CC runs down another Class A title

By Brad Emons
staff writer

boys cross country

When it comes to boys cross country, the decade belongs to Redford Catholic Central High.

The Shamrocks captured their third state championship of the '80s, winning the Class A title with 124 points in a meet held Saturday at Flint's IMA-Brookwood Golf Course.

Ann Arbor Pioneer was second with 145 and Milford third with 147.

Plymouth Salem, which defeated rival Plymouth Canton for the first time this season, took sixth in the 27-team field with 230. Canton was seventh with 243 and defending state champion Monroe finished eighth with 253.

It was only a week earlier when Canton surprised CC in the regional.

"We could have quit after the regional, but our spirits were up and we had a good week of practice," said CC coach Tony Magni. "In a way it helped us a little because going into the regional we were a little overconfident. All five guys didn't run well. But Saturday we felt going in that if we all ran well, we could take it."

CC'S TOP MAN all season, senior Mike Sheridan, stayed close to the leaders before finishing third with a time of 15:48.77 over the 5,000-meter course.

Bill Cowan of Birmingham Brother Rice took the crown in 15:33.4. Bill Stricklen of Sterling Heights Ford finished second in 15:42.15.

"Mike would have loved to have won it, he's lost only once all year," Magni said. "After Cowan took off at the two-mile mark, Mike could have burned himself out trying to keep up, but he wanted to make sure he made a good finish.

"He said this (the state title) is better than winning the individual."

The Shamrocks needed more than just Sheridan, however, to earn the title.

Jay Schemanske was 16th in 16:11.86; Chris Antczak, 19th, 16:19.27; Dave Galvin, 23rd, 16:24.58; and junior Jon Borke, 63rd, 16:53.6.

Galvin came on strong during the final three weeks of the season, bouncing back when he was stabbed in an attack over the summer.

Schemanske, meanwhile, ran his best race of the season, while Antczak stayed right behind him.

Borke, in his first year of varsity cross country after coming over from the school band, put on a spurt in the last 200 meters, passing 15 to 20 runners, according to Magni.

"I THOUGHT 140 (points) would win it," Magni said. "I knew we'd be in the hunt. As long as we stayed healthy, I knew we'd be there. We won it in '83 and '84, but this is more satisfying than the first two because it was kind of unexpected."

Salem, meanwhile, recorded its best state meet finish ever. (The *Rocks were 15th in 1987.)*

Leading the way for Salem was junior John Thomas, who finished 28th in 16:29.25. Rounding out the Rocks' contingent was senior Brian Uryga, another first-year runner, who took 30th, 16:30.43; senior Brendan Masterson, 40th, 16:39.4; senior Dave Hamway, 62nd, 16:52.97; and Samir Bhavsar, 16:58.74.

"We save our best for last," said coach Geoff Baker. "They (Canton) beat us in every race, but we felt we could beat them. We just didn't prove it on those days that we ran them."

Masterson, Salem's top runner all season, was still feeling the effects from a virus that he been suffering from over the past few weeks.

"After the regional, we felt Brendan would be back to his normal self," Baker said. "He still felt weak, but if he hadn't finished strong for us, we wouldn't have beaten Canton.

"We felt we could have a 25-point swing there, and we would be right in there with Canton and CC. We felt we could beat both after the regional. CC must have been a little off at the regional because they came back and ran a tremendous race Saturday."

CANTON'S Brian Beach turned in a sparkling performance, leading the Chiefs with a 10th-place finish (16:04.71).

He was followed by teammates Mike Ream, 40th (16:39.72); Matt Boland, 51st (16:44.86); Matt Hall, 59th (16:50.97); Jason Napolitano, 82nd (17:04.87).

"We ran our best times of the year, but not competitive times," said Canton coach Jim Hayes. "We got a little excited. We were in fast company.

"But I can't complain about being seventh in the state. If somebody would have told me we won at Schoolcraft (Invitational), RU (Redford Union Invitational), the regional and the league (Western Lakes Activities Association), I'd say that's a heck of a season.

"They did a good job. I'm proud of all of them."

In the state Class A individual race, several area runners earned high marks including Farmington High junior Ben Goba, who was fourth in 15:58.05. (Brian Hyde of East Kentwood won the race in 15:41.51.)

Other top area finishers included junior Jeff Grosso of Walled Lake Western, ninth, 16:17.35; sophomore Bill Crosby of Western, 19th, 16:36.1; senior Mark Kwiatkowski of Walled Lake Central, 20th, 16:36.6; Scott Freeborn of Livonia Stevenson, 23rd, 16:41.96; junior Eric Curnow of Livonia Franklin, 43rd, 17:02.11; junior Rodney Westlake of Stevenson, 48th, 17:08.33; senior Eric Oswandel of Stevenson, 68th, 17:33.01; and Scott Westover of Livonia Churchill, 94th, 19:03.54.

