 303; 18. **BYRON** no team score.

Top 15 All-Staters — 1. **CARRIE GOULD** (Bendle) 19:22.5; 2. April Boroff (Whitell) 19:29; 3. Traci Knudsen (Suttons Bay) 19:34; 4. Rebecca Watt (Onsted) 20:04; 5. Kathryn Murray (Maple Valley) 20:05.2; 6. Stacey Bradway (Addison) 20:12; 7. Leah Nilsson (Williamston) 20:12.9; 8. Kimberly Browning (Onsted) 20:15.2; 9. Laura Wright (Southfield Christian) 20:17.9; 10. Jessica Maddux (Ida) 20:34.9; 11. Erica Davis (Colon) 20:37.5; 12. **AMANDA GOULD** (Bendle) 20:38.4; 13. Erica Stanton (Southfield Christian) 20:42.3;

14. Gerri Rollins (Ida) 20:43.3; 15. **AMANDA FOUTCH** (Atherton) 20:45.2.

Other area state finalists — 32. Jennifer Pluta (Bendle) 21:33.4; 38. Chrissy LeMay (Atherton) 21:50.4; 39. Lori Crawford (Byron) 21:51.5; 42. Kathie Horne (Atherton) 22:01.2; 43. Ashleigh Fouch (Atherton) 22:01.9; 53. Jenna Cabanilla (Byron) 22:23.4; 66. Angie Moulton (Atherton) 22:50.3; 88. Christina Lynn (Byron) 23:34.1; 93. Crystal Johns (Bendle) 23:52.9; 98. Stephanie Sasek (Atherton) 24:06.4; 102. Nikki Judson (Byron) 24:24.9; 104. Susan Colley (Atherton) 24:31.6; 107. Christie White (Bendle) 24:59.9; 110. Kellie Ellenburg (Bendle) 25:17.8; 118. Jessica Gann (Bendle) 27:17.5

Girls' individual race

Top 15 All-Staters — 1. Becky Wing (Belleve) 19:43.7; 2. Dana Silva (Union City) 20:07.6; 3. Christie Achenbach (Unionville-Sebewaing) 20:11.1; 4. Sarah Krebs (Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port) 20:24.4; 5. Kelly Taylor (Hemlock) 20:28.7; 6. Lorraine Goderfink (St. Louis) 20:32.2; 7. Jeni Brewer (Aquinus) 20:38.7; 8. Andrea Litle (Vandercook) 20:47; 9. M. Koeningmecht (Newaygo) 20:50.1; 10. Amy Lindsay (Maple Valley) 20:51.4; 11. Crystal Katopol (Ewart) 20:56.5; 12. Merrilee Chandler (Tawas) 21:04.6; 13. Tricia Clarke (Coleman) 21:06.3; 14. Stacy Von Erp (Bad Axe) 21:11.7; 15. Lori Childs (Breckenridge) 21:12.4.

Area state finalists — 16. Leena Kapale (Lake Fenton) 21:16; 20. Nancy Gorn (New Lathrop) 21:40.2; 29. Erin Ademeck (Goodrich) 21:55.5; 54. Frankie Dziesinski (Lake Fenton) 22:51.5.

Class B

Powers Catholic placed ninth in the girls' team race, and Montrose freshman Windi Guntsch finished 13th in the individual meet at Grand Rapids Golf Club.

Class B cross country

At Grand Rapids

Top 10 teams: Big Rapids 101, Caledonia 114, Gaylord 115, Chelsea 120, Soline 159, Jackson Lunan Christi 184, West Branch Ogemaw Heights 267. **St. Mary 290, POWERS CATHOLIC 295, Yale 299.**

Powers' top five: Adriana Guerra (20th) 20:33; Erin McCarthy 21:02; Amy Newlin 21:29; Kelly Fishback 21:32; Kristen Schumacher

Area Individuals: Manrose: Windi Guntsch 13th, 20:33; Lakeville: Jamie Root 50th, 22:00; Valerie Huggler 83rd, 22:54; Durand: Olivia Lake 44th, 21:49; Linden: Megan Seagle 53rd, 22:04; Leoh Sembler 79th, 22:45; Birch Run: Amanda Thomas 60th, 22 11; Oxford: Rachel Keller 68th, 22:21. Winner: Kelly Smith, Petoskey, 18:46.

Boys' team scores: South Haven 142, Coldwater 181, Oxford 203, Dearborn Divine Child 207, Class 209, Fremont 214, Grant 230, St. Joseph 252, Zealand 265, Caledonia 266, Cranbrook 286, Jackson Lunan Christi 292, Ogemaw Heights 312, Algonac 337, Gaylord 357, Cedar Springs 377, Grosse Ile 387, Otomville 393, Buchanan 416, Belding 423, Big Rapids 425, Vassar Cuno 432, Bloomfield Hills Andover 546, Vassar 554