

https://www.petoskeynews.com/sports/harbor-petoskey-girls-can-t-unseat-nd-prep-in-d/article_3bf9bb7c-9300-51ed-b010-1f423d652797.html

Skiing

Harbor, Petoskey girls can't unseat ND Prep in D2 ski finals

Drew Kochanny (231) 439-9345 dkochanny@petoskeynews.com
Feb 24, 2020



Harbor Springs' Frannie Kelbel hits the final slalom gate during the morning race, which she placed fourth in.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

HARBOR SPRINGS — For the first time in just over 16 years, there's a repeat girls skiing champion in Division 2.

And it's not one of the two giants of Emmet county.

When the Division 2 state championships closed at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs on Monday evening, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep stood atop the podium for a second straight year, while Harbor Springs

earned runner-up.

ND Prep finished with a team-best 56 points, besting Harbor Springs' 114.5 and Petoskey's 116 overall.



Petoskey's Lauren Rothman makes contact with a double slalom gate in the morning race.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

“Really proud of the girls,” Petoskey coach Erik Lundteigen said. “They were only 1.5 points from second place. We had a really good mix this year. Some good seniors with Emma (Armstrong) and Anna (Armstrong) and then Lauren Rothman in the middle as a sophomore. Then some great freshmen.

“They came together well and we’ve had some really good practices. It’s been a really good year and I’ve seen some nice improvement, which is

what you of course want.”

The consecutive titles also follow back-to-back runner-up finishes by ND Prep in 2017 and 2018.

The last team to win consecutive titles on the girls side was Harbor Springs, when the Rams won five straight from 2000 to 2004.

The Fighting Irish built a strong lead in the morning slalom race with a wide-margin win, then only strengthened it in the afternoon giant slalom.

Harbor and Petoskey followed things up in both races.

Reagan Olli of Gaylord claimed the individual state championship in slalom with a narrow finish over Megan Paasche of Northview. Olli's time came in at 1:12.36, just a few tenths of a second better than Paasche.

Harbor Springs' Frannie Kelbel led the Rams with a fourth place finish in the slalom race with a time of 1:15.20, while teammate Makayla Gillette placed 20th in 1:24.53.



The Harbor Springs ski teams both had quite a bit to cheer about at the Division 2 state finals at Nub's Nob, with both the boys and girls claiming runner-up state finishes.

Courtesy Photo

Bri Goldsmith took 22nd for the Rams in 1:25.02, Katelyn Drayer placed 26th in 1:26.99 and Jordan Drayer took 39th in 1:30.90.

Mackenzie Gillette also took 53 in 1:41.72 after an opening run bobble.

For Petoskey, Cassidy Whitener, only a freshman, led with a second

team All-State finish of ninth place in 1:20.18.

Lauren Rothman then took 13th in 1:21.27, Olivia Nemec took 23rd in 1:25.04, Allison Goelz placed 27th in 1:27.25 and Anna Armstrong took 32nd in 1:28.01.

Emma Armstrong also earned a 52nd place finish after missing a gate on the opening run, giving her a time of 1:39.16.

Charlevoix's Kate Klinger, racing as an individual in the slalom, also placed eighth overall with a time of 1:20.05, which gives her second team All-State honors.



Charlevoix's Kate Klinger comes up on the end of the slalom race, which eventually came with an eighth place finish for Klinger.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

In the giant slalom race following a lunch break, another close finish for the individual state title came between Paasche and Olli.

Northview's Paasche claimed the spot this time over Olli in a 52.90 to 52.95 finish.

Kelbel again finished with a top 10 place for the Rams in eighth at 55.08 seconds, Goldsmith placed 16th in 55.73, Mackenzie Gillette placed 22nd in 56.49 and Makayla Gillette took 28th in 57.23 seconds.

Balistreri Bella of Harbor also took 33rd in 57.89 and Jordan Drayer took 38th in 58.27.

Leading for Petoskey was Rothman and Whitener again, only this time the two traded spots, with Rothman inside the top 10 and Whitener just outside.



Petoskey's Cassidy Whitener capped off a standout freshman season with a top 10 finish in the slalom race.

Drew Kochanny/News-Review

“Cassidy, she’s come on late in the year and Lauren is skiing on a bad ankle,” said Lundteigen. “She’s a tough cookie. She twisted her ankle about two weeks ago, so I give her a lot of credit for toughening it out.”

Rothman placed seventh in 54.38 seconds, Whitener placed 19th in 56.22, Anna Armstrong took 25th in 56.76 and Emma Armstrong placed 27th in 56.94 seconds. Petoskey's Goelz also took 43rd in 58.79.

Racing as an individual, Boyne City's Taylor Stockwell placed 39th in the giant slalom race with a time of 58.41 seconds.

With the season now closed, Harbor Springs will say goodbye to Kelbel and the Gillette sisters, while Petoskey's Armstrong sisters depart as well. Both team have a great collection coming back next season and will try to knock down the Fighting Irish from the top.

Lundteigen did want to one last time thank those who helped make the season what it was, knowing there's so much beyond just himself.

“It really takes a lot of work from a lot of people to get it off,” he added.

“I want to thank the coaches and then parents. Without the parents

none of this would happen. I'm so thankful for all the pieces that help throughout the year.

"Then Nub's Nob as well. It's our home hill and today the surface was fantastic."

Note: Because of print deadlines, this story can not print in the Petoskey News-Review until Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Follow @DrewKochanny on Twitter

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.