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Skiing

Northmen boys claim D2 ski regional title, Rams take second for finals trip

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Tripp Thomas of Petoskey earned an individual regional crown in the slalom and helped lead the PHS boys to an overall title.

File Photo

BELLAIRE — A lesson on just how tough it truly is to not only win the state finals, but also make the skiing state finals, came for the Petoskey boys' ski team last season.

Wins eluded the Northmen in both the regional and state final events last season and they headed into 2020 looking to change that.

After Monday, the first part of that plan is accomplished and second part well in sight.

Though it came far from easy, the Petoskey boys returned to the top of the regional with a 67-point finish at Monday's Division 2 regional race at Schuss Mountain in Bellaire, which just bested Harbor Springs' 82 and the Great North Alpine's 86 for the win.

The top three teams advance to the state finals from the regional race. The top 10 individuals in each event, or the top four individuals not on a qualifying team, whichever number is greater, also advance to the state finals.



Harbor Springs' Andrew Truman placed second and fifth between the two regional races on Monday.

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After earning eight straight state titles from 2011 to 2018, Petoskey's boys will be looking to get back on top after the Great North Alpine team knocked them into a runner-up finish in 2019.

In the morning giant slalom race, Petoskey essentially doubled up the competition

with a 22 to 42 advantage over Harbor Springs.

GNA also took third with 49 points in the race.

Houghton's Reed Heathman was the individual regional champion with a first place time of 48.88 seconds, while Harbor Springs' Andrew Truman just edged to Tripp Thomas of Petoskey for the second place spot.

Truman took second in 49.50 seconds and Thomas' time came in at 49.84 seconds.

Also for Petoskey, Anders McCarthy took fourth in 49.91, Jimmy Flom placed fifth in 50.07 seconds and Nolan Walkerdine placed 10th in 51.42. Wyatt Mattson of Petoskey also placed 13th in 52.13 seconds.

For Harbor Springs, Connor Truman followed up his brother with an eighth place finish in 51.29 seconds, Cole Hoffman placed 14th in 52.39 second and Austin Smar took 18th in 53.18 seconds.

Harbor's Robbie Gillette also placed 22nd and Luke Baker took 23rd for the Rams.

Leading for Charlevoix was Jack Herzog in 24th with a time of 54.07, Jed Turcott placed 25th in 54.13 seconds, Jack Bemis took 30th in 55.11 and Phillip Sterrett took 36th in 56.64. Garrett Bemis also place 42nd.

It's a good thing for Petoskey that the giant slalom win came with as wide of a margin as it did, as things got a bit hairy in the afternoon slalom.

GNA earned the overall win with 37 points and Harbor Springs placed third with 40, while Petoskey was able to overcome some bobbles for a respectable 45-point third place finish.



Charlevoix's Jake Snyder placed 12th overall in the slalom race to earn a ticket to the D2 state finals.

A big part of Petoskey still

File Photo

managing 45 points was

Thomas' first place overall finish with a time of 1:06.43, which came on two first place runs.

Walkerdine placed 10th in 1:14.15, Rothman placed 11th in 1:14.67 and Flom took 23rd in 1:19.83. Goelz also placed 34th and McCarthy came in 39th.

For Harbor, Andrew Truman led again in fifth place with a time of 1:09.99, Connor Truman placed eighth in 1:11.76, Hoffman took ninth in 1:13.03 and Smar took 18th in 1:17.41.

Gillette also took 20th and Ian Davis placed 28th.

For Charlevoix, Jake Snyder overcame a DNF in slalom in a big way, by earning a state finals trip with a 12th place finish in 1:15.86.

Also for Charlevoix, Herzog took 21st in 1:18.82, Jack Bemis placed 26th in 1:20.70, Sterrett placed 30th in 1:21.78 and Garrett Bemis placed 39th.

The MHSAA Division 2 skiing state championships will take place on Monday, Feb. 24 at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs this season, which also comes as the home hill for Petoskey.

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