

Kearny wins X-c crown, ends N. Hunterdon reign

By GRANT EDWARDS

Jodi Biotta of North Hunterdon wrote her name into the New Jersey cross-country record book with a third consecutive all-groups girls' championship yesterday in frigid, windy weather at Holmdel County Park.

Despite the cold and windy conditions, Biotta turned in her fastest time ever on the hilly, 5,000-meter course, 18:34, to defeat Christi Constantin of Kittatiny by 15 yards. North Hunterdon, however, saw its four-year string of team victories end when Kearny scored a narrow 73-74 victory.

Biotta has now won the all-group race three times, matching the record set by Hilary Noden of Hopewell Valley in 1972, 1973 and 1974 and tied by Janet Smith of J. P. Stevens in 1980, 1981 and 1983. Smith set the course record of 17:33.5 in the 1983 race.

Christian Brothers easily repeated as boys' team champion, 40-86 over Paul VI of Haddonfield. It was Christian Brothers' fourth all-group title, snapping a tie with Bernards, which has won the race three times.

Jason DiJoseph, second in the all-group race a year ago to Carlos Martins of Newark East Side, won this time by 35 yards over John Coyle of Christian Brothers in 15:58. A junior, DiJoseph has the chance to become the first two-time boys' winner next year.

Constantin, who was clocked in 18:37, set the early pace in the girls' race. Biotta made her move coming out of the bowl near the two-mile mark and quickly opened a five-yard edge. This widened to 30 yards as the girls came out of the hills, but Jodi lost some



Photo by David Scott
Roxbury's Daryl Kiesche receives assistance at finish after placing third in girls all-groups cross country championships yesterday

of that when she fell on a set of steps just before the home stretch.

North Hunterdon, however, fell victim in the team battle to a balanced Kearny team. The first four Kearny girls built a 12-point lead over their

North Hunterdon counterparts. Liz Duarte led the Kearny team in fifth place in 19:39. Uloopi Desai was 11th in 20:07, Tara McDermott 23rd in 20:28 and Jackie Salmon 28th in 20:35. (The elimination of individual entries

from the team scoring accounts for Kearny score being lower than the raw finish of each runner).

DiJoseph also came off the pace in the boys' race. Coyle set the pace, followed by teammate Matt Mitchell. When DiJoseph made his move it was all over, although Coyle, who ran 16:05, stayed a lot closer than in his previous meetings with DiJoseph this year. Third place went to Kevin McCabe of Ridgewood, a distant cousin of Coyle, in 16:13.

Christian Brothers won the team title easily, with Mitchell fourth in 16:17, Dan Heffernan seventh in 16:28 and Todd Lippin 16th in 16:49. Paul VI also had a wide margin over third-place Hunterdon Central, which finished with 130 points.

BOYS

TEAMS: 1-Christian Brothers 40, 2-Paul VI (Haddonfield) 86, 3-Hunterdon Central 130, 4-Union Hill 148, 5-Morrisstown 146, 6-Bernards 197, 7-Princeton 225, 8-Red Bank Catholic 242, 9-Hamilton East 248, 10-Bridgton 250, 11-Delbarton 251, 12-Toms River North 251, 13-Cinnaminson 270, 14-Haddonfield 279, 15-Sacred Heart 436, 16-Henry Hudson 436, 17-Pingry 456.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Jason DiJoseph, Paul VI 15:58, 2-John Coyle, Christian Brothers 16:05, 3-Kevin McCabe, Ridgewood 16:13, 4-Matt Mitchell, Christian Brothers 16:17, 5-Sirio Ridgewood, Bridgeton 16:23, 6-Joe Shanahan, Haddonfield 16:24, 7-Dan Heffernan, Christian Brothers 16:28, 8-Mario Morillo, Union Hill 16:29, 9-Eric Lorenz, Holy Cross 16:41, 10-Chris Creighton, Holy Cross 16:42, 11-Rich Falcone, Vernon 16:42, 12-Bob Scott, Cinnaminson 16:44, 13-Kevin Brennan, Red Bank Catholic 16:46, 14-Lance Hess, Bridgeton 16:47, 15-Todd Lippin, Christian Brothers 16:49, 16-Rob Falia, Delbarton 16:49, 17-Rich Weiss, Saddle Brook 16:50, 18-Dave Zamichelli, Cinnaminson 16:50, 19-Joy Romer, Marlboro 16:51, 20-Joe Margro, Paul VI 17:00, 21-Rich Kenan, Montclair Immaculate 17:02, 22-Matt Cielus, Paul VI 17:54, 23-Rich Fitzgibbon, Dumont 17:55, 24-Tim Ackerman, Absegami 17:56.

GIRLS

TEAMS: 1-Kearny 73, 2-North Hunterdon 74, 3-Brick 84, 4-DuSen City 125, 5-Red Bank Catholic 137, 6-Ridge 163, 7-Wayne Valley 167, 8-Delaware Valley 216, 9-Water Del 221, 10-Kingsway 227, 11-

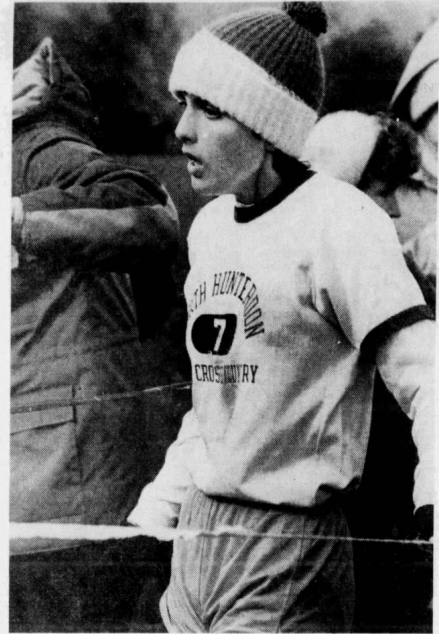


Photo by David Scott
North Hunterdon's Jodi Biotta wins her third consecutive all-groups girls' cross country championship yesterday at Holmdel Park

Saddle Brook 227, 12-Bishop Eustice 269.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Jodi Biotta, North Hunterdon 18:34, 2-Christi Constantin, Kittatiny 18:37, 3-Daryl Kiesche, Roxbury 19:23, 4-Sandra Tignor, Princeton 19:28, 5-Liz Duarte, Kearny 19:39, 6-

Elaine Doherty, Morristown 19:48, 7-Paula Vaquerio, Newark East Side 19:50, 8-Mary Hoernlein, Brick 19:53, 9-Mary Jo Daugherty, Ocean City 20:01, 10-Laura Drake, Wayne Valley 20:04, 11-Uloopi Desai, Kearny 20:07, 12-Jackie Paz, Clinton 20:12, 13-Karin Swartz, Princeton 20:13, 14-Dee Keough, Mahwah 20:21, 15-Veronique Godieski, Ridge 20:23, 16-Jen Scheeborg, Anniston 20:24, 17-Chris Baldes, Manalapan 20:25, 18-Ann Wodarczyk, Gloucester Catholic 20:26, 19-Cheryl Windham, Bridgewater West 20:26, 20-Cathy Frenney, Wayne Valley 20:26, 21-Sandy LaPica, North Hunterdon 20:27, 22-Katie McCormick, North Hunterdon 20:27, 23-Tara McDermott, Kearny 20:28, 24-Catrona Logan, Red Bank Catholic 20:29, 25-Amy Kempt, Paramus 20:31.