

CROSS COUNTRY

Elmuccio powers Westfield

By Jim Lambert

Westfield, getting an unprecedented performance from Matt Elmuccio for the second straight week, and Christian Brothers continued on their collision course with impressive victories and Steve Slattery of Mt. Olive ran 15:56.4, the fastest time at Holmdel Park in three years, yesterday in the NJSIAA boys' group cross-country championships.

The top three teams and top 10 individuals who did not run for one of the three qualifying teams in each group automatically qualified for Saturday's 25th state Meet of Champions at Holmdel. At the M of C, the boys' race will start at 11 a.m. and the girls' race at 11:45 a.m.

Elmuccio outkicked a game Karl Savage of Eastern on his way to winning in 16:00.1 to become the first boy in state history to win three straight Group 4 titles. Elmuccio's 16:00.1 sliced his personal best at Holmdel by 12 seconds with the 21st fastest time at Holmdel. Last week, Elmuccio became the first boy in state history to win four sectional titles when he breezed to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 title.

Behind Elmuccio, Westfield, No. 3 in The Star-Ledger Top 15, averaged 16:50.6 to retain its Group 4 state crown with 75 points. It was Westfield's 12th group state title. No. 5 Randolph was second with 131 and No. 7 Highland Regional third with 143. Second-ranked Ridgewood, which beat CBA a month ago, finished a disappointing fourth with 159.

Top-ranked CBA averaged 16:56 to win the Parochial A title for the second straight time, fifth time in six years and 13th time overall.

Palisades Park beat Henry Hudson, 74-84, to repeat in Group 1. In Group 2, Jefferson won its first state title since winning Group 1 in 1971. In Group 3, No. 8 Morristown beat No. 4 Brick, 61-79. It was Morristown's first title since winning Group 4 in 1985. In



An exhausted Rob Smith of Holmdel receives encouragement from his mother, Pat, following Group 2 race yesterday.

Parochial B, Red Bank Catholic won its first state title since 1972 by edging Pingry, 55-66.

Westfield seeks to become the first public school to win the M of C since Bernards in 1985. CBA, defending in the M of C, will try to increase its state record to nine M of C titles. The two have not met this season.

"We are looking good right now," said Elmuccio, the All-Stater headed to the University of Colorado. "We know we can put up a low score and we have five guys who can beat their (CBA) five."

"CBA is a great team," said West-

field coach Jack Martin. "It's the dream matchup of the season. You have to lay it on the line to win Group 4. It should prepare us well for next week."

Slattery, a junior, became the first boy to dip under 16 minutes at Holmdel since Ridgewood's Bob Keino ran 15:51.2 to win the M of C for the second straight time in 1993.

Slattery, running shoulder-to-shoulder for most of the race with county rival Tom DelSordo of Morristown, grabbed the lead for good with about a half mile to go. DelSordo, a junior, was second in a personal best of 16:03.2.

"Over the summer, Tom and I talked about pushing each other," said Slattery, an All-Stater who improved his record against DelSordo to 3-0 this season and dropped his personal best at Holmdel by 13 seconds. "We kind of planned this out. We knew if we keyed off each other, we could run some fast times. The biggest difference for me is that I ran 50 miles a week this summer and I only ran about 20 last year. My endurance is much better."

Slattery knows that he may have to run even faster to win the M of C.

"With Daniels (Seton Hall Prep's Adam