

# Mt. Olive girls take title; Chokshi, Spoonire triumph

By ED GRANT

Freshman Monal Chokshi of Bridgewater and junior Bryan Spoonire of Asbury Park were the individual winners yesterday at the 18th state cross-country Meet of Champions yesterday at Holmdel County Park.

Chokshi, a student at Bridgewater West who runs for a combined Bridgewater team, became the third freshman to win the girls' title, finishing in 19:13 85 yards ahead of sophomore Christine Engel of Mt. Olive. Spoonire had a 35-yard margin, crossing the line in 16:05, on fellow junior Kenneth Flynn of Ramsey.

The girls' race was much closer with Mt. Olive taking its first all-groups title on a 76-82 margin over Toms River East. Paul VI was third with 84 and defending Brick fourth with 112. Paul VI of Haddon Township repeated as the boys' team champion with a comfortable 50-89 lead over Highland.

Chokshi became the first freshman all-groups winner since Janet Smith of J. P. Stevens in 1980. The

other freshman champion was Hilary Noden, who won the first title for Hopewell Valley in 1972. Both Smith and Noden became three-time winners before graduation.

The girls' race yesterday was simply a duplicate of every one of Chokshi's victories this year. She took the lead just before the bowl area in the hills, with Engel close behind her. As they made the turn for the final climb out of the bowl, Chokshi picked up her pace and Engel could not respond. Chokshi came out of the hills with a 50-yard lead and increased it with her typical final sprint to the finish line.

Engel, the state outdoor 1,600-meter champion, finished in 19:30 and was followed over the line by Marianne Livingston of Red Bank in 19:35. Then came three more Morris County runners, Kristen Hall of West Morris in 19:42, Nicki Willett of Morris Hills in 19:43 and Jen Schenberg of Kinnelon in 20:05.

Kelly Donnellon was Mt. Olive's second finisher in 19th place at 20:37. Then came Meagan McCarthy in 31st at 21:08, her sister Angela in 46th at

21:26 and Cheryl Campana in 54th at 21:47.

"This is really more than we could have expected," said veteran Mt. Olive coach Dave Sulley. "Last week, we won our first group (3) title and I would have settled for that. We were in trouble at the halfway mark, but the girls made up a lot of places before the final dash through the woods."

Mt. Olive was the only one of the three team leaders to finish in its usual order. Alice White was Toms River East's first finisher in 23d in 20:49, five places ahead of Veronique Godleski, who had led the team in all its other major races this year. Ynette Feliciano, usually Paul VI's third runner, was first this time in 12th place in 20:21.

Spoonire also took the lead in the bowl area.

"I just wanted to run with the leaders," he said, "but when we made the final turn in the bowl, I challenged the hill and the others didn't respond."

Spoonire opened a 50-yard lead and coasted in, turning around several times to see where the others were.

Flynn, the leading underclass runner in last year's race, finished in 16:12, followed closely by Joe Cranston of Paul VI in 16:13 and Albert Donawa of Camden in 16:15. The next three finished in a bunch, Harry Drew of St. Rose getting the nod over Craig Masker of Mahwah and Tom Naimoli of Mater Dei.

The team issue in this race was never in doubt. Cranston was followed by Pete Dougherty in ninth place in 16:32, Vin Cieslik in 22d in 16:43, Ron Caponigro in 37th in 17:02 and Tom Keefer in 44th in 17:10.

It was a perfect finish to the season for coach Bob Duffy, who had resumed the reins at Paul VI this year for the first time since 1972.

"It's a nice way to come back," he said. "Things are a lot different now, more meets and all of that, but it's still a matter of being ready on the right day."

