

Powers' Carrie Gould runs ahead of Caledonia's Keri Bloem during Saturday's Class B cross country championships in Grand Rapids. Gould won the state championship for the fourth consecutive year, winning this time by a margin of three seconds.



JOURNAL PHOTO SERVICE/CHRIS CLARK

One more makes four

Powers' Gould runs into state history with fourth title

By Len Hoyes
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Grand Rapids — Carrie Gould overcame her biggest challenge and worst fear Saturday to become the first four-time state champion in girls' cross country history.

The wispy senior from Powers Catholic overcame a slow start, took command at the midpoint and ran her best time of the year over a slippery, snow-covered 5,000 meters at the Grand Rapids Golf Club.

Her time of 18:00 won the Class B meet by three seconds, creating tears of joy at the finish line as she was swarmed by teammates and other well-wishers with congratulatory hugs.

She won on the same course last year in

Elusive: Area boys' teams can't pin down state championship, **E8.**

18:55 after winning for Class C Bendle in 1992 and 1993.

The Chargers were 10th among 27 teams with 303 points for the first five finishers. No other Flint-area team qualified for the team races.

Caledonia was a runaway winner for its third straight team championship with 28 points, capturing five of the first nine places. Gaylord (190) was second and Chelsea (198) third.

Caledonia totaled 21 points last year, getting three of the top five spots.

Those three returnees may have tried upsetting Gould's plan with a fast getaway.

"Those Caledonia girls got away real fast," Gould said. "I didn't expect it. They were so far ahead I wasn't sure I could catch them. I just kept praying. I prayed all through the race."

Her stature, 5-feet-1 and 93 pounds, may have created less wind resistance for her than compared to others.

"But I had less weight to keep warm," she said with a laugh.

She led for good after catching the leaders at 3,000 meters but couldn't shake Caledonia's top challenger, Keri Bloem.

"I felt better when I turned the last cor-

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GOULD

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ner," Gould said. "I had covered 10 yards and looked back but no one was in sight."

Having thwarted Caledonia's bid, her largest pre-meet fear materialized in the form of Julie David of Coopersville. Gould had worried about the possibility of an unknown popping out of the pack and, sure enough, David was there.

The inexperienced sophomore closed fast and overtook Bloem, who had to settle for third place.

Caledonia runners finished 3-4-5-7-9.
For Powers, sophomore Kelsie Gould (18:58) was 10th, freshman Courtney Daunt

(20:06) was 35th, junior Colleen Negrinelli (21:14) was 113th and sophomore Andrea Bachtel (21:51) was 144th. Krisey Kackley (22:13) was 157th and Nicole Daunt (22:15) was 158th but didn't figure in the scoring.

Coach Terry Maxwell, in his sixth season at Powers, was satisfied with his team's performance.

"Those are good times on this course and deserved a better finish because our top five ran their best times of the season," Maxwell said. "We certainly performed up to expectations, so there must have been some very good teams here."

In the girls' individual race for runners from non-qualifying teams, Christine Freeman of Oxford was fourth, Becky Keller of

Oxford was 15th, Anna Webster of Montrose 15th, Jessica Gilbert of Corunna 33rd, Kenny Urban of Lakeville 42nd, Krista Peters of Ortonville 45th, Kari Karhoff of Durand 71st, Carrie Natzke of Durand 72nd and Erin Timmer of Imlay City 73rd.

Kate Fall of Vassar won in 18:26.

In the boys' individual run, Matt Grulke of Corunna was 14th, Fred Herschelman of Ortonville 41st, Brian Wilson of North Branch 61st, Jason Canze of Corunna 94th and Eric Lindman of Linden 99th.

Robert Curtis of Warren Woods won in 15:26.

Stockbridge won the boys' championship with 115 points. Gaylord (221) was second and Ida (227) third.

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