

Santo wins Parochial B but St. Benedict's is 2d

By PAUL FABRI

Toms River North track coach John Coleman woke up yesterday morning, took a look out his window and began cheering.

Coleman was alone in his approval of the dismal weather which muddied yesterday's New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association boys' and girls' group cross-country championships at Holmdel County Park. But he had a good reason.

Employing the same tight pack that helped Toms River North to victory in the South Jersey Group 4 boys' race, Coleman's squad, the No. 4 team in The Star-Ledger Boys' Cross-Country Top 10, successfully defended its Group 4 state championship with 108 points. Shawnee placed second with 129.

After being beaten by St. Benedict's two weeks ago in the state prep school championships, Pingry returned the favor with a 46-70 victory in the Parochial B race.

In a tightly-contested individual battle, Nuno Santo of St. Benedict's fought off cramps to finish first in 17:16, one second ahead of Jason Polaha of Sacred Heart. Tim Lear of Pingry was third in 17:18.

"We run at a place near school called 'Kamikaze Park' when it rains," said Toms River North's Coleman.

"Our kids are a little nuts so they go looking for every puddle they can find. We were prepared for this."

Toms River North was led by consistently-improving Matt Jelley, who finished sixth in 17:20.

"We don't have one great runner this year, so we have to rely on our pack," said Coleman. "Our pack did a great job and Matt ran the best race of his life."

Rebounding from an illness which contributed to a fifth-place finish in the South Jersey Group 4 meet, Jerry Franks of No. 10 Highland Regional won the Group 4 race in 16:54. Jason Vigilante of Morristown was second in 17:01, followed by Brick's Pat Hennigan in 17:12.

"I wanted to make sure people didn't think that just because I was sick, I was all done," explained Franks.

In the battle between The Star-Ledger's two top-ranked teams, Pete Dougherty ran away from the field in 16:39 to help No. 1 Paul VI of Haddon Township to a 39-55 victory over No. 2 Christian Brothers in the Parochial A race.

J.R. Meloro of Bergen Catholic outlasted Matt Doherty of St. Joseph's of Metuchen in 17:05 for second place.

"All season long, we've been gearing for this kind of finish," said Paul VI coach Bob Duffy. "Our legs are fresh and we were ready to come here next

week (for the Meet of Champions)."

Mercer County champion Notre Dame finished third with 130 points.

In the Group 2 race, defending state Bryan Spoonire finished in 16:38, leading Asbury Park over Monmouth County rival Holmdel, 40-91, for the Group 2 championship. It was Asbury Park's first title since 1950.

Junior Brian Walsh of Chatham, who finished second in Group 2 in 17:06, said the rain was a problem for the entire field, save one.

"Everyone else was slipping and sliding out there except for Brian," said Walsh of Spoonire. "His stride was perfect even in the mud and up and down the hills."

Spoonire did have one scare, nearly falling on the dirt road before the woods, but was able to maintain his balance.

"Ever since I've been here, I've wanted a state championship jacket," said Spoonire, who will now prepare for the overall state Meet of Champions title this Saturday. "This was the year when we had a group of guys who wanted to win. This is their dedication paying off."

In the Group 3 meet, sophomore Brendan Heffernan of North Hunterdon won in 16:55, relegating Ray Beyer of Absegami to a second-place finish for the second straight year.

No. 3 Cedar Ridge won its first

Group 3 title, outrunning No. 8 North Hunterdon for the second time in three weeks, 65-87.

"We've been trying to improve all year," said Cedar Ridge coach Rich Gebauer. "The past two years we've come up just short. I don't know much better we can get than this."

Haddonfield, paced by third-place finisher Doug Marshall in 17:26, beat Riverside, 47-116, for its fourth Group 1 title in six years.

Kirk Earney of Haddon Township, a top-five finisher a year ago, won in 17:11.

BOYS' GROUP 4

TEAMS: 1-Toms River North 108, 2-Shawnee 129, 3-Holmdel 134, 4-Haddonfield South 169, 5-Ridgewood 188, 6-Hunterdon Central 227, 7-Newark East Side 229, 8-Westfield 270, 9-Manalapan 282, 10-Vineland 280, 11-Morristown 283, 12-Edison 288, 13-Versailles 311, 14-Meriden 314, 15-345-15-Hackensack 367, 16-Willingboro 369, 17-Kearny 422, 18-Rosbury 433, 19-Haddon Central 452, 20-Elizabeth 481.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Jerry Franks, Highland 16:54, 2-Jason Vigilante, Morristown 17:01, 3-Pat Hennigan, Brick 17:12, 4-Kelli O'Brien, Shawnee 17:13, 5-Rich Morris, Jackson 17:18, 6-Matt Jelley, Toms River North 17:20, 7-Jaaron Toffen, Lancaster, Shawnee 17:23, 8-Dan Harris, Morristown 17:25, 9-John DeRino, Elizabeth 17:25, 10-Chris Ambroy 17:30, 11-Ken Krpac, Manalapan 17:34, 12-Gilbert Farmer, Westfield 17:36, 13-Eric Boucher, Ridgewood 17:38, 14-Jason Douglas, Shawnee 17:39, 15-Edward Vozzola, North Bergen 17:39, 16-Nat Kelly, Toms River North 17:44, 18-Steve Mazur, Highland 17:47, 19-Joe Mastipogian, Toms River North 17:46, 20-Craig O'Brien, Middleton South 17:48.

