

Flushing runner places fourth

■ Complete results, E12.

Grand Rapids — Kevin Foltz from Flushing High made a vast improvement at the Class A state cross country finals Saturday.

After placing 42nd in 1992, Foltz ran a 15:44 in 1993 and finished second in the individual race and fourth overall.

Foltz ran neck-and-neck over the Saskatoon Golf Course with the race's individual winner Jeff Ferrell from Waterford Mott through the first and second miles.

But Farrell had the last surge in the end, outrunning Foltz in 15:39.

"I think it was his best race of the season," said George Hackney, Flushing's coach. "It wasn't his fastest, but because the competition there was faster and he ran his fastest first and second mile of season, I think it was his best."

Todd Synder from Ann Arbor Pioneer was the team race's winner in 15:35, as Pioneer also took the team title.

Individually, Central's Jim Reif placed fourth in 16:07, earning him All-State laurels.

Holly had the highest area team placing at 16th, with Swartz Creek netting 18th and Kearsley in at 21th.

Swartz Creek's Ben Hunault missed being All-State by two seconds, as he finished 20th in 16:16.

In the girls' race, the rankings were correct.

At least in the case of Flushing.

The Raiders, rated ninth in the

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Class A coaches' poll, finished that way in the state meet at Saskatoon Golf Club.

Flushing cracked the top 10 for only the second time in the 16-year history of the girls' meet, compiling 331 points. It was the Raiders' best performance in a state meet since placing fourth in 1981.

"The kids all did an outstanding job," Flushing Coach Stan Holmes said. "We went in ranked ninth and with the desire to finish in top 10. We got a ninth-place finish and we're happy."

The rankings were a bit off when it came to predicting the overall champion, as second-ranked Troy had 112 points to beat third-ranked Brighton by 30. Top-ranked Plymouth Canton was a distant sixth with 221 points.

Flushing's Caroline Leven was the top Flint-area runner, placing 20th in the team race with a personal-best time of 19:34. Freshman Brooke Vizena, the Big Nine Conference champion and regional runner-up, was Flushing's No. 2 runner by placing 36th in 19:51. Jenny Denkins was 78th in 20:38, Carrie Toth 96th in 21:01 and Jenny Oben 101st in 21:06 to round out Flushing's scoring.

Christy Goodison of Sterling Heights Stevenson won the team race in 17:51.

Kearsley, the only other area team in the meet, finished 25th out of 27 teams. Janelle Sheppard was 60th in 20:21 and Michelle Michalik 91st in 20:55 to lead the Hornets.

Holly's Jackie Bucholz was

the top area runner in the girls' individual race, placing 21st in 19:58. Grand Blanc's Joanna Dickie was 31st in 20:01.

In Class B, junior Tim Tottigham of Linden placed third in the individual race and was seventh overall at Grand Rapids Golf Club.

Tottigham's time of 16:24 was 15 seconds behind Fruitport's Tom Chorny, who won the individual race.

Two other Metro League runners also cracked the top 10 in the individual race, as Lakeville's Jason Ballard edged Linden's Jeff Cross for ninth place. Both runners posted times of 16:34.

Oxford, which was only third in the Metro League, finished eighth in the state meet with 253 points, well behind first-place Fremont's total of 69. Ortonville was 21st in the 27-team field with 425.

Powers Catholic's girls, hampered by three injured runners, placed 18th out of 30 teams.

Caledonia ran away with the state team title, outdistancing second place's Gaylord by 64 points. Kelly Smith of Petoskey won the individual race in 18:27.

Amy Newland was the top Powers finisher, taking 16th place in 20:12.

Powers Coach Terry Maxwell said his team battled with key injuries to Adrianna Guerra, Colleen Neginelli and Melanie Shosky.

Guerra, one of Powers' top runners, was unable to compete because of minor injuries from a recent car accident. Neginelli ran with severe shin splints and Shosky competed with knee

problems.

Powers had come into the final ranked eighth in the state, but was unable to match that expectation.

"We didn't perform to level we could have of because of injuries," said Maxwell. "I think for the season, our team did an outstanding job showed courage and extremely happy with overall performance, did the best the possibly could under the circumstances."

In Class D, J.R. Marshall from Genesee and Valley Christian's Kelly Stuve were the top area individual finishers at Panda Recreation Area in Wyoming.

Marshall posted a time of 19:41, good for 17th place in the boys' individual race. Stuve claimed 20th place with a time of 25:23 in the girls' individual race.

Other area individual finishers were Adam Mathews of Valley Christian, 20th in 20:01, and Genesee's Doug Zawol, 27th in 20:34. Genesee's Lisa Thomas was the other area girl in the individual race, finishing 23rd in 26:23.

Central Lake's Ryan Shay won the individual boys' race in 17:47, while Stephanie Klein from Mendon won the individual girls' race in 21:40.

Grass Lake won the boys' meet by a 49-68 margin over Bear Lake behind Marty McGinn's winning time of 16:48.

Whitmore Lake dominated the girls' meet, grabbing four of the top five places en route to a winning 27-92 margin over Fowler. Sisters Betsy Speer (20:40) and Katy Speer (22:00) grabbed the first two places for Whitmore Lake.