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## Northville boys cross country notches perfect score at Bob Brown Invite

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The Northville boys cross country team after recording a perfect game at the Bob Brown Invite. (Photo: Jonathan Dalton | Special to Hometownlife.com)

The Northville Mustangs boys cross country team ran wild at the Bob Brown Invite in East Lansing, notching a first-place finish with a perfect score.

The Mustangs took the first 11 places in the 16-team, 5,000-meter race. Their 15-point tally defeated second place Okemos, who recorded 54 points. Holt finished third with 144.

"The team performed great," Northville junior runner Zack Helner said. "We worked together on the course and worked well off of each other."

Helner broke the tape in 16 minutes, 54.2 seconds, edging runner-up and fellow classmate Matt Krahe, with both runners marking career-best times. Krahe finished in 16:54.9.

"Our boys up front worked really well together all throughout the race," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "The guys knew they had a good opportunity in front of them, and from top to bottom, we ran well."

Chris Martin was next across the finish line with a time of 17:02. Alex Beloiu (4th, 17:13) and Max Uphaus (5th, 17:19) closed Northville's scoring.

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"Matt (Krahe) led our group for the first mile," Helner said. "Chris Martin led us for the second mile, and for the last mile Matt and I kept pushing the pace as fast as we could."

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In the freshman race, Northville's Brock Malaikal was the individual winner with a career-best time of 17 minutes, 32 seconds. His first-place finish led the Mustangs to top of the team standings in the eight-team race. Scoring 34 points, Northville bested East Lansing (73) and Okemos (80).

Max Potrzeba (3rd, 17:47) was the next Mustang finisher, followed by David Whitaker (6th, 18:10), Raunak Chattopadhyay (10th, 18:35) and Michael Hanes (14th, 18:55).

The Bob Brown Invite, named for the long time East Lansing track and field and cross country coach, is a meaningful event for long time Northville track and field and now boys cross country assistant coach Tom Brown, Bob's younger brother.

"It was nice to go up there and see my older brother honored," Tom Brown said. "He coached a lot of kids through the years and was good at working with them individually and as a team."

The Northville boys cross country team will next compete at the KLAA conference championship Thursday at Huron Meadows Metropark.

*Reach Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com), 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).*