

Summit's Gschwind defends section title

By GRANT EDWARDS

Theresa Gschwind of Summit, Lisa Pakulka of Hopatcong, Janet Smith of North Edison and Meg Waldron of Bernards headed toward a Nov. 22 showdown at Hightstown County park as they scored easy victories yesterday in the NJSSAA girls' sectional cross-country championships.

Gschwind, who finished second in the all-Group race last year, coasted to a repeat victory in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 race at Wartrace Park, Elizabeth. Pakulka broke her own course record in leading Hopatcong to the North Jersey, Section 1, Group 4 crown at Garret Mountain, West Paterson.

Smith, a freshman and Waldron, a sophomore, were both in action at the Central Jersey race at Buccooch Park, New Brunswick. Smith set a course record of 18:29 as she upset Lori Butterfield of Hunterdon Central for the Group



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Girls' X-country

4 title. Waldron ran 18:36 as Bernards lost the Group 1 title to Mater Dei.

The state's two top-ranked teams, North Hunterdon and Ridgewood, both scored easy victories. North Hunterdon won the Central Jersey, Group 3 title at Buccooch Park and Ridgewood took the North Jersey, Section 1, Group 4 race at Garret Mountain.

Lisa Symanski of Toms River East was the fastest runner in the South Jersey meet at Pennsauken High School with a time of 19:26.

NORTH JERSEY, SECTION 1, GIRLS

GROUP 1

This was no more than a practice run for the Ridgewood team, which took five of the first six places to defend its title. 16-73, over Paterson Kennedy.

Mary Ellen Milecki led her team, Patty, over the line by 125 yards in 18:51, with the other three Ridgewood girls in third, fourth and sixth places. Freshman Shirley Daniel of Paterson Kennedy broke up the parade in fifth place.

TEAM SCORES 1 Hopatcong 18, 2 Paterson Kennedy 18, 3 Ridgewood 18, 4 Paterson Kennedy 18, 5 Paterson Kennedy 18, 6 Paterson Kennedy 18, 7 Paterson Kennedy 18, 8 Paterson Kennedy 18, 9 Paterson Kennedy 18, 10 Paterson Kennedy 18.

GROUP 2

Patti McCluskey of Dumont ended the two-year reign of Mary Ellen McGowan of Passaic Valley as the won by 60 yards in 19:11. But Passaic Valley beat Ramsey for the team title, 72-77.

The race between McCluskey and McGowan was turned into a three-girl affair when Lakeland freshman Laura Reshold, a recent transfer from the mid-West, came in a strong third at 19:35.

TEAM SCORES 1 Passaic Valley 19, 2 Lakeland 19, 3 Passaic Valley 19, 4 Passaic Valley 19, 5 Passaic Valley 19, 6 Passaic Valley 19, 7 Passaic Valley 19, 8 Passaic Valley 19, 9 Passaic Valley 19, 10 Passaic Valley 19.

GROUP 3

Lisa Pakulka broke her own course record to repeat victory over Kattinyan, 72:53, covering the 3.1 mile distance in 18:37.

Pakulka undefeated this fall, finished more than a minute ahead of Gae Romann of Kattinyan. Jennifer Kirsch shot ahead the Hopatcong victory by placing fifth in 20:31.

TEAM SCORES 1 Hopatcong 18, 2 Kattinyan 18, 3 Hopatcong 18, 4 Hopatcong 18, 5 Hopatcong 18, 6 Hopatcong 18, 7 Hopatcong 18, 8 Hopatcong 18, 9 Hopatcong 18, 10 Hopatcong 18.

GROUP 4

A well-balanced Midland Park team overcame a 1-2 finish by Joan Prentiss and Pam Farnella of Paul VI to defeat the Clifton team, 58-63, and win its first sectional title.

Froita won the race by 150 yards, with Farnella another 175 yards ahead of Treva Madden of Cresskill. Courtney Hunzinger led Midland Park in fourth place.

TEAM SCORES 1 Midland Park 18, 2 Paul VI 18, 3 Clifton 18, 4 Cresskill 18, 5 Midland Park 18, 6 Paul VI 18, 7 Clifton 18, 8 Cresskill 18, 9 Midland Park 18, 10 Paul VI 18.

NORTH JERSEY, SECTION 2

GROUP 1

Linda King of Roxbury won the race by 40 yards over Pam Gray of Morristown, with Patty Mulvaney leading Plainfield to the team victory in third place.

Plainfield finished with 32 points to 41 for Morristown, which had won the race the past three years. Melody Grayby was sixth for Plainfield and Cynthia West placed ninth.

TEAM SCORES 1 Plainfield 32, 2 Morristown 41, 3 Plainfield 32, 4 Morristown 41, 5 Plainfield 32, 6 Morristown 41, 7 Plainfield 32, 8 Morristown 41, 9 Plainfield 32, 10 Morristown 41.

GROUP 2

Randolph ended a three-year reign by Penaukott, 55-59, reversing their finish in last week's Morris County meet. Patty Kromjong led the winners in sixth place at 20:27.

