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Maloy runs away with state title

EA boys, girls and Maple Grove girls win team championships

(Photo below) Springville's Chad Maloy posted a championship time of 16:16.3 at Lakeside Park in Pawling.
Matthew Brown / Journal News



There's no hill that Chad Maloy can't climb.

The Springville senior tamed the toughest one at Lakeside Park in Pawling on his way to winning a state title at Saturday's New York State Cross Country championships.

Maloy's stirring victory in the Class B race highlighted a strong showing for Section VI over a dry, 3.1-mile course. Team titles were won by the East Aurora boys and girls in Class B and the Maple Grove girls in Class D.

Maloy ran a 16:16.3 while holding off his toughest challenger, Dan Lennon of Peru, who was second in 16:29.4. Lennon passed Maloy going up the steepest hill on the course. Maloy guessed right that Lennon spent a lot of energy climbing the hill, and passed him for good at the bottom before pulling away from the rest of the field.

"During the first mile of the race I felt really strong, when I pulled away I felt even better," said Maloy. "The last mile I was freaking out, I really wanted it. I didn't know where everyone was behind me. My mom and dad -- they've done everything for me. Winning it for them really got to me. I can't believe I actually did this."

Alden's Nick Orlowski was seventh. Sean Phillip was 15th and Kevin O'Connor 18th for East Aurora.

Maloy was coming off last week's Section VI title in which he had the fastest time of the day among the five races.

Other strong races were turned in by the Barker boys, who were state runners-up in Class D. Carolina Benson of Maple Grove was second in Class D, the Fredonia boys were fourth and the Fredonia girls sixth.

The title for the East Aurora girls was their sixth in a row. They won by a 25-point margin over Pearl River of Section I, which was running on its home course. Only two other teams have won six in a row: the Beaver River boys from 1983-1988 and the Honeoye Falls-Lima girls from 1998-2004.

"Pearl River went after us the first mile," said East Aurora coach Walt McLaughlin. "We stuck to our game plan and waited until after the hill and then moved up. We did our job the second half of the course. Your strategy really matters. At this level all the little things matter."

Two-time Section VI champion Marta McLaughlin of EA was state runner-up in 18:36.2. She passed Lauren Mullins right at the end to take second place by a tenth of a second. The winner of the race was Christine Driscoll of Geneva in 18:23.5.

The East Aurora boys team won its third state title, joining the teams from 1981 and 1985. The Blue Devils were state runner-up in 2007 and third in 2008. EA ended up winning by 20 points with seven runners ahead of Bayport Blue Port's fifth runner.

Section VI had two runners finish among the top 10 in the boys Class D race: Corey Wefing of Maple Grove was seventh while Tyler Scheving of Barker was ninth.

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