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Skiing

## Northmen boys skiing takes another BNC race ahead of Monday regional

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Petoskey's Anders McCarthy earned two top-five finishes in Thursday's BNC race.

File Photo

BOYNE FALLS — The regional may be just around the corner for the Petoskey boys' ski team, though focus for the Northmen was solely on a Big North Conference race on Thursday at Boyne Mountain.

That was more than clear with a simple glance at the Petoskey boys' final results, as they dominated both the giant slalom and slalom races for the overall win.



Petoskey's Wyatt Mattson earned two top-10 finishes in the Boyne Mountain BNC race.

File Photo

sweeping the top three of the race.

"We had a really good day," Petoskey coach Erik Lundteigen said.

"Slalom we were first, second and third and then sixth. It went really well."

Petoskey's Tripp Thomas earned the first place finish in the slalom with a 1:00.31 time, with both of his runs being top both times down the hill.

"Tripp has been getting more consistent," said Lundteigen. "He's always been freaky fast, and what has been good for him is he's starting to ski within his ability."

Behind Thomas, Anders McCarthy took second in 1:02.08, Jimmy Flom took third in 1:02.69 and Will Goelz placed sixth in 1:05.50.

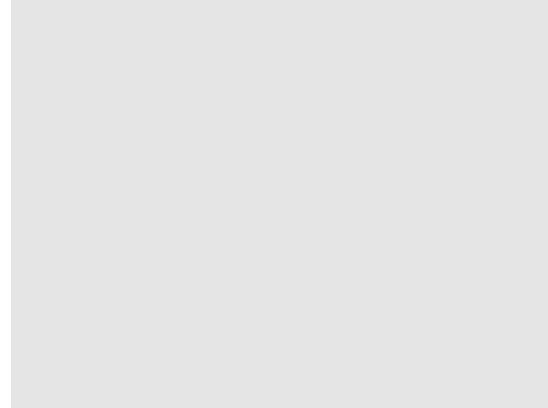
Also for Petoskey, Gabe Rothman placed seventh (1:06.58), Wyatt Mattson placed eighth (1:07.23), Connor Mailloux took 12th (1:09.69) and Michael Iverson took 14th (1:09.96). Nolan Walkerdine also placed 18th (1:11.41).

Traverse City West took second on the boys side, while TC Central placed third.

For the girls, Central earned the win with West and Petoskey both following behind.

In the afternoon slalom event, Petoskey's boys placed six inside the top 10, while

In the giant slalom race, Thomas once again took the top spot with a first place time of 49.87 seconds. McCarthy also took second in 49.94, making for the only racers below 50 seconds both on Petoskey's team.



Petoskey's Olivia Nemeč earned two top-20 finishes during the BNC race on Thursday.

File Photo

Mattson also took sixth in 50.51, Walkerdine placed seventh in 50.55 and Rothman took 13th in 51.49.

Mailloux also took 19th (52.83) and Nate Thomas took 21st (52.96).

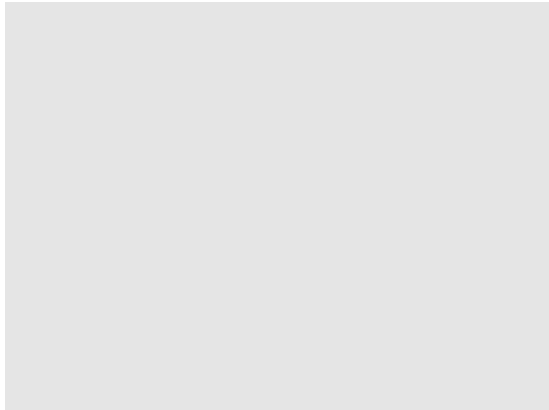
On the girls side of the race, Petoskey was still without a top skier, though had some respectable finishes for a young team.

"We're out our best skier, Lauren Rothman," said Lundteigen. "We're hoping to get her back for the regionals. getting her back will certainly help. In the meantime, the girls are getting good experience."

Petoskey's Cassidy Whitener led in the slalom race for Petoskey, finishing in 12th place in 1:15.26, while Allison Goelz placed 15th in 1:17.11 and Emma Armstrong took 16th in 1:17.53.

Olivia Nemeč also placed 19th (1:18.79), Anna Armstrong took 22nd (1:20.38) and Emma Lohela took 28th (1:27.02).

In the giant slalom race, Emma Armstrong placed 13th in 53.19, Goelz took 15th in 53.48, Nemeč took 16th in 53.55 and Anna Armstrong took 18th in 54.46.



Petoskey's Cassidy Whitener led in the slalom race with a 12th-place finish.

File Photo

Whitener also placed 19th (54.62), Lohela placed 32nd (59.45) and Reagan Walsh placed 33rd (1:00.26).

Petoskey's focus can officially shift to the regional race now, which was moved from Marquette to Schuss Mountain in Bellaire, a place the Northmen know well and raced

some tough snow just a couple weeks back.

"Schuss, we had a race there two weeks ago and the conditions weren't the greatest," said Lundteigen. "But, it's gotten colder since so the snow should be a lot better."

Nerves of course come with a regional — with only the top three teams and a handful of individuals reaching the state finals — though Lundteigen believes it's all about just skiing within themselves.

"Having all of our racers ski within their ability," said Lundteigen on the key. "If we do that, we qualify, then pick it up at the state finals. If we make too many mistakes, then we potentially won't make it to the finals.

"We're looking forward to it. We've got another day of practice tomorrow and then we're at it come Monday morning."

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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.

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