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Skiing

## Petoskey boys claim BNC ski title with season sweep

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Petoskey's Anders McCarthy led the Northmen in both races to complete the BNC boys sweep title on Tuesday.

File Photo

CADILLAC — A year ago, the challenge for Big North Conference teams was just actually finding hill time to compete, with all but one league race cancelled before the finals in late February.

This year, the challenge came in keeping up with the Petoskey boys, which no team proved capable of as the BNC season wrapped up on Tuesday at Caberfae in Cadillac.

As the Northmen go for a season sweep of titles – conference, regional and state – the boys completed step two on Tuesday with a BNC crown following last week's regional title.

Petoskey's boys placed first overall with 45 points in the final league race, which made for a season sweep of league events.

West took second with 61.5 in Tuesday's championships and Central took third with 90 points.

On the girls side, Traverse City Central dominated and earned a league crown with a 43-point finish, with the next placing team TC West with 101. Gaylord placed third with 107 and Petoskey took fourth with 114.

In the boys giant slalom race in the morning, Petoskey placed four inside the top 10 to get to a team-best 23 points. West placed second with 38.5, followed by Central's 40.5 points.

West's Aiden Lewandowski led the race with a first place run of 43.95 seconds, led by a second run that came as the fastest on the day in 21.70 seconds.

Anders McCarthy of Petoskey placed second in 44.44 seconds, Tripp Thomas took fourth place in 45.21 seconds, Will Goelz earned an eighth place time of 45.49 seconds and Nolan Walkerdine placed ninth in 45.63 seconds.

Jimmy Flom of Petoskey earned a first place time of 22.17 seconds on his first run, then had to overcome a stumble to place 14th overall in 46.07 seconds. Wyatt Mattson also earned 16th in 46.23 seconds.

In slalom, Petoskey led the way with 22 points, but came followed close by West's 23 points and another first place finish from Lewandowski in 43.33 seconds.

McCarthy placed second with a 43.87 total, Thomas took third overall with a 44.03 finish, Goelz earned seventh in 46.67 seconds and Gabe Rothman placed 10th in 47.58 seconds.

Flom also took 11th in 48.05 and Walkerdine placed 13th in 48.33.



Petoskey's Cassidy Whitener stayed consistent in both slalom and giant slalom races during the final BNC race on Tuesday.

File Photo

Petoskey's girls placed fourth overall in the morning slalom event, seeing to overcome some tough trips down the hill from a collection of seniors.

Petoskey had just three girls complete the varsity race.

Central placed first with 19 points, as all six racers placed within the top nine. West took

second with 44 and Gaylord earned a third place 49-point finish.

Reagan Olli of Gaylord kept her standout season going with two first place runs and a first place time of 45.67 seconds.

For Petoskey, Cassidy Whitener led in 11th place in 51.30 seconds, Allison Goelz placed 13th in 53.21 and Olivia Nemec took 14th in 53.50 seconds.

Petoskey had a major rebound in the girls giant slalom race in the afternoon, though Central still placed first with 24 points. The Northmen, led by Lauren Rothman, jumped up to second place with 46 points, edging out West's 57 points.

Olli again placed first in 44.01 seconds, while Petoskey's Rothman jumped up to a third place overall finish in 45.51 seconds.

Whitener also took 12th in 47.02, Emma Armstrong placed 14th in 47.46 seconds and Nemeč took 17th in 48.44 seconds.

Anna Armstrong also placed 18th in 48.48 seconds and Goelz placed 20th in 48.86 seconds.

The next race for both the boys and girls teams will come as the Division 2 skiing state finals at Nub's Nob on Monday, Feb. 24. Petoskey's boys will try to start a new streak after an eight-year stretch of titles ended last season.

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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.