

Town of Amherst Championships

North boys, Amherst girls claim top honors

The Williamsville North boys and Amherst girls cross country teams continued its respective banner seasons by winning the Town of Amherst Championships last Friday at Sweet Home.

North won with a score of 21 followed by Sweet Home (65), Amherst (74), Williamsville East (94), and Williamsville South (117). The Amherst girls won with a score of 19 followed by Sweet Home (43), East (94), South (112), and North (incomplete).

The boys' meet was won by North's Mike Dobmeier in 15:59, who led the whole race. As a team, North took the championship for the third straight year, completely dominating the competition, taking five of the first seven places in the race.

Dobmeier, Sweet Home's Jacob Hagen (16:20), North's Chris Deptula (16:24) and Kurt Wende (16:36), Amherst's Matt Santariero (16:43), and North's Jon

Adler (16:58) all made All-Amherst first team.

Williamsville East's Rick Calzi (17:04), North's Steve Berus (17:09), Sweet Home's Alex Saez (17:17), Ryan Poley (17:20), Amherst's Eric Newton (17:26), Williamsville South's Dave Quinlan (17:28), and North's Dave Johnson (17:23) made second team honors.

"I thought it was our second best meet of the year," said North head coach Greg Stang. "I was elated at how well they ran. Carl Roesch Jr. said to me at the meet what exceptional times my team had, including a 1:01 between our first and fifth place finisher."

Practically all of the North boys' times decreased since last year's race. Geoff Hurley, who finished 20th with a time of 17:49, was 2:55 seconds faster. Deptula's time was a 1:36 faster, Adler's was a 1:02 faster, and Wende's and Berus's times were each 30 seconds better. Dobmeier's time was

five seconds faster.

In the girls' race, Mia Symoniak of Amherst led her team to victory by winning the race in 18:33. As in the boys' race, the winners had five of the first seven places in the race.

Symoniak was joined on the All-Amherst first team by teammate Arielle Januszkiewicz (18:42), Claire Wietig (19:19), Brenna Symoniak (19:30), and Sarah Lister (20:22) as well as Sweet Home's Megan Niblock (19:13) and Williamsville East's Katie Dylag (19:51).

Sweet Home's Kate Gambles (20:26), Lindsay Heron (20:31), Elyse Cramer (20:47), and Kristin Halter (21:19) were named to the All-Amherst second team as well as North's Kim Berus (21:11), Megan Flanigan (21:16), and Kayla Raybuck (21:40).

Williamsville South

Both the South boys' and girls' cross country teams lost both their dual meets this week to Starpoint and Iroquois, but continued their season-long individual improvement.

The boys lost 16-46 to Starpoint and 26-32 to Iroquois. Paul Mangold led the team, finishing fifth in 18:41. Dave Quinlan (8th, 19:10), Alex Podvezko (14th, 19:54), Kyle Townsend (21st, 21:10), and Josh Thomas (25th, 22:34) also contributed.

The South girls lost 19-39 to Starpoint and 19-41 to Iroquois. Rachel Crane led the team once again, finishing seventh in 24:07, followed closely by Tina Borden, who finished eighth in 24:12. Ann Kenna was 14th in 25:54, Leah Neumann was 18th in 27:19, and Haeban Lee was 20th in 28:50.

Ten of South's 11 athletes who competed at the Town of Amherst Championships ran personal record times at the meet.

Besides Quinlan's 13th place, Mangold was 16th in 17:35, Podvezko was 34th in 19:05, Townsend finished 36th in 19:08, and Thomas placed 43rd in 19:55.

Crane led the girls' team, as she has since the fourth meet of the season, finishing 15th in 21:55. Borden was close behind in 17th in 22:13. Kenna (25th, 23:21), Neumann (29th, 24:27), Lee (34th, 26:42), and Kate Pelczynski (39th, 36:57) also ran.

Williamsville North

Other Spartan finishes at the Town of Amherst Championships came from Jeff Nelson (21st, 17:52) and Andy Mikulski (27th, 18:33) for the boys and Dawn Lu (26th, 24:56) for the girls.



Chris Deptula of Williamsville North, left, is just ahead of Sweet Home's Jacob Hagen as they run in the woods at the Town of Amherst Championships boys' race. Hagen had the last laugh, beating Deptula by four seconds for second place overall. North won overall with a score of 21. Sweet Home was second with 65.

Photos by Patrick McPartland

The North boys improved to 7-0 in league with wins Oct. 18 over Orchard Park, 22-33, and Frontier, 20-38. The North girls lost 17-49 to Orchard Park and 22-41 against Frontier.

Dobmeier finished second in the boys' race with a 16:55. Deptula was fourth in 17:58. Wende (18:07), Adler (18:10), and Bauman (18:10) finished sixth-eighth place. Johnson was 14th in 18:58. Berus was 20th in 19:19. Hurley came in 25th in 19:35. Nelson was 27th in 19:44.

Kim Berus led the North girls

with a 12th place finish in 23:09. Flanigan (14th, 23:18), Raybuck (20th, 23:59), Lu (28th, 24:54), and Amber Jacumbski (30th, 27:21) rounded out the team.

North runs in ECIC Championships Saturday at Alden High School. Prior to this year, the North boys had never been 7-0 heading into ECICs. North hasn't won the race since 1975.

"It's a goal we have set for ourselves," said Stang. "If we run like we did at the Town of Amherst Championships, we're going to do exceptionally well."



Amherst Central's Mia Symoniak leads the pack at the Town of Amherst Championship Saturday at Sweet Home High School. Symoniak won the girls race in 18:33. Amherst won as a team with a score of 19.

Sports Brief

William Paul of West Amherst, Raymond Zygaj of East Amherst, and Richard Paul of Getzville are three of the Class of 2005 inductees into the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame.

The Class of '05 will be inducted at formal ceremonies at 6:30 p.m., Friday, November 11 at Woodlawn Fire Hall, 3281 Lake Shore Rd. The dinner will be catered by Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant.

Tickets are available by calling 675-3257 after 5 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person.

For more information, call Nancy Maloney at 824-0863 (days) and 675-3237 (evenings).