

REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY DiGiovanni-led CC wins title

Junior John DiGiovanni recently returned to the Detroit Catholic Central boys cross country lineup, which makes coach Tony Magni feel even better about what junior Matt Daly is accomplishing. Daly was the only runner to break 16 minutes in the Class A regional at Royal Oak Kimball Saturday, leading the Shamrocks to a first-place finish and a berth in the state meet. Daly crossed the finish line in 15:56.7, with Birmingham Grover Steve Smith a distant second (16:16.1).

At the moment, I hope he has one more race left in his this year. Five of the Shamrocks' seven runners were among the top 15, including senior Jeff Haller in 10th place (16:46.4) and junior Tom Krawiec in 15th (18:55.5). Gibbons is a former soccer player at CC who has found his niche as a runner, Magni said. Gibbons has been second behind Daly all season, Magni said. Krawiec is recovered from a shin injury that slowed him earlier in the year. Finishing 23rd was CC senior Adam Tymowski (17:05.9) and taking 27th was CC senior Bryan Buchanan (17:15.4).

Year, Magni said. Magni expects Grand Lodge and Rockford, as well as Novi, to be among the favorites. "Five, six, seven teams have a chance of winning it," Magni said. The Shamrocks have won 12 regional crowns in Magni's 25 years as coach, including the last four. The Shamrocks have qualified for state each year since 1987, winning the title in 1989. FARMINGTON QUALIFIERS: Six runners from Farmington schools will compete in the state cross country championships Saturday at Michigan International Speedway in Brighton. Four girls and two boys qualified Saturday in the Class A regional hosted by Ann Arbor Pioneer. In the girls race, North Farmington senior Heidi Frank was seventh with a personal-best time of 17:49. Farmington Hills Mercy Junior Sarah Polletta was ninth and sophomore Val Burnisky 22th. Farmington sophomore Kristin Balta, in her first year of running cross country, was 14th. "Heidi had a really good race," North coach Bill Pinnell said. "She's been very difficult all year. This was one of her goals. It's nice to see her hard work and effort — all that summer mileage — paying off. "I figured Heidi would be somewhere between fifth and eighth. She was fifth right up until the end." In the boys race, North senior Charlie Stamboulion was seventh and junior Ethan Goodman 17th.

Whalers rally to force stalemate with Sting

The Berris Sting just couldn't pull away from the Plymouth Whalers Sunday. Playing in Berris, the Sting got two second-period goals — the second by Ryan Van-Buik with 18 seconds left in the period — to take a one-goal advantage into the final period. But they couldn't score again. And Plymouth did. Nate Kiser scored his first goal of the season 8:52 into the third period, and Aaron Molnar made it stand up as the Whalers earned a 2-3 tie. Plymouth is now 6-5-2 and in third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division. Berris is 8-7-3 and in fourth place in the West Division. Stephen Weiss and Damian Surma assisted on Kiser's game-tying goal. After a scoreless first period, the Sting took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Jeff Hearn as 1:53. Rob McBride tied it, scoring his first goal of the season at the 6:42 mark; Shaun Fisher and Kevin Holdridge assisted. GREYHOUNDS 6, WHALERS 3: A pair of late third-period goals by Jeff

Richard and Tim Zafra Saturday night gave the visiting Saint St. Marie Greyhounds the victory over the Plymouth Whalers. Aaron Smith's goal at 5:16 of the third period gave the Whalers a 3-3 tie at Cospawara Arena and it looked for the next 10 minutes as though Plymouth might capitalize on its size goal advantage. But Saint St. Marie, the OHL's West Division leader, hung in and then Richard broke the tie, at 18:06. Zafra added an empty net goal with 25 seconds to play to clinch the Greyhounds' win. Plymouth forced goalie Jason Flick of Saint St. Marie to make 38 saves in the game. Aaron Molnar was called upon to make 15 saves for the Whalers but the Greyhounds scored on their only shot against him in the final period. Damian Surma opened the scoring with a goal for Plymouth at 17:42 of the opening period but the lead lasted just 14 seconds as Ryan Jardine tied it for Saint St. Marie. The Whalers went ahead with a power play marker at 2:47 of the second period, off the stick of Shaun Weiss, but the Greyhounds tied it with their own power-play score and added another goal 46 seconds later.

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CLASS B REGIONAL Oct. 30 at Royal Oak Kimball TEAM STANDINGS (top 5 qualify for state meet): 1. Redford Catholic Central, 39; 2. Rochester Adams, 13; 3. Bloomfield Hills Lutheran, 11; 4. Rochester Adams, 11; 5. Beverly Hills Grove, 12; 6. Birmingham Bashford, 14; 7. University of Detroit Jesuit, 14; 8. Birmingham Brother Rice, 14; 9. Berkley, 22; 10. West Bloomfield, 22; 11. (tie) Detroit Mackenzie, Southfield-Lathrup, Detroit Cooley, no team scores.

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