



Barker boys win VI Class D cross country title

Team returns to state meet after a year off.

Staff Reports [Lockport Union-Sun & Journal](#)

ELMA MEADOWS — It was a day of personal triumphs and close calls Friday at the Section VI cross country championships at Elma Meadows Golf Course.

Barker won the Section VI Class D title and returns to states as a team. Head coach Paul DerSarkissian's team placed seven runners in the top 10 overall positions, led by senior Tyler Scheving's runner-up finish in 17:03.5. Maple Grove sophomore Corey Wefing won the D race in 16:39. The Raiders last went to states as a team in 2009 and won.

Following Scheving in places 3-to-5 were Barker senior Jedediah Platt (17:12.1), senior Michael Lantinen (17:17.0) and junior Jordan Bender (17:26.8). Also for Barker, freshman Sergio Cruz was 8th (17:41.1) and seniors Anthony Diez was 9th (17:44.4) and senior Marc Delemarter was 10th (17:56.6).

Barker was third in the girls' D race, won by Maple Grove.

Topping the Lady Raiders in eighth place overall was freshman Katie Przybyl in 21:00.4. Also for Barker, seventh grader Sabrina Harris finished 10th in 21:32.2, senior Alexandra Tillman was 11th in 21:41, eighth grader Mary Rounds was 19th in 23:05.7, freshman Melissa Pestinger was 21st in 23:18.2 and seniors Ashley White was 23rd in 23:41.1 and Stephanie Pyra was 29th in 24:13.2.

Lockport High School placed second behind Clarence in the boys A meet and was fourth in the girls A meet.

Mike Feeney of the Lions finished seventh overall in the boys race, in 17:09.9 and fellow senior Zach Cehenez was 10th in 17:22.1.

Also for Lockport, junior Matt Kaczmarek was 15th in 17:42.4, sophomore Mitch Lioacano was 16th in 17:43.4 and LHS sophomore Dan Jones finished 18th in 17:51.2.

Topping the Lady Lions with a seventh-place overall finish was freshman Abbey Lang 20:08.1. Clarence sophomore Marissa Saenger won the race in 19:11.1. Also for Lockport, junior Jessica Monzyk was 13th in 21:04.7, senior Chelsea Turton finished 25th in 21:57.7, junior Grace Ross was 32nd in 22:17.3, junior Leah Stutz was 44th in 22:43.8, sophomore Mady Loiacano was 52nd in 23:26.9 and senior Sarah Quast was 53rd in 23:27.4.

Meanwhile, five Starpoint runners made the cut for the state championships .

Starpoint sophomore Livia Chase (19:12.2) finished second in the B meet to secure one of three state championship spots for the Lady Spartans.

“(Livia) is phenomenally consistent,” Starpoint coach Brian Lasher said. “She’s always in the race to win and there’s some great runners in the division and she was right there in the mix.”

Starpoint’s girls team finished in second in the B meet behind East Aurora, who will send all seven runners to Verona next week. The remaining five spots in each class go to the top five runners in the group not on the first place team.

Two more Spartans girls qualified for states, with eighth grader Sophia Tasselmyer (19:55.7) finishing seventh in the B meet while senior Courtney Laderer (20:10.3) finished 11th.

Starpoint’s boys team also finished in second behind the Blue Devils, with junior Paul Swartz (16:52.6) leading the way with a seventh place finish. Swartz qualified for states along with junior Matt Prohaska (16:53.2), who finished ninth.

Carl Daigler (17:22.1) finished 13th for Starpoint while senior Jordan Roseland (17:27.7) finished 16th.

“We had four boys and any of the four could have made it,” Lasher said. “The best case was to get two in and we were happy (with that).”

Wilson junior Shannon Nye (20:07.5) qualified for states in the girls C meet, finishing sixth.

Lakemen senior Scott Devole (17:40.6) finished 13th in the boys C meet, while Niagara Falls senior Tyler Bielec (17:57.9) finished 23rd in the boys A meet.