BOYS' GROUP 1

TEAMS: 1-Cedar Ridge 65, 2-North Hunterdon 87, 3-Cedar Township 128, 4-Bridgeton 145, 5-Absegami 154, 6-Voorhees 189, 7-Eastern 201, 8-Morris Hills 211, 9-Aurora 218, 10-Monmouth Regional 241, 11-Phillipsburg 285, 12-Union Hill 305, 13-Sparta 318, 14-Mt. Olive 317, 15-Scotch City 383, 16-West Morris 388, 17-Scotch Plains 402, 18-Ramapo 406, 19-Hugh Point 416, 20-Rancocas Valley 461.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Brendan Heffernan, North Hunterdon 16:55, 2-Ray Beyer, Absegami 17:07, 3-Brian Harris, North Hunterdon 17:14, 4-Kevin Kenney, Kariton 17:17, 5-Ken Flynn, Ramsey 17:26, 6-Rich Cochrane, Wayne Valley 17:37, 7-Chad Beer, Morris Hills 17:35, 8-Sean Tucker, Cedar Ridge 17:37, 9-Tom McGeorge, Eastern 17:45, 10-Fred Wong, Cedar Ridge 17:47, 11-Jeremy Hamilton, Bridgeton 17:47, 12-Eugene Cox, Camden Wilson 17:48, 13-Robert Engliert, Cedar Ridge 17:50, 14-Sean Albert, Paramus 17:53, 15-Diane Mora, Cedar Ridge 17:53, 16-Frank Baldassaro, Ramapo 17:56, 17-Rob Reeder, Northern Highlands 17:57, 18-Tim Farrell, Ocean Township 17:58, 19-Patrick Redmond, North Hunterdon 17:58, 20-Pete Clavin, Scotch Plains 17:59.

BOYS' GROUP 2

TEAMS: 1-Asbury Park 40, 2-Holmdel 91, 3-Cinnaminson 131, 4-Somerville 188, 5-Millburn 188, 6-Delran 195, 7-Clearview 207, 8-Sterling 225, 9-Pascack Hills 251, 10-Hackettstown 262, 11-Rutherford 303, 12-Princeton 310, 13-Delesee 319, 14-Hopatcong 335, 15-Chatham 338, 16-Deleware Valley 355, 17-Summit 379, 18-Boonton 403, 19-River Dell 405, 20-Carfield 438.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Bryan Spoonire, Asbury Park 16:38, 2-Brian Walsh, Chatham 17:06, 3-Danmond Voyner, Asbury Park 17:14, 4-John Keevey, Cinnaminson 17:19, 5-Craig McDonald, Asbury Park 17:28, 6-Elliott Krichman, Millburn 17:47, 7-Chris Britton, Peas Grove 17:47, 8-Jon Clements, Somerville 17:55, 9-Frazer Sulpham, Somerville 18:05, 10-Eric Snelo, Clearview 18:07, 11-Tarik Spah, Holmdel 18:08, 12-Jason Lloyd, Penns Grove 18:09, 13-Chris West, North Plainfield 18:13, 14-Greg Kennel, Hackettstown 18:14, 15-Scott



Photo by Frank H. Conlon

Kirk Earney of Haddon Township heads for victory in Group 1 race at yesterday's State Group Championships at Holmdel Park

Johnson, Pascack Hills 18:15, 16-Jeri Kageel, Wood-Ridge 18:17, 17-Terence Faiga, Point Pleasant Boro 18:18, 18-Scott Mingo, Delran 18:21, 19-Yrasto Sorogah, Asbury Park 18:24, 20-Matt Fesley, Cinnaminson 18:24.

