

Shamrocks 7th in state; no repeat for star skier

The state ski finals didn't go as well as hoped for Redford Catholic Central senior Matt Gable and the Shamrocks.

CC finished seventh out of nine teams in the boys championship meet at Nub's Nob in Potoskey, and the event was a personal disappointment for Gable.

He was the defending champion in the slalom and a contender for the giant slalom title. However, he was disqualified in the slalom and finished third overall in the latter.

In the slalom, Gable had an excellent first run of 30.43 seconds and was among the leaders. But it was determined he missed a gate on his second attempt and was DQed.

"He had skied well enough to be in third, and disaster struck on the second run," CC coach Tom Gable said.

He added Matt was in third place a year ago, too, and came up to with the event with a strong second run. He believed the same would happen this year.

"I believe the skiers who took a little steam off made it down; the faster skiers had trouble," coach Gable said, adding Matt was flying on the second run.

He did a hip-check and fell through the gate. The gatekeeper decided he had missed the gate, and we didn't feel it was worth it to protest. I'm a strong believer that racers need to let their skiing do the talking for them.

"At times you can make it in the back door (with a successful protest). It's not like you're trying to pull the wool over their eyes, but I thought it was just best not to pursue it."

Gable was about six gates from the finish when the viola-

PREP SKIING

tion supposedly occurred. He still finished and received a time.

"Ski racing is ski racing," coach Gable said. "Sometimes you can be the best at a sport, but you still need a little luck and breaks along the way."

CC teammate John Goebel skied off course and didn't finish the slalom in which the Shamrocks finished seventh with 112 points.

Gable had the fastest giant slalom time among skiers competing for a team, but he was third overall when other individual qualifiers were included.

Gwinn's Chris Remien won the giant slalom in 45.53. Waterford United's Derek Delzer was second (49.16) and Gable third at 49.55.

The Shamrocks finished sixth in the giant slalom with 96 points. Marquette won both events and the team championship.

"I'm proud of Matt and his teammates," Gable said. "They stuck together; there was no finger pointing."

"They were happy to be there and felt they gave their best. There was some frustration, but all of them handled it well."

Mercy girls finish 6th

Farmington Hills Mercy was sixth out of nine teams in the girls state ski finals. Marquette dominated the girls competition, winning the team title with just 24 points.

While CC finished lower than expected in the boys event, coach Gable thought the Mercy girls did as well as expected.

"With the ladies, I was really

related with their result," he said. "I think they skied right where they should have been."

"All season long they weren't taken very seriously. They've been skiing well in the slalom, and they repeated that at the state finals."

"For a young team — we graduate a few girls, but we have a number of freshmen and sophomores — I thought they really stepped up to the plate. I'm extremely pleased with their finish."

Mercy's top skier was Liz Kujala, who was 17th among team competitors in the slalom and 22nd in the giant slalom.

"They all finished, which was really nice," Gable said. "We had all six girls make it down through both events, which was great for them. That's pretty unusual, because you always seem to lose somebody along the way."

BOYS STATE FINALS

Team standings: 1. Marquette, 42; 2. Traverse City West, 45; 3. Cadillac, 105; 4. Lake Orion, 148; 5. Rochester Adams, 164; 6. Clarkston, 173; 7. Redford Catholic Central, 208; 8. Livonia, 220; 9. Brighton, 248.

CC slalom results: 15. Eric Sullivan, 1:12.76; 26. Che Martinez, 1:17.74; 27. Ryan Boudreau, 1:17.82; 44. Joe Murray, 1:17.47; 54. Matt Gable, DQ; 54. John Goebel, DNF.

CC giant slalom: 1. Matt Gable, 49:55; 23. Eric Sullivan, 52:32; 32. John Goebel, 53:59; 40. Che Martinez, 55:58; 45. Ryan Boudreau, 57:57; 48. Joe Murray, 57:01.

GIRLS STATE FINALS

Team standings: 1. Marquette, 24; 2. Cadillac, 116; 3. Grand Blanc, 137; 4. Clarkston, 133; 5. Traverse City West, 142; 6. Farmington Hills Mercy, 208; 7. Rochester Adams, 219; 8. Brighton, 222; 9. Walled Lake Central, 252.

Mercy slalom results: 17. Liz Kujala, 57:89; 26. Nicole Zaleski, 58:72; 29. Nikki Anderson, 59:37; 32. Laura Burek, 1:00:84; 43. Melissa Desautel, 1:03:47; 45. Mary Godlew, 1:03:84.

Mercy giant slalom: 17. Liz Kujala, 1:23:58; 24. Nicole Zaleski, 1:27:57; 27. Nikki Anderson, 1:29:31; 29. Laura Burek, 1:30:01; 44. Dana Woolsey, 1:50:00; 45. Mary Godlew, 1:50:07.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HEDGECOCK

State finals:
Catholic Central's Matt Gable (left) placed third in the giant slalom and was disqualified in the slalom in which he entered the meet Monday as the defending state champ. CC finished seventh overall in the boys competition. Farmington Hills Mercy was sixth in the girls state finals.

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LEARN TO CHECK CLINICS

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct Learn to Check clinics at several metro-area locations.

Clinics will take place 6:30-8:20 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, and Wednesday, March 28, at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills; 5-6:50 p.m. Friday, March 16, at Devon-Aire in Livonia; 6:30-7:20 p.m. and 7:30-8:20 p.m. Monday, March 19, at Novi Ice Arena; and 6:30-7:20 p.m. and 7:30-8:20 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at Redford Arena.

The program is geared toward squirt players moving up to the pee wee level, as well as pee wee and bantam players who need instruction on the techniques of checking.

Arens of emphasis in the two-hour instructional session include proper checking technique, how to receive a check, how to avoid a check, stick checking, back checking, angling and body positioning.

To sign up call Suburban Hockey Schools at (248) 478-1600. For more information visit the Web site at www.suburban-hockey.com.

MHSAA TICKET UPDATES

Group ticket sales are being offered for the Michigan High School Athletic Association girls volleyball finals on Saturday, March 17, at University Arena in Kalamazoo.

Under this program, groups of 10 or more people can receive a substantial discount off the stan-

dard general admission ticket price for the four championship matches. Group tickets are priced at \$3 each; whereas, the standard price for the final is \$5.

To qualify for the group discount, all orders must be submitted to the tournament manager and be postmarked by March 9.

A group ticket order form may be obtained from the MHSAA web site at www.mhsaa.com.

PISTONS YOUTH CLINIC

A limited number of spots are available for the Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic on Saturday, March 24, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile Road, just west of Haggerty in Northville.

The cost is \$15 per child. Call Ward Church at (248) 374-6937.

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