

Reclassification: Division 4 vs Class D
Date: 11/6/00 8:46:57 PM Eastern Standard Time
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A study in reclassification...I'll leave it to someone else to analyze what reclassification has meant to other school and divisions. Herein is what happened to Division 4 and the former D schools. In summary, no matter what you think about reclassification and it's merits (either for or against), there is one clear conclusion: D schools were left behind and I have the results herein to prove it.

Let's start with all state runners and there was only 1 former D runner who made all state this year: Mike Putzke from New Buffalo who finished 8th (he was last year's D champion). That's correct, out of the top 20 runners, only 1 made it from D. Also note (from the partial stats below) that the Division 4 times were all a minute + faster in the top 20 than last year's D times. The D coaches pointed this out in last year's debate on reclassification and some coaches argued that "it would all equal out" for the D schools. The statistics show exactly the opposite.

Concerning former D teams: Only 4 class D schools even qualified to compete in states this year - and the highest D team finisher was Bear Lake at 14th.

That's right - not a single D team in the top 10 this year. Also note, in 1999 Bear Lake was 2nd - the first place team from last year (New Buffalo didn't even qualify)! The other 3 qualifying D schools came from the Bele Isle Regionals - all the outstate D teams (save Bear Lake) were left at home this year!

As subscribers to this email ring already know - we've talked and debated re-classification many, many times. As you'll also recall the class D coaches desperately wanted last year to help the other classes of schools reclassify while retaining something separate for the D schools with low enrollment - I believe the results this year support why we sought this - enrollment does matter and small schools will not compete for regionals or states on a regular basis in this new format. The obvious winners were the former C schools and I have no-ill will toward them, but I'm still wondering why we can't find a way to give the other divisions their reclassification

relief and still do something different for the small schools - I hope this is something that can be discussed at the MITCA clinic. Again, allow for 4 divisions of reclassified schools - just give the D schools something for them on their own. Heck we don't even need to run at MIS - we'll find our own place to run so we won't cause anyone any trouble or be in anyone's way!

Please review the statistics below which list this year's division 4 teams and whether they were c or d last year. Next to that is last year's D finals and what happened to them this year.

Cross country

Division 4 20000 Class D 1999

1 East Jordan c	1. New Buffalo	(didn't qualify)
2 Ubly c	2. Bear Lake	(14th - 2000)
3 St Louis c	3. Litchfield	(didn't qualify)
4 Lawton c	4. Lawrence	(16th - 2000)
5 Rogers City c	5. Buckley	(didn't qualify)
6 Jonesville c	6. Redeemer	(30th - 2000)
7 V. Lake c	7. Fowler	(didn't qualify)
8 Grass Lake c	8. Gailen	(didn't qualify)
9 Concord c	9. Mason Eastern	(didn't qualify)
10 Glen Lake c	10. Atlanta	(didn't qualify)
11 Hanover c	11. Pentwater	(didn't qualify)
12 G.R. Baptist c	12. R. Lutheran	(didn't qualify)
13 Greenhills c	13. New Lothrop	(didn't qualify)
14 Bear Lake c	14. O. Christian	(didn't qualify)
15 H. Springs c	15. Mt. Carmel	(25th - 2000)
16 Lawrence d		
17 Brown City c		
18 Cabrini c		
19 Sacred Heart d		
20 Buckley d		
21 Saranac c		
22 Carsonville d		
23 Mendon c		
24 Benedictine c		
25 Mt. Carmel d		
26 Redeemer d		

Comparative times.....

Division 4 top 10 in 2000 Class D 1999 Top 10

1. 15:42	1	16:48
2 15:43	2	16:49
3 15:50	3	17:02
4 15:59	4	17:06
5 16:00	5	17:13
6 16:02	6	17:16
7 16:02	7	17:20

8 16:15
9 16:16
10 16:17

8 17:22
9 17:23
10 17:23