Theresa Gschwind of Summit ran away from Mary Beth Hogan of Cranford to win by 250 yards. Her time was 14 seconds off the course record she had set earlier this year at the Stewart Memorial meet. Penaukott freshman Wendy Gilman was third in 19:50.

TEAM SCORES 1 Summit 14, 2 Cranford 14, 3 Penaukott 14, 4 Summit 14, 5 Cranford 14, 6 Penaukott 14, 7 Summit 14, 8 Cranford 14, 9 Penaukott 14, 10 Summit 14.

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GROUP 1

The Curtis sisters, Camille and Sabrina, led Mount Olive to its third straight victory, 47-73, over Whippany Park. Camille was third in 19:52 and Sabrina fourth in 19:54.

Melinda Holm of Mendham had an easy victory after Stacy Arranondo of Whippany Park dropped out midway through the race. Holm led in Roxanne Polo of Whippany Park by 120 yards in 19:20.

TEAM SCORES 1 Mount Olive 47, 2 Whippany Park 73, 3 Mendham 73, 4 Whippany Park 73, 5 Mount Olive 47, 6 Whippany Park 73, 7 Mendham 73, 8 Whippany Park 73, 9 Mount Olive 47, 10 Whippany Park 73.

GROUP 2

It was a repeat victory for Kinnelon with a 30-63 margin over Glen Ridge and Verona, with Kelly O'Hara of Verona taking individual honors in 20:14.

O'Hara came on the track with Catherine Persichetti of Oak Knoll but opened a 15-yard lead in the last 400 yards. Inge Schuurmans, Nancy Schmitt and Gina Boderick took the next three places for Kinnelon.

TEAM SCORES 1 Kinnelon 30, 2 Glen Ridge 63, 3 Verona 63, 4 Kinnelon 30, 5 Glen Ridge 63, 6 Verona 63, 7 Kinnelon 30, 8 Glen Ridge 63, 9 Verona 63, 10 Kinnelon 30.

GROUP 3

Hunterdon Central made it five in a row with a 30-57 margin over Raritan as Lori Butterfield, Lena Schaff and Cricket Batz took three of the first five places.

Janet Smith of North Edison won the race by just 20 yards from Butterfield, who clocked 18:33. Bev Rockhill of Hamilton West was third, and then came Shari and Batz for Hunterdon Central.

TEAM SCORES 1 Hunterdon Central 30, 2 Raritan 57, 3 North Edison 57, 4 Hunterdon Central 30, 5 Raritan 57, 6 North Edison 57, 7 Hunterdon Central 30, 8 Raritan 57, 9 North Edison 57, 10 Hunterdon Central 30.

GROUP 4

Maura Taylor of Red Bank Catholic and Debbie Russell-Drew of Franklin Township were the only ones to break up the North Hunterdon parade as the defenders routed Manalapan, 19-48.

Sharon Greene of North Hunterdon finished 100 yards ahead of teammate Stacey Blotta in 19:01, with Tracy Bagley of the winners third in 19:45. Kim Borin in sixth place and Liz Ludwig in seventh completed the scoring.

TEAM SCORES 1 North Hunterdon 19, 2 Manalapan 48, 3 Franklin Township 48, 4 North Hunterdon 19, 5 Manalapan 48, 6 Franklin Township 48, 7 North Hunterdon 19, 8 Manalapan 48, 9 Franklin Township 48, 10 North Hunterdon 19.

GROUP 5

St. Joseph of Toms River won a close three-way battle for Brick Memorial and defending Haddonfield, led by the Hefferman sisters and Cindy Schanck.

Eileen Hefferman was sixth; Schanck eighth and Denise Hefferman ninth as St. Joseph scored 41 points to 53 for Brick and 60 for Haddonfield. Kathy Scudale, an individual entry from Williamstown, won the race by 70 yards over Kelly Wherry of Brick Memorial in 19:52.

TEAM SCORES 1 St. Joseph 41, 2 Brick Memorial 53, 3 Haddonfield 60, 4 St. Joseph 41, 5 Brick Memorial 53, 6 Haddonfield 60, 7 St. Joseph 41, 8 Brick Memorial 53, 9 Haddonfield 60, 10 St. Joseph 41.

GROUP 6

Manchester Township had a virtual walkover in a three-team field as its runners took five of the first 10 places for a 21-49 defeat of Audubon.

Pat Elletto of Manchester won the race by 200 yards over Joanne Mihalchick of Kingsway, with her sister, Denise, the second Manchester runner to finish, in fifth place.

TEAM SCORES 1 Manchester 21, 2 Audubon 49, 3 Manchester 21, 4 Audubon 49, 5 Manchester 21, 6 Audubon 49, 7 Manchester 21, 8 Audubon 49, 9 Manchester 21, 10 Audubon 49.

GROUP 7

Linda King of Roxbury is shown en route to winning the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 competition in 19:51 yesterday at Wartrace Park, Elizabeth.

TEAM SCORES 1 Roxbury 19, 2 Wartrace Park 19, 3 Roxbury 19, 4 Wartrace Park 19, 5 Roxbury 19, 6 Wartrace Park 19, 7 Roxbury 19, 8 Wartrace Park 19, 9 Roxbury 19, 10 Wartrace Park 19.