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Skiing

## Petoskey boys open BNC ski racing with a victory, girls place third

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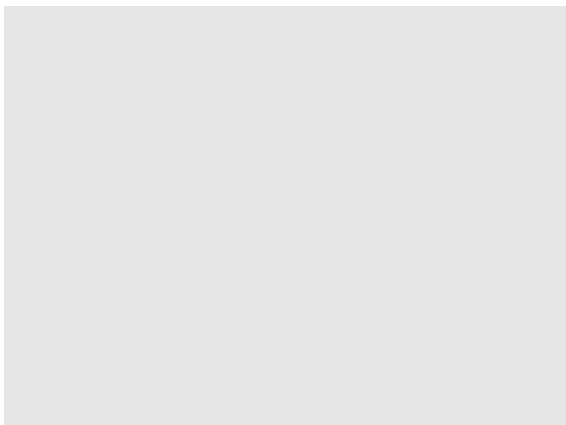
Petoskey's Tripp Thomas placed third overall in the slalom event during the opener BNC race of the season.

File Photo

THOMPSONVILLE — While last week's Petoskey-Harbor Invite served as a great way for the Petoskey High School ski teams to open against area and league foes, it didn't count for a whole lot.

On Monday, Petoskey's ski teams got to work on earning a Big North Conference championship, with the league's first official race of the season.

Looking to defend their Big North crown for yet another year, the Petoskey boys got off to a good start with a 41-53 win over Traverse City West.



Petoskey's Jimmy Flom led the way in the giant slalom race with a second place finish, which included a first run of 22.56.

File Photo

Traverse City Central also placed third on the boys side with 84, followed by Cadillac (137) and Gaylord (159).

For the girls, Central ran away with the win with 38 points and was followed by Petoskey, 80; TC West, 86; Cadillac, 132; and Gaylord, 142.

In the boys giant slalom race, Petoskey earned a 20-point victory, with all four racers finishing inside the top 10.

Traverse City West then followed with 31 points, thanks to a first-place finish from Aiden Lewandowski in 44.78 seconds

Petoskey's Jimmy Flom placed second in 44.84 seconds, Anders McCarthy had a third-place time of 45.34 and Nolan Walkerdine raced a time of 45.68. Will Goelz also had a time of 46.48, good for 10th.

Gabe Rothman then placed 12th for Petoskey in 47.05 seconds and Tripp Thomas placed 21st in 51.90. After a hiccup on his first run, he recovered with a second-place round-two run.

It was Lewandowski of West who again placed first in the afternoon slalom race, with his time of 56.29 seconds just edging out Flom's time of 57.70 once again.

Petoskey's team, however, came through with a 21-22 point advantage over West in the slalom race.

Thomas finished with a third-place time of 58.51 seconds McCarthy placed fifth overall in 1:00.21 and Walkerdine earned an 11th-place time of 1:05.52.

Connor Mailloux then placed 14th in 1:06.73 and Rothman took 23rd in 1:23.05.

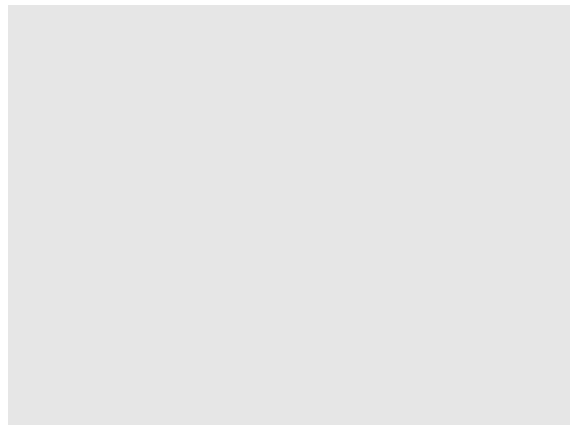
On the girls side of the race, Central got off to a good start in the morning slalom with a 20-38 win over West, with Petoskey then placing third with 42 points.

Gaylord's Reagan Olli swept both runs for a first-place finish in 59.12 seconds, as the only girl racer under a minute in the event.

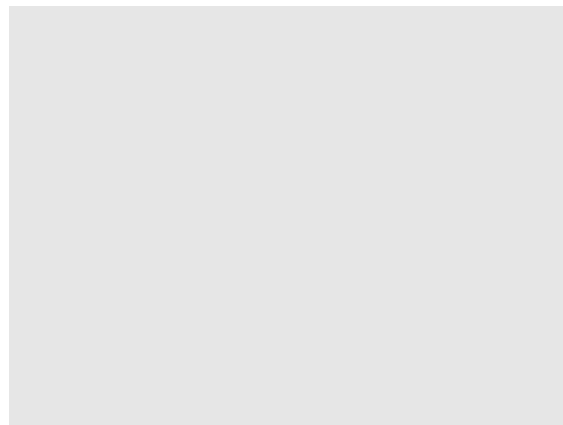
Lauren Rothman of Petoskey had a fifth-place time of 1:04.10, Emma Armstrong placed 10th in 1:09.42, Allison Goelz placed 13th in 1:12.15 and Olivia Nemeč took 14th in 1:13.16.

Anna Armstrong also took 15th for Petoskey in a time just behind Nemeč in 1:13.92, while Cassidy Whitener placed 22nd in 1:24.37.

Petoskey made up some ground in the afternoon giant slalom race, as Rothman blazed the completion with a first-place finish. Central still earned the 18-38 win, though, placing five racers inside the top seven.



Petoskey's Allison Goelz jumped up to nearly a top 10 finish in the slalom, where she finished 13th overall.



Northman skier Emma Armstrong earned a top-10 finish in the slalom race on Monday at Crystal Mountain.

File Photo

Rothman's time came in at 45.73 seconds, beating out West's Ava Warren by a second.

Emma Armstrong also took 11th in 49.79 seconds, Nemeč took 12th in 50.61 and Anna Armstrong placed 14th in 51.23 seconds. Whitener took 15th overall as well in 51.69 seconds.

File Photo

With one BNC win under their belt on the boys' side, the Northmen ski team will get a week off to practice on the hill before returning to competition on Monday, Jan. 27 at Schuss Mountain, which will also come as a Big North race.

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## Drew Kochanny

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.