BOYS' GROUP 3

TEAMS: 1-Haddonfield 42, 2-Riverside 116, 3-Metuchen 125, 4-Henry Hudson 125, 5-Hippary Park 154, 6-Bound Brook 173, 7-Haddon Township 192, 8-Schallick 267, 9-Maule Shade 267, 10-Arts 279, 11-Electra 292, 12-Middlesex 311, 13-Saddle Brook 341, 14-Bogota 353, 15-Kinnelon 396, 16-Roselle Park 398, 17-Buher 409, 18-Scaucus 442, 19-Roswell Park 488.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Kirk Earney, Haddon Township 17:11, 2-Kevin Schilling, Pitman 17:20, 3-Doug Marshall, Haddonfield 17:26, 4-Ken Brock, Riverside 17:23, 5-Shawn Brown, Riverside 17:24, 6-Kevin Underwood, Haddonfield 17:49, 7-Kyle Alessi, Waldwick 17:51, 8-Ryan Grote, Bernards 17:52, 9-Kevin Brockhurst, Bound Brook 17:54, 10-Everette Grey, Arts 18:00, 11-Josh Kenna, Whippany Park 18:02, 12-Aaron Stock, Haddonfield 18:08, 13-Kevin McKee, Haddonfield 18:10, 14-Larry Weiss, Metuchen 18:20, 15-Jason Newcome, Paulsboro 18:21, 16-Vic Torreggiani, Henry Hudson 18:24, 17-Rob Block, Pitman 18:25, 18-Pete Grasso, Henry Hudson 18:26, 19-Ryan Linsky, Metuchen 18:37, 20-Ross Lefkowitz, Bernards 18:41.

BOYS' PAROCHIAL A

TEAMS: 1-Paul VI Haddon Township 39, 2-Christiah Brothers 55, 3-Notre Dame 130, 4-Bergen Catholic 133, 5-Patnam Catholic 151, 6-Red Bank Catholic and St. Joseph's (Metuchen) 161, 7-Baton Hall Prep 170, 8-Holy Cross 186, 10-Holy Spirit 278, 11-Don Bosco Prep 286, 12-St. Peter's Prep 402, 13-Camden Catholic 406, 14-Mgr Donovan 421, 15-St. John Vianney 427, 16-Immaculate 474, 17-Bishop Abr 524, 18-Essen Catholic 524, 19-Hulton Catholic 586.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Pete Dougherty, Paul VI 16:39, 2-J.R. Meloro, Bergen Catholic 17:05, 3-Matt Doherty, St. Joseph's (Metuchen) 17:05, 4-Marc McDonald, Christian Brothers 17:08, 5-Eric Baynes, Paul VI 17:11, 6-Chris Grosso, Christian Brothers 17:25, 7-Regan Ladic, Patnam Catholic 17:33, 8-Ron Capponigro, Paul VI 17:34, 9-Pat Campbell, Holy Cross 17:37, 10-Dave Ernel, Christian Brothers 17:38, 11-Doug Smith, Paul VI 17:43, 12-Svee Barado, Patnam Catholic 17:43, 13-Nicholas O'Connor, Seton Hall Prep 17:45, 14-Tom Keeter, Paul VI 17:49, 15-Daniel Velta, Red Bank Catholic 17:52, 16-Rich Corcoran, Christian Brothers 17:56, 17-Ed Walker, Holy Spirit 17:58, 18-Juan Luc Grandchamps, Seton Hall Prep 17:58, 19-Pa Doume, Christian Brothers 17:59, 20-Frank Innes, Paul VI 18:01.

BOYS' PAROCHIAL B

TEAMS: 1-Pingry 48, 2-St. Benedict's 70, 3-Sacred Heart 100, 4-St. Rose 113, 5-Bishop Eusebio 159, 6-Pope John 204, 7-Good Counsel 224, 8-Woodwood Catholic 229, 9-DePaul 245, 10-Water Del 261, 11-St. Augustine 273, 12-Eastern Christian 285, 13-St. Joseph (Hammon) 315, 14-St. James (Carneys Point) 353, 15-Don Bosco Tech 397, 16-Monclair Immaculate 426.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Nuno Santo, St. Benedict's 17:16, 2-Jason Polaha, Sacred Heart 17:17, 3-Tim Lear, Pingry 17:18, 4-Ron Kerstell, St. Augustine 17:22, 5-Rob Diemer, Pingry 17:43, 6-Ted Collins, Gloucester Catholic 17:54, 7-Jeff Mastrolly, St. Rose 17:56, 8-Mike Keating, Bishop Eusebio 17:59, 9-Mark Sikel, St. Joseph (Hammon) 18:04, 10-Chris Lear, Pingry 18:11, 11-Andrew Sluda, Pingry 18:24, 12-Mof Sutton, St. Benedict's 18:31, 13-Matt Polaha, Sacred Heart 18:35, 14-John Polaha, Sacred Heart 18:36, 15-John Dryer, St. Rose 18:38, 16-Jamie Kirela, St. Augustine 18:46, 17-Scott Guzzo, Pope John 18:47, 18-Jose Jurado, St. Benedict's 18:49, 19-Tom Townsend, St. Rose 18:51, 20-Matt Hoey, St. Benedict's 19:00.



Photo by Frank H. Conlon

They're off and running in Parochial portion of State Group Cross-Country Championships at yesterday