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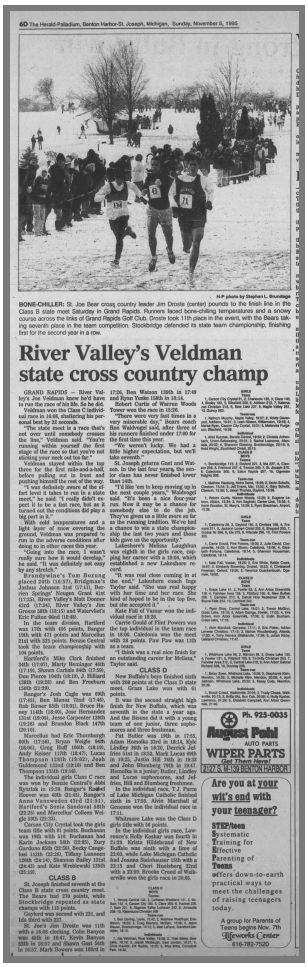

6D The Herald-Palladium, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Michigan, Sunday, November 5, 1995

H-P photo by Stephen L. Brundage

BONE-CHILLER: St. Joe Bear cross country leader Jim Droste (center) pounds to the finish line in the Class B state meet Saturday in Grand Rapids. Runners faced bone-chilling temperatures and a snowy course across the links of Grand Rapids Golf Club. Droste took 11th place in the event, with the Bears taking seventh place in the team competition. Brookbridge defended its state team championship, finishing first for the second year in a row.

River Valley's Veldman state cross country champ

GRAND RAPIDS — River Valley's Joe Veldman knew he'd have to run the race of his life. So he did.

Veldman won the Class C individual race in 16:46, shattering his previous personal best.

"The state meet is a race that's not over until somebody crosses the line," Veldman said. "You're running within yourself the first couple of the races, and you're not sure who's out for it."

Veldman stayed within the top three for the first mile-and-a-half, before pulling out in front and pushing himself for the rest of the way.

"I was definitely aware of the other guys behind me," Veldman said. "I knew they didn't expect it to be a fast race, but as it turned out the conditions did play a big part in it."

Mild cold temperatures and a light layer of snow covering the course helped Veldman and his team in the adverse conditions after doing so in other races this year.

"Going into the race, I wasn't really sure how it would develop," he said. "It was definitely not easy to run in the snow."

Brandywine's Tom Boxrug placed 29th (16:57), Bridgman's Joshua Johnson 31st (17:11), Berrien Springs' Nougen Grael, 41st (17:25), River Valley's Matt Donner 45th (17:31), Hartford's Jason Grosse 58th (18:13) and Watervliet's Eric Fulton 66th (18:48).

In the team division, Hartford was 17th with 485 points, Bangor 18th with 471 points and Marcellus 21st with 553 points. Bronte Central won the team championship with 109 points.

Hartford's Mike Clark finished 36th (17:07), Marty Henninger 46th (17:19), Shawn Carbide 66th (17:59), Dan Pierre 104th (18:19), J. Hilliard 108th (18:23) and Ben Freeburn 109th (18:24).

Bangor's Josh Cagle was 69th (17:45), Ben Mauai 72nd (17:49), Rob Bruer 83th (18:01), Bruer Hersey 114th (18:40), Jose Hernandez 125th (19:09), Jesse Carpenter 130th (19:28) and Brandon Black 167th (20:44).

Marcellus had Eric Thornburgh 80th (17:56), Bryan Wright 84th (18:00), Greg Huff 100th (18:09), Andy Reiner 117th (18:47), Lucas Gaddis 120th (18:54), Jason Gaddis 122nd (18:58) and Ben Thompson 131th (19:16).

The individual girls Class C race was won by Bonnie Central's Abbi Tyndall in 12:58. Bangor's Rachel Hoover was 40th (21:43), Bangor's Jessica Hoover was 41st (21:44), Hartford's Dosia Sandoval 84th (23:23) and Marcellus' Colleen Wright 89th (23:33).

Carson City Crystal took the girls team title with 61 points. Buchanan was 10th with 314. Buchanan had Jessica Bailey 32nd (21:00), Jessica Gardeau 45th (21:20), Becky Cangelosi 110th (23:26), Tiffany Lamoreo 130th (24:14), Shannon Bailey 131st (24:43) and Kate Wroblewski 135th (25:19).

CLASS B

St. Joseph finished seventh at the Class B state cross country meet. The Bears had 279 points, while Brookbridge repeated as state champs with 113 points.

Crabtree was second with 221, and Ida third with 241.

St. Joe Bear Droste was 11th with a 16:38 clocking. Colin Banyon was 46th in 16:47, Kevin Banyon 84th in 16:57 and Shawn Gast 96th in 16:57. Mark Bowers was 103rd in 17:26, Ben Watson 129th in 17:49 and Ryan Yoder 138th in 18:14.

Robert Curtis of Warren Woods Tower was the race in 15:55.

"There were very fast times in a very competitive race," coach Jim Rex Wahlegel said, after three of his runners finished under 17:00 for the first time this year.

"We weren't lucky. We had a lot of good expectation, but we'll take second."

St. Joseph pitarns Gast and Watson. In the last four years, the senior class has never finished lower than 14th.

"I'd like 'em to keep moving up to the front," Wahlegel said. "It's been a nice four-year run. Now it may be a chance for somebody else to do the job. They've given us a little more as far as the running tradition. We've had a chance to win a state championship. I'm glad we've had those kids give us the opportunity."

Lakeshore's Melissa Laughton was eighth in the girls race, capping her career with a 19:04, which established a new Lakeshore record.

"It was real close coming in at the end," Lakeshore coach Inga Taylor said. "She was real happy with her time and her race. She kind of hoped to be in the top five, but eighth is great."

Kate Fall of Vassar won the individual race in 18:26.

Carrie Gould of Flint Powers was the top individual in the team race in 19:06. Caledonia was the next with 28 points. Paw Paw was 11th at 172.

"I think was a real nice finish for an outstanding career for Melissa," Taylor said.

CLASS D

New Buffalo's boys finished sixth with 204 points at the Class D state meet. Grass Lake was with 61 points.

It was the second straight high finish for New Buffalo, which was seventh in the state a year ago. And the Bears did it with a young team of one junior, three sophomores and two freshmen.

Pat Butler was 18th in 17:55, Adam Homolka 33rd in 18:14, Kyle Lindley 36th in 18:20, Derrick Jeffries 51st in 18:33, Mark Lucas 69th in 18:57, Jeremy Hill 70th in 19:00 and John Blumberg 76th in 19:03. Homolka is a junior, Butler, Lindley and Lucas sophomores, and Jeffries, Hill and Slumberg freshmen.

In the individual race, T.J. Paros of Lake Michigan Catholic finished in 16:57. Jessica Lewis of Genesee was the individual race in 17:21.

Whitmore Lake was the Class D girls title with 56 points.

In the individual girls race, Lawrence's Holly Kuehar was fourth in 19:15. Lawrence's Jessica Bailey of Buffalo was ninth with a time of 20:00, while Lake Michigan Catholic had Joanna Reichmeier 15th with a 20:15 and Cheri Hoeksberg 22nd with a 20:38. Brooke Creed of Walkerville won the girls race in 20:05.

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