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Columbia's Clark 1st with 16:43 clocking

By GRANT EDWARDS

All four 1977 state championship teams passed their initial tests with flying colors as the NASAA cross-country championships got under way with sectional meets yesterday morning at four sites.

Brick, the defending all-group champion scored a solid victory in the South Jersey Group 4 race at Pennsauken, while in the Central Jersey meet at Barclay Park, New Brunswick, Red Bank Catholic again won the Group 1 title and Mater Dei edged Bernards for the Group 1 crown. Bernards was in Group 2 when it won last year.

Individually, the state's two leading runners, Mary Banks of Hartman and Ann Gladiol of Bayley-Ellard, smashed course records. Miss Banks won the Group 4 race at the Central Jersey meet in 17:33 over a 3.1 mile course. Miss Gladiol was North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 race at Warnamoo Park, Elizabeth in 16:26 over a 2.85 mile course.

Two other candidates for the all-group gold medal also performed brilliantly. Joetta Clark of Columbia held the Warnamoo Park record for exactly one hour with her 16:43 victory in Group 1 and Monique Parcel of Holy Spirit led all performers in the South Jersey meet with a 17:44 clocking to take the Group 1 race.

Morris County swept all four team titles at Warnamoo Park, Morrisman winning in Group 4, Pequannock in Group 3, Mount Olive in Group 2 and Morris Catholic in Group 1.

In the North Jersey, Section 1 meet at Garret Mountain, West Paterson, Cathy Stone of Vernon repeated as Group 2 champion, but was five seconds lower than Mary Ellen McGowan of Pascack Valley, the Group 3 champion.

At all sites the first five teams and the first 120 individuals qualified for next week's state group meets at Holmdel County Park.



Nancy Gallagher of Morris Hills has big smile on her face after taking first place in yesterday's Group 3 cross-country race.

North Jersey 1, Group 4

Bergentfield beat Ridgewood for the sixth time in major competition this fall, 40-41, to win its first sectional crown, with Ridgewood's Barbara Remmers taking the gold medal, in 17:48.

Eileen Healy led the Bergentfield team in third place at 18:48 with Patti Greene fifth and Terri Malespina 10th. Alison McGregor was eighth for Ridgewood.

Team scores: Bergentfield 40, Ridgewood 41. Individual: Barbara Remmers, Bergentfield, 17:48.2; Eileen Healy, Bergentfield, 18:48.0; Patti Greene, Bergentfield, 19:00.0; Terri Malespina, Bergentfield, 19:10.0; Alison McGregor, Ridgewood, 19:20.0.

North Jersey 1, Group 3

Old Tappan ended Ramsey's domination of this division with a 38-69 triumph, led by Denise Marberg and Colleen Dunn, who placed second and third.

Mary Ellen McGowan of Pascack Valley was the individual winner, finishing 200 yards ahead of Miss Meberg in 17:46. Sandy Fluhauer was the first Ramsey runner across the line in seventh place.

Team scores: Old Tappan 38, Ramsey 69. Individual: Mary Ellen McGowan, Pascack Valley, 17:46.0; Denise Marberg, Old Tappan, 18:00.0; Colleen Dunn, Old Tappan, 18:10.0.

North Jersey 1, Group 2

In a match of 1977 sectional champions, Saddle Brook topped Hopatcong, 38-68, with Cathy Stone of Vernon repeating her individual victory in 17:31.

Saddle Brook had won this race last year, while Hopatcong was the Group 1 champion. The defenders had a safe 10-88 margin yesterday with Laura Pate's leading the way in seventh place and Lynn Scall eighth.

Team scores: Saddle Brook 38, Hopatcong 88. Individual: Cathy Stone, Vernon, 17:31.0; Lynn Scall, Hopatcong, 18:00.0.

North Jersey 1, Group 1

Pam Farnella and Joan Profitia placed 1-2 to lead Paul VI of Clifton to a 66-82 victory over Cresskill.

Miss Farnella crossed the line 70 yards ahead of her teammates in 18:49. Ann Crestivo placed ninth for the winners, just ahead of the first Cresskill finisher, Simone Mele.

Team scores: Paul VI of Clifton 66, Cresskill 82. Individual: Pam Farnella, Paul VI of Clifton, 18:49.0; Joan Profitia, Paul VI of Clifton, 19:00.0.

North Jersey 2, Group 4

Joetta Clark of Columbia simply ran away from the field to win by 200 yards in 16:43. But Morrisstown was just as easy a winner in the team battle, 36-51, over Plainfield.

Carel Becht and Judy Stein led the Morrisstown assault, placing second and third behind Miss Clark. Julie Crawford was sixth and Missy Conell ninth.

Team scores: Morris County 36, Plainfield 51. Individual: Joetta Clark, Columbia, 16:43.0; Carel Becht, Morris County, 17:00.0.

North Jersey 2, Group 3

Nancy Gallagher of Morris Hills came from sixth place in the last 440 yards to defeat Martha Crandall of Pequannock by 40 yards in 17:43.