IN THE CLASS D state meet Saturday at Frankenmuth, Lutheran High Westland finished sixth with 194 points.

Fowler won the championship with 47 followed by Pentwater (80) and Potterville (109).

Steve Watkins of Lutheran Westland was seventh overall in 17:42. Rounding out the Warriors' contingent was Kirk Stueber, 38th, 18:33; Steve Quinkert, 40th, 18:34; Doug Johnson, 45th, 18:40; and Todd Gibson, 64th, 19:23.

In the Class B individual race Saturday at Tyrone Hills in Linden, Redford Thurston junior Tommy Biskner finished 59th, while junior teammate Jed Kramer was 64th.

They finished 14th and 16th, respectively, a week earlier at the regional meet.

Rocks pound Portage, roll into state final

By Dan O'Meara
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soccer

No matter how confident, Plymouth Salem's state championship hopes were imperiled somewhat by the absence of star Jeff Gold in the semifinal soccer game Wednesday.

As it turned out, it was a very small risk.

The Rocks thoroughly dominated Portage Northern, and Gold's replacement in the starting lineup, junior Andy Cosenza, led Salem to its 4-0 victory at Okemos High School.

"We knew we had to play tougher without him, because he's our leading scorer," said Cosenza, who scored two goals and assisted on another. "I was really glad to score and get the game started our way."

Gold, who has 30 goals and 19 assists to lead the team, watched in street clothes after being red-carded in Salem's regional championship victory over Redford Catholic Central.

But the senior midfielder will be in uniform again Saturday for the chance to realize his greatest soccer ambition when the Rocks play Troy Athens for the Class A title at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School. Game time for Salem's first appearance in the state final is 3 p.m.

"I WAS kind of scared because I had no control" over what happened on the field Wednesday, Gold said, "but I wasn't worried with (his teammates) out there.

"The team played incredibly well in the first half. I'm so impressed with this team right now.

"It's so exciting because the dream for all of us — and me since I was a freshman — was to go to state and now we're there," Gold added.

A victory Saturday will make either Salem coach Ken Johnson or Athens coach Tim Storch the first to win state titles in boys and girls soccer. Athens defeated the Rocks 2-1 earlier this season.

Johnson coached the Salem girls to the 1987 championship, Storch the Athens girls to the '89 title.

Not only was Cosenza a capable replacement for Gold against Portage, but he did what Gold usually does, which is score early and get Salem a quick lead.

Salem defender Ryan Fitzpatrick brought the ball the length of the field and dumped it inside, where Cosenza, with the game less than five minutes old, scored from in front.

ON A PLAY indicative of the way the game transpired, Cosenza won control of the ball in the attacking area and was having trouble maintaining possession with several defenders hounding him. But he managed to get a shot through that eluded Northern goalkeeper Samer Kanaan for a 2-0 lead.

"Andy had a great game," said Matt Gold, who replaced his brother as the emotional leader on the field and was one of several Salem players who played exceptionally well. "I knew he could do it, and it was good to have him do it in the beginning with Jeff not there."

The Rocks, 18-3-1, displayed superior skill and consistently were able to keep the ball from Northern defenders and steal it from the Huskie attackers. Gold, Bill Joker and Greg Christensen were leaders in that regard.

"I was surprised we dominated without Jeff," Matt Gold said, "but it was a big field and we're a good passing team. The wider field helped us. We made short passes to get around them instead of dribbling around them."

Northern coach Dieter Valk agreed with that assessment, saying Salem's passing and quickness were the difference. The Huskies, who were beaten by Livonia Stevenson in the semifinals last year, finish at 19-3-2.

"They played a beautiful game," Valk said. "They played like they should — quick and aggressive. They played the field, and that way they pulled the game apart.

"I THINK they have an excellent team, and you never mind losing to an excellent team," he added.

The Rocks led 3-0 at halftime on Joe Nunez' goal. Cosenza sent the ball across from the right side, and the Huskies left Nunez uncovered on the left, allowing him time to wind up for a hard delivery.

Christensen scored the only goal of the second half, which the Rocks dominated even more. Northern seldom crossed midfield and never had a serious scoring chance in the final 40 minutes.

Calumet tips St. Mary's

St. Mary's College lagged after one half and failed to make it up in the second Tuesday, losing at Purdue-Calumet 89-80 in mens basketball.

The loss evened the Eagles record at 1-1. They defeated Fanshawe College (of London, Ont.) 102-90 at Dombrowski Fieldhouse Oct. 28 in their season opener.

In the loss to Calumet, St. Mary's trailed 40-27 at the half. Three players reached double figures in scoring for the Eagles: Arnold Wilson and Denny Butcher with 12 points each and James Lakes with 11. Mike Uhles topped Calumet with 25.

In the win over Fanshawe, St. Mary's got 17 points from Lakes and 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocked shots from Joachim Jerichow. Garth Howard added 15 points and Terry Koerner and Rayvlon Croon had 11 apiece.