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Skiing

Harbor Springs girls just edge TC Central in area opening ski invite

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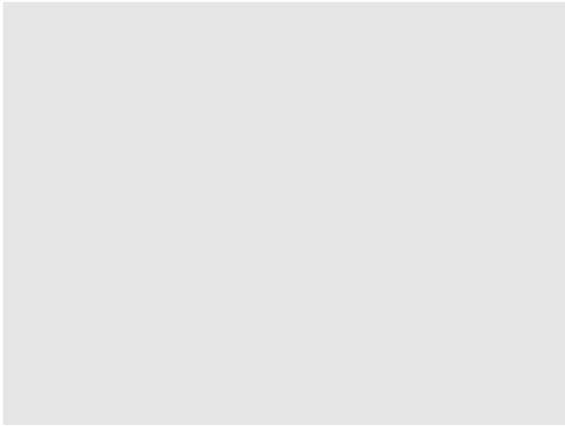
Harbor Springs' Mackenzie Gillette broke through with two second place runs in giant slalom for a second place overall finish in the race.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

HARBOR SPRINGS — First impressions go a long way at leaving a good impression.

After Wednesday, area ski teams know to look out for Harbor Springs' girls on the hill this season, as they came out with an impressive first place performance in the annual Petoskey-Harbor Invite at Boyne Highlands Resort.

The Rams not only beat out Division 2 foe Petoskey, but also edged Division 1 power, Traverse City Central, with five top 10 runs on the day.



Petoskey's Lauren Rothman approaches a gate in the slalom race, where she placed fifth overall. She also won the giant slalom race.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

Harbor Springs fell behind just a bit in the morning slalom race, but some big performances in the afternoon giant slalom race led to the Rams edging out Central by a 70 to 74 score.

Petoskey also placed third overall with a score of 111, with some new, young racers really coming through with impressive times for head coach Erik Lundteigen.

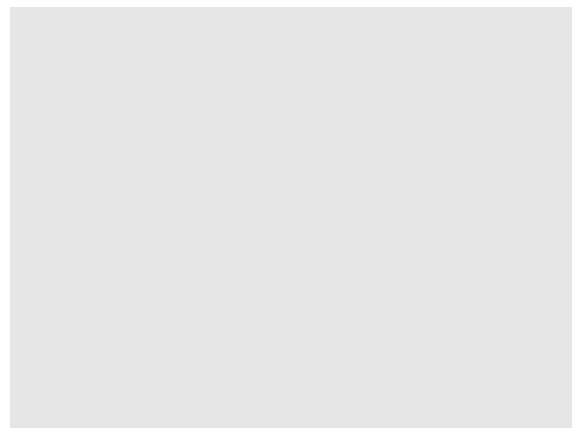
"I'm very, very proud of our girls," he said. "That's a great start. We've got some young girls that are new to high school skiing and there's a learning process involved. I really like the attitude involved and we've got a good mix. Seniors providing leadership and some young skiers."

In the morning slalom race, Gaylord's Reagan Olli earned a first place overall finish with two first place runs down the hill, earning a combined time of one minute, 20.69 seconds.

Harbor's Frannie Kelbel led for area racers with a fourth place finish in 1:26.75, followed by teammate Mackenzie Gillette in 10th place in 1:31.58.

Bri Goldsmith of Harbor also placed 13th (1:34.14) and Katelyn Drayer took 17th (1:35.68).

For Petoskey, Lauren Rothman placed fifth in 1:27.54 to lead for the Northmen in slalom, Olivia Nemec took 18th (1:36.70), Emma Armstrong took 19th (1:37.10) and Allison Goelz placed 26th (1:40.53).



Maddi Mays also took 33rd for Petoskey (1:46.07).

Petoskey's Olivia Nemec races down the hill during the morning slalom race at Boyne Highlands.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

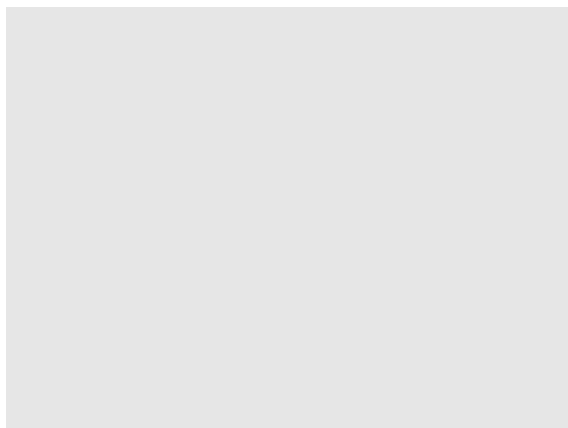
Petoskey's B-team also was led by Anna Armstrong in 27th (1:40.98), Emma Lohela took 30th and Delaney Blint placed 35th.

For Charlevoix, Kate Klinger took seventh in 1:30.05 to start off her season, Megan Scholten placed 36th (1:57.26), Abby Beaudoin took 45th and Delaney Boehm took 50th.

Boyne City was led by Taylor Stockwell in 21st place with a time of 1:38.09, Emily Bergman placed 32nd (1:45.66) and Lilly Byra and Stell Grandy took 38th (1:58.06) and 46th (2:08.57), respectively.

In the afternoon giant slalom race, Petoskey's Rothman shot up to a first place overall finish in the race to lead the team.

Mackenzie Gillette then placed second for Harbor Springs (1:10.29), Kelbel took third (1:10.44) and Klinger placed fourth (1:11.11).



Charlevoix's Kate Klinger stood out once again on Wednesday, finishing third in giant slalom and seventh in slalom.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

Goldsmith also earned a seventh place finish (1:11.86), Makayla Gillette placed 14th (1:13.70) and Drayer took 22nd (1:15.83).

Nemec followed Rothman with a ninth place finish in 1:12.99, Emma Armstrong took 15th in 1:14.52 and Whitener took 18th (1:14.89).

Goetz also placed 31st in 1:18.25 and Mays took 35th (1:19.40).

From the Petoskey B-team, Anna Armstrong led again in 21st (1:15.78), Emma Lohela took 30th (1:17.97) and Gretchen Woodbury took 36th (1:20.33).

Scholten followed Klinger for Charlevoix in 37th in 1:20.57 and Maxy Fuchs took 42nd (1:24.77).

Stockwell also led Boyne City with an 18th place finish in 1:15.13, Bergman placed 34th (1:18.83) and Grandy took 43rd (1:26.43).

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Drew Kochanny is the sports editor of the Petoskey News-Review. He is a native of Midland, MI, though was born in Petoskey. He graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Electronic Journalism.