

CROSS COUNTRY

WESTERN LAKES
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Oct. 18 at Cass Benton Park

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 28 points; 2. Plymouth Canton, 72; 3. Plymouth Salem, 80; 4. Walled Lake Western, 176; 5. Livonia Churchill, 148; 6. Farmington Hills Harrison, 190; 8. Northville, 20; 9. Farmington Hills Harrison, 205; 10. Westland John Glenn, 276; 11. Livonia Franklin, 311; 12. Walled Lake Canton, 319.

Top 25 finishers: 1. Kelly Travis (LS), 10:05; 2. Kelly McNeilance (LS), 10:08; 3. Marjorie Brooks (WJG), 19:24; 4. Kim McNeilance (LS), 19:36; 5. Decky Wolfram (PC), 19:38; 6. Andrea Parker (LS), 19:45; 7. Lindsey Repicky (WLV), 19:47; 8. Renee Keshawille (LS), 19:48; 9. Kristie Gidings (LS), 19:57; 10. Kara Adams (Farm), 20:02; 11. Beth Knight (PC), 20:03; 12. Ellen Adams (Farm), 20:04; 13. Nicole Bolton (PS), 20:08; 14. Angkara Roy (PC), 20:12; 15. Christy Teles (LS), 20:15; 16. Ellen Stenmer (PS), 20:17; 17. Theresa Derwinski (Farm), 20:28; 18. Chaitin Kozachek (NW), 20:29; 19. Leslie Krupp (LS), 20:31; 20. Len Schmidt (PC), 20:44; 21. Decky Naglik (NW), 20:45; 22. Christiana Bradford (PC), 20:50; 23. Mari

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS:

Central, 71; 2. Walled Lake Western, 92; 3. Plymouth Canton, 103; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 114; 5. Plymouth Salem, 137; 6. Westland John Glenn, 157; 7. Northville, 192; 8. Farmington Hills Harrison, 193; 9. North Farmington, 206; 10. Farmington, 220; 11. Livonia Franklin, 262; 12. Livonia Churchill, 311.

Top 25 finishers: 1. Rob Block (LS), 16:17; 2. Jason Roth (PS), 16:30; 3. Jason Aspinall (WLV), 16:44; 4. Nick Bremer (WLV), 16:42; 5. Shaun Moore (PC), 16:44; 6. Nate Stoll (WLV), 16:44; 7. Mike Felczak (LS), 16:45; 8. Todd Mobley (WLV), 16:50; 9. Jon Little (PS), 17:00; 10. Kevin Arbuckle (NW), 17:02; 11. Jeff Chynoweth (PS), 17:10; 12. Josh Burd (LS), 17:11; 13. Joe Wojtowicz (WLV), 17:14; 14. Jon Bernier (WLV), 17:15; 15. Paul Galt (WLV), 17:16; 16. Scott Kwiatkowski (LS), 17:23; 17. Randy Morgan (WLV), 17:25; 18. Roland Alix (WLV), 17:26; 19. Adam DiGeorge (PC), 17:29; 20. Mike Whiting (WLV), 17:30; 21. Charlie Stannell (NW), 17:31; 22. Eugene Vorkin (WLV), 17:32; 23. Tom Schell (LS), 17:33; 24. Scott Sams (PC), 17:37; 25. Ryan Schell (PS), 17:40.

Central boys repeat as champs

BY C.J. RISA
STAFF WRITER

By now, the rest of the boys cross country coaches in the Western Lakes Activities Association must be sick of hearing this:

"I certainly never thought that we'd be here at the beginning of the season."

At the outset of the season, no one would have figured Dave Darnton's Walled Lake Central team, winners of the '95 WLAA cross country race, would -- or could -- repeat.

"We lost our top four runners from last year," Darnton said, before adding the above remark. "We have only two seniors in our top 10 runners."

So how could one anticipate what happened Friday? And yet happen it did -- the Vikings, with a deep lineup that no other WLAA squad could match, easily captured its second-straight conference crown.

Central put four runners in the medals (top 20 finishers) and scored 71 points. Next best was Walled Lake Western, which had beaten the Vikings in an early-season dual-meet, with 92.

Plymouth Canton placed third (109), followed by Livonia Stevenson (114), led by junior Rob Block, who ran away from the rest of the field to win the individual title in 16:17.

The remainder of the team standings: Plymouth Salem, fifth (137); Westland John Glenn, sixth (157); Northville, seventh (192); Farmington Harrison, eighth (193); North Farmington, ninth (206); Farmington, 10th (220); Livonia Franklin, 11th (256); and Livonia Churchill, 12th (311).

