

Northville cross country posts strong finish in MHSAA state race

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The Northville girls cross-country team finished in sixth place at the Division 2 state finals. (Photo: Nancy Smith)

The Northville girls cross-country team finished in sixth place at the MHSAA Division 1 state final with a score of 231. The Mustangs finished two spots ahead of the eighth-place finish they had in the state final in 2018.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won the state title with a team score of 80.

Junior Yasmine Mansi led Northville with a 19th-place finish in 18:26.8, earning an All-State title. Junior Emily Gordon finished just outside of the top-30 with a 18:59.4 finish.

Junior Keira Courtney (89th in 19:40.4), freshman Onivas Tupa (101st on 19:47.8), senior Olivia Masse (121st in 20:01), sophomore Gina Couyoumjian (137th in 20:08.8) and sophomore Jennie Line (142nd in 20:09.6) rounded off the top-7 for the Mustangs.

"The girls ran well but we were a little off today with our splits and we had a pack but it was a little too far back," Northville head coach Nancy Smith said. "This group is young and so talented and they just haven't been able to put it all together in one day."

With Masse as the only senior on the roster, Northville will return the majority of its roster next season.

"With the experience they gained today we are hoping that we can build on that and make a run at it again next season," Smith said.

Northville boys cross country finishes 19th



Josh Morrissey led Northville to a 19th place finish in the MHSAA Division 1 boys cross-country meet (Photo: Mark McCaslin)

The Northville boys cross country team ran to a 19th-place finish in the MHSAA boys cross-country Division 1 state championship at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Brighton, who was favored entering the meet, scored 136 points en route to winning its third state title in school history and first since 1995.

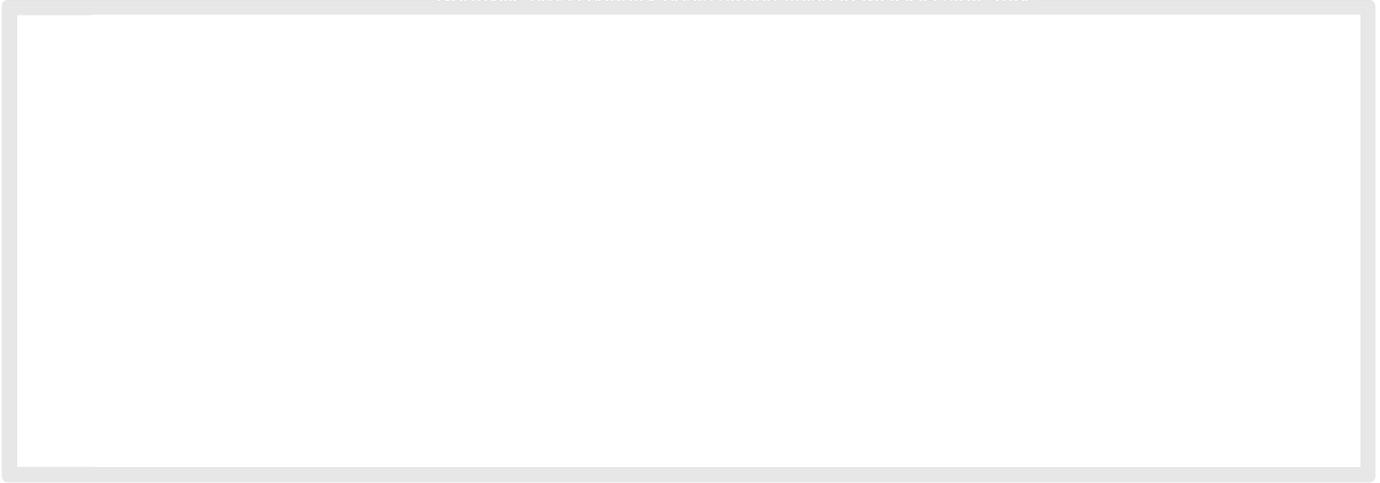
Dexter finished runner-up with 154, and Saline (188), Clarkston (188), and Traverse City Central (207) rounded out the top five. Northville scored 472.

"I thought we would be in the thick of things, placing in the mid-teens," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "I'm pleased with how the boys competed all season long."

Plymouth senior Carter Solomon, last year's individual runner-up, won the five-kilometer race in 15 minutes, 1.2 seconds. Senior Josh Morrissey was Northville's top finisher, placing 107th in 16:41.4.

"Josh has been steady and consistent for us all season long," Dalton said. "He's really come a long way from where he was as a freshman. He didn't come into high school being a superstar, but he's bought in to the program, worked hard and developed over time into a very good high school cross-country runner. It's rewarding to watch athletes like him develop as runners and competitors and grow into young adults."

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Junior Jacob Meek (131st, 16:54.4), sophomore Brian McCallum (139th, 16:57.5), junior Nathan Hayes (152nd, 17:02.0) and senior Ben Steinig (173rd, 17:10.4) also scored for the Mustangs.

“Brian has come on strong in the last few weeks,” Dalton said.

Also finishing for Northville were junior Matt Krahe (181st, 17:13.0), senior Josh Hardy (223rd, 17:55.6).

“Our philosophy all season was ‘next man up,’ meaning any one of us could exceed expectations at any race,” Morrisey said. “We became a selfless team knowing we had to rely on each other.”

The Mustangs lose a number of varsity athletes to graduation, but the cupboards are far from bare. Junior Sean McKee, who missed this season with a foot injury, will bolster Northville’s roster next year.

“We’ve got a couple of freshmen and some other underclassmen that have shown a lot of promise,” Dalton said. “I expect us to again have a competitive team next fall.”

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