Mike Glavin, a pupil of Duffy, who coached Paul VI to all-groups titles in 1984 and 1988, was present to root his former charges to victory. He is now distance coach at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

## BOYS

TEAMS: 1-Paul VI (Haddon Township) 50, 2-Highland 89, 3-Christian Brothers 105, 4-Toms River East 161, 5-Haddonfield 189, 6-Red Bank Catholic 203, 7-Cinnaminson 211, 8-Toms River North 211, 9-Cedar Ridge 232, 10-Bridgeton 251, 11-Cherokee 254, 12-Pingry 310, 13-Chatham 314, 14-Millburn 370, 15-Whippany Park 372, 16-Sacred Heart 391, 11-St. Benedict's Prep 402, 12-Riverside 458.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Bryan Spoonire, Asbury Park 16:05, 2-Kenneth Flynn, Ramsey 16:12, 3-Joe Cranston, Paul VI 16:13, 4-Albert Donawa, Camden 16:15, 5-Harry Drew, St. Rose 16:21, 6-Craig Masker, Mahwah 16:21, 7-Tom Naimoli, Mater Dei 16:22, 8-Russ Curley, Columbia 16:30, 9-Pete Dougherty Paul VI 16:32, 10-Matt Marlin, Haddon Township 16:35, 11-Jerry Franks, Highland 16:35, 12-Brian Walsh, Chatham 16:41, 13-Kevin Horty, Delbarton 16:42, 14-Mark Sivieri, St. Augustine Prep 16:49, 15-Dan Avis, Westfield 16:47, 16-Chris Shields, Mendham 16:48, 17-Rich Cochrane, Wayne Valley 16:49, 18-Ihab Massey, Toms River North 16:51, 19-Tim Shanahan, Haddonfield 16:52, 20-Steve Stanley, Cinnaminson 16:52, 21-Kelth Farrell, Toms River East 16:53, 22-Vin Cieslik, Paul VI 16:53, 23-Rich Sciria, Christian Brothers 16:54, 24-Eric Boucher, Ridgewood 16:54, 25-Mark Micali, Toms River East 16:56.

## GIRLS

TEAMS: 1-Mt. Olive 76, 2-Toms River East 82, 3-Paul VI (Haddon Township) 84, 4-Brick 112, 5-Red Bank Catholic 133, 6-Phillipsburg 146, 7-Kittatiny 192, 8-Palissades Park 207, 9-Hopatcong 213, 10-Kingsway 250, 11-Mater Dei 260, 12-Bishop Eustace 261.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Monal Chokshi, Bridgewater 19:13, 2-Christine Engel, Mt. Olive 19:30, 3-Marianne Livingston, Red Bank 19:35, 4-Kristen Hall, West Morris 19:42, 5-Nicki Willett, Morris Hills 19:51, 6-Jennifer Schenberg, Kinnelon 20:05, 7-Sherry Jenkins, Camden Catholic 20:06, 8-Stella Cinoa, Marlboro 20:07, 9-Michele Owen, Clearview 20:10, 10-Jennifer Nesbitt, Caldwell 20:12, 11-Charlene Agar, Red Bank Catholic 20:19, 12-Ynette Feliciano, Paul VI 20:21, 13-Lori Townsend, Kingsway 20:24, 14-Tabitha Franks, Gloucester Catholic 20:26, 15-Colleen Spillane, Brick 20:28, 16-Cheryl Keating, Sacred Heart 20:31, 17-Stephanie Andrasek, Newton 20:36, 18-Liz Figlar, Ridgewood 20:37, 19-Kelly Donnellon, Mt. Olive 20:37, 20-Lillian Fohi, Brick 20:38, 21-Eileen Fitzgerald, Ridgewood 20:44, 22-Tara Riccio, Manalapan 20:48, 23-Alice White, Toms River East 20:49, 24-Mary Pat Erickson, Red Bank Catholic 20:52, 25-Sandy Wright, Paul VI 20:52.



Photo by George McNish  
Bryan Spoonire of Asbury Park heads for finish line a victory in yesterday's Meet of Champions at Holmdel Park



Photo by George McNish  
Monal Chokshi, running for Bridgewater, wins girls' race at yesterday's Meet of Champions