But Pequannock had no trouble repeating as team champion as it placed five runners in the first 10 finishers to defeat West Essex, 27-90. Barbara Forsyth was fifth, Debbie Herkstroffer sixth, Lynn Bionberg eighth and Laura Forsyth 10th.

Team scores: Morris Hills 40, Pequannock 27. Individual: Nancy Gallagher, Morris Hills, 17:43.0; Barbara Forsyth, Morris Hills, 18:00.0.

North Jersey 2, Group 2

Karen Flanagan of Jefferson Township caught favored Karen Fluv of Mount Olive in the last 300 yards and went on to a 38-yard victory in 17:44.

Miss Fluv, however, led her team to a second straight team title as Mount Olive—which won the Group 1 meet last year—edged Dover, 45-49. Diane Adams was seventh, Gail Smith ninth and Camille Certa 10th for the winners.

Team scores: Jefferson 38, Mount Olive 49. Individual: Karen Flanagan, Jefferson, 17:44.0; Karen Fluv, Mount Olive, 18:00.0.

North Jersey 2, Group 1

Scoring her seventh major victory of the season, Ann Gladiol of Bayley-Ellard lowered Joetta Clark's four-odd course record at Warnamoo Park, winning by 400 yards in 16:26.

Morris Catholic upset Bayley-Ellard for the team title, 34-45, with Debbie Smith fourth in 17:57, Debbie Franco seventh and Rita Cobb 10th.

Team scores: Morris Catholic 34, Bayley-Ellard 45. Individual: Ann Gladiol, Bayley-Ellard, 16:26.0; Debbie Smith, Morris Catholic, 17:57.0.

Central Jersey, Group 4

Hunterdon Central showed why it is the state's top-ranked team with a 46-59 conquest of Sayreville. Hunterdon was led by Lori Butterfield and Lise Scheff, who placed second and fourth.

Mary Banks of Hartman had no trouble winning the race in a course record of 17:33. Leaving Miss Butterfield 200 yards back, Dale Orsban was sixth and Cricket Batz 10th for Hunterdon Central.

Team scores: Hunterdon Central 46, Sayreville 59. Individual: Lori Butterfield, Hunterdon Central, 17:33.0; Mary Banks, Hartman, 17:33.0.

Central Jersey, Group 3

Red Bank Catholic continued its dominance of this section as Maury Taylor and Tracey Van Dyke finished 1-2 for a 38-64 victory over North Hunterdon.

Miss Taylor led her teammate, who was defending champion, by five yards in 18:52. Sandy Cook of Howell was third in 19:08.

Team scores: Red Bank Catholic 38, North Hunterdon 64. Individual: Maury Taylor, Red Bank Catholic, 18:52.0.

Central Jersey, Group 2

Dee Reilly of St. Rose crossed the line first, but her team still lost a close one to Delaware Valley, 47-55.

Miss Reilly finished 100 yards ahead of Fran Coughlin of St. John Vianney in 19:11 and teammates Cathy Clark and Melaine Finn were fourth and fifth. Delaware Valley countered with Nancy Lauck in third place, Diane Kramer in sixth and Mary Ellen Herty in ninth.

Team scores: Delaware Valley 47, St. Rose 55. Individual: Dee Reilly, St. Rose, 19:11.0.

Central Jersey, Group 1

In a match of 1977 state champions, Mater Dei edged Bernards, 46-53, behind a first place finish by St. Minoque, who totaled the course in 18:01 to beat defender Judy Huff of Highland Park.

Mater Dei also had Erin Kemna place fifth while Bernards had Barbara Lagarenne fourth, Lori Gentile ninth and Cathy Brander 10th. Mater Dei won the state Group 1 title last year. Bernards the Group 1 crown.

Team scores: Mater Dei 46, Bernards 53. Individual: St. Minoque, Mater Dei, 18:01.0.

South Jersey, Group 4

Brick, the defending all-group champion, scored a third straight close victory over Tom's River North, which had won the sectional girls title last year.

Jeanne Fox and Valerie Hohn ran 1-2 for Brick, with Fox crossing the line 60 yards ahead in 18:06. Brick also had Wanda Daring in fifth, Eileen Gattagone in sixth and Carolyn Devic in 10th to defeat Tom's River North, 27-36.

Team scores: Brick 27, Tom's River North 36. Individual: Jeanne Fox, Brick, 18:06.0.

South Jersey, Group 3

Monique Parcel of Holy Spirit took some 45 seconds off her 1977 winning time as she defeated Doreen Startare of Paul VI of Haddonfield by 200 yards in 17:44.

Holy Cross of Delran won its first sectional title by a comfortable margin over defending Paul VI, 44:72. Denise Dunnet led Holy Cross in seventh place.

Team scores: Holy Spirit 44, Paul VI of Haddonfield 72. Individual: Monique Parcel, Holy Spirit, 17:44.0.

South Jersey, Group 2

Individual: Monique Parcel, Holy Spirit, 17:44.0; Denise Dunnet, Holy Cross, 18:00.0.

Team scores: Holy Spirit 44, Paul VI of Haddonfield 72. Individual: Denise Dunnet, Holy Cross, 18:00.0.

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