"I thought we could give it a good shot," said Western coach Mike Formanek. "And I thought that we ran well. We just got beat by a team that ran better."

"Their top five guys -- we're a

bit more strung out than they are."

Central's medalists were Nate Stoll, at sixth their top finisher (16:44); Todd Mobley, eighth (16:59); Randy Morgan, 17th (17:25); and Roland Alix, 18th (17:26). The Vikings' fifth runner was Eugene Vorkin, who was 22nd (17:32).

"We have a group of kids who made a believer out of me," Darnton said. "They never believed we were rebuilding. They refused to. They worked as hard as any group I've ever had."

Going into the race, any one of five teams figured to challenge for the title, but Central had emerged as the favorite. Canton had seen a three-year dual-meet winning streak come to an end earlier last week when it lost to Western; still, the Chiefs were one of the challengers.

"(Darnton) should be real proud of his kids," Canton coach Mike Spitz said. "I know I'm

proud of my kids.

"We had a down meet on Monday (against Western). We talked about it, and today they responded. They all posted personal bests -- a coach can't be upset with that."

Shaun Moore was Canton's top runner, finishing fifth (16:44). Western got the kind of up-front performance Formanek wanted, with Jason Aspinall placing third (16:41) and Nick Bremer fourth (16:42).

Harrison's Jared Roth was second behind Block (16:36).

Jon Berman of North Farmington was another medalist, finishing 14th (17:16).

Summarized Darnton: "This year, was even more satisfying than last year. Last year, every one kind of expected us to win."

But what wasn't expected at the start of this season became fact by the end of it.

Stevenson girls still best team in WLAA

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The "perfect season" continued on for Livonia Stevenson, the top-ranked girls cross country team in Class A.

The Spartans captured their third straight Western Lakes Activities Association championship and 13th meet of the season Friday at Cass Benton Park.

As expected, Stevenson ran away with the title with 28 points followed by Plymouth Canton (72), Plymouth Salem (86), Farmington (98) and Livonia Churchill (148). See statistical summary.

You could say this was the first jewel garnered by the Spartans in quest of the triple crown. Next up is Saturday's regional at Ann Arbor Pioneer followed by a Nov. 2 date with potential destiny, the state Class A championships at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

"This was our most important meet up to this point," Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg, who has guided the Spartans to four WLAA crowns in the 1990s. "I'm very happy. Our goal was to get under 30 points and it was a tough goal. Last year we had 21, but the league this year is tougher. There are more good individuals and teams."

Junior Kelly Travis threatened as WLAA individual champion, covering the 5,000-meter course in 19 minutes, 5 seconds, only seven seconds off her personal best.

Ironically, the two-time defending champion Travis was somewhat of an underdog entering the meet.

Churchill sophomore Ashley Filion, who had won her first six races of the year and had posted a Cass Benton best of 19:05, suddenly became ill and dropped out midway through the race.

"I feel like I'm coming back," said Travis, who regained her

confidence by winning Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard Invitational a week earlier. "I don't like making excuses, but I've had bronchitis and asthma, and I felt like I had to start up again. I had to catch up. I feel better than I had been when I had a hard time breathing."

Stevenson teammate Kelly McNeilance, also a junior, was right on Travis' heels throughout the race, placing second for the second straight year with a personal best 19:08 at Cass Benton.

Westland John Glenn senior Marjorie Brooks was third in 19:24, nearly 21 seconds ahead of her previous Cass best.

Rounding out Stevenson's contingent was sophomore Kim McNeilance, who was fourth (19:36); freshman Andrea Parker, sixth (19:45); sophomore Christy Teles, 15th (20:15); and freshman Leslie Knapp, 19th (20:31).

"I thought we could get four in the top seven with the others in the top 15," Holmberg said. "These kids have been working hard all season and I think the rest gives them freshness in their legs. We're starting to taper off now and I hope we're not ahead of schedule. I just hope we can hold it for two more weeks."

Despite their distant second-place finish, Canton coach George Freytag wasn't at all disappointed. "I thought we had a great race," he said. "Our goal was to win the meet. As I said earlier, we had to run our best and Stevenson had to give us some help. We did our part."

While Canton recalled, Salem decelerated. "We didn't have a good team day," said coach Dave Gerlach. "We had two consecutive great team days before today, when our pack (top five runners) was a minute apart."

"We were prepared today, we were ready, we were fired up. It just didn't come together for us."

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