

Tri-Unity girls finish 6th in D

By Alan Babbitt

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The first trip ever to the Class D state meet turned out to be more than a learning experience for the Tri-Unity Christian girls cross country team.

With only one senior in a group of seven runners, the Defenders sprinted to a sixth-place finish out of 15 teams Saturday at the meet, which was held at the Christian Reformed Athletic Center in Grand Rapids.

Tri-Unity Christian totaled 203 points, 23 more than fifth-place Pittsford. Whymore Lake had a team low of 56 points to win the state championship.

The Defenders thought that they could have done better though, according to Tri-Unity coach Tom Hackney.

"The girls were a little nervous before the race and that may have carried over into some of their times," Hackney said. "This was our first time here, and we have worked ourselves up more than necessary."

But with a young team that will only lose one runner to graduation, the Defenders will have an opportunity to better their finish at the state meet next year — if they earn

it.

"We definitely enjoyed being here and want to make it back here again," Hackney said. "I hope our success at state increases interest in our program at school, so that we can get some runners out for the team."

Lindsay Carrier posted Tri-Unity's top time with a 10th-place effort of 20:56 that earned her a medal. Senior Betty Hain finished 43 seconds behind her teammate and just missed out on a medal by finishing 18th. The three remaining that went toward the team's total came from Stacy Shoemaker (52nd, 23:20), Ann Newhof (61st, 24:06) and Heidi Hain (62nd, 24:13).

Lee tied for 12th place in team standings. Janet DeGennaro earned a medal as she finished seventh in 20:44.

Karen High of Grand Rapids Regional also picked up a medal. She crossed the finish line eighth in the individual race. Her time was 21:35.

The Rebels boys team took 11th place overall. Kevin Brommer (24th, 17:50), Steve Brommer (28th, 18:08) and Steve Mumaw (34th, 18:18) had Lee's three fastest times.