

Lakota runner's work pays off in Norm Bray Classic

.BY MATTHEW HORN
Sports writer

Lakota's Julia Windom would like to finish her season the way it started Saturday.

That's because Windom was the overall winner of the Division II and III race at 20 minutes, 22 seconds while Oak Harbor's girls cross country team was second with 62 points at the Norm Bray Classic.

Windom, who had not won a race since junior high, was aiming to finish faster than 20:30.

"With all the work I did this summer I wanted to have it pay off," said Windom, who ran almost every day in the preseason. "I was able to do what I trained for."

Windom said it was extra special to start her senior year with a confidence-boosting victory.

"It's exciting to win any race," she said.

"Winning Norm Bray and it being the first meet has me excited for the year. I'm excited to see where I can end this year, and I hope to end it as strong as I've started it."

Allie Dombrowsky was sixth, Tory Wood 11th, Allie Dresser 13th, Kia Frank 14th and Meg Wistinghausen 18th for the Rockets.

Oak Harbor was also second at the Upper Sandusky Invitational last week, giving the Rockets plenty of early-season success to build on.

"We're looking forward to the rest of

the season," Oak Harbor coach Gina Warnke said.

"There's a little tradition here — we've been first or second in the league or districts the last three or four years — and we'd like to keep up those standards."

Maumee won the event at 46.

Alexa Stults was second overall (20:47), Sam Hassen eighth, Katelynn Young 16th, Kristen Compliment 33rd and Kelley Miller 50th as Old Fort was fourth.

Lacy Nagy was seventh, Bailey Ulin-ski 17th, Shelby Cuevas 34th, Angelica McCoy 36th and Melissa Merrow 58th as Woodmore was seventh.

Leah Gabel was 31st, Amanda Babcock 59th, Amber Steiner 62nd and Melissa Guay 64th as the Raiders finished ninth.

Danielle Molyet was 30th, Paige Kleinschmit 39th, BriAnna Fisher 49th, Sam Heishman 54th and Zenaida Frew 60th as St. Joseph Central Catholic was 10th.

ROSS EIGHTH

Lauren Ickes was 24th, Paige Wiechman 28th, Amy Yuhas 54th, Abriann McConnell 58th and Kristina Treece 63rd as Ross was eighth in the Division I girls race.

Perrysburg's Kaitlyn Llewellyn was the individual winner at 19:57 while Notre Dame Academy won as a team.

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Little Giants'Esparza places 3rd in D-1

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Fremont Ross's Kristopher Esparza was third overall in the Division I boys race at 17:06.

Steve Graver finished first at 16:37 as Central Catholic won with 30 points.

Andy Leemaster was fifth, Devaun Churcha 30th, Tony Rodriguez 34th and Justin Schaffer 40th as the Little Giants were fifth.

GIBSONBURG SECOND

Elias Dandar was sixth, Kendall Bates 18th, Josh Tornow 21st, Jordan Rosenberger 24th and Holden Sondergeld 26th as Gibsonburg was second in the boys Division II-III race with 95 points.

Tiffin Columbian won at 84 while Lake's Zack Powell was the individual winner at 17:03.

Tyler Eoff finished seventh, Adam Smercina ninth, Thomas Rhodes 28th, Aaron Riechman 29th and Cadan Goldstein 30th as Oak Harbor was fourth.

Hunter Hepler was eighth, Austin Utendorf 13th, Kaleb Perez 23rd, Chris Hines 43rd and Aaron Brown 56th as Woodmore finished sixth.

Jeremiah Ortiz was 11th, Zach Alexander 16th, Nathan Alexander 32nd, Tom Gillmor 40th and Cody Garn 55th as Old Fort was seventh.

Kyle Babcock was fourth, Seth Benfer 14th, Austin Garber 42nd, Zac Baker 45th and Brock Tiell 54th as Lakota was eighth.

David Wasson was 25th, Jordan Adams 46th, Matt Meyer 48th, Alex Partyka 65th and Scott Snodgrass 66th as the Crimson Streaks finished 10th.

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GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Norm Bray Division I

■ **Site:** Walsh Park, Fremont.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Notre Dame Academy 35, 2. Perrysburg 54, 3. Central Catholic 101, 4. Bowling Green 113, 5. Toledo Christian 123, 6. Whitmer 134, 7. Springfield 209, 8. Ross 214, 9. Start 238.

■ **Ross:** 28. Paige Wiechman (R) 23:08.87, 54. Amy Yuhas (R) 25:56.79, 58. Abriann McConnell (R) 26:29.68, 63. Kristina Treece (R) 26:42.60.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Norm Bray Division I

■ **Site:** Walsh Park, Fremont.

■ **Team Scores:** 1. Central Catholic 30, 2. Bowling Green 70, 3. Perrysburg 73, 4. Maumee 101, 5. Fremont Ross 112, 6. Sandusky 152, 7. Whitmer 175, 8. Springfield 233.

■ **Ross:** 3. Kristopher Esparza (Ross) 17:06.82, 5. Andy Leemaster (Ross) 17:31.12, 30. Devaun Churcha (Ross) 18:55.18, 34. Tony Rodriguez (Ross) 19:15.70, 40. Justin Schaffer (Ross) 19:34.69, 41. Tom Hohman (Ross) 19:37.65, 43. Brandyn O'Connell (Ross) 19:56.15, 49. Logan Johnson (Ross) 21:09.52, 54. Jacob Berryman (Ross) 21:51.82, 55. Alex House (Ross) 21:52.97, 60. Eric Yuhas (Ross) 23:58.98, 61. Chris Swint (Ross) 24:21.60, 62. Daniel Leemaster (Ross) 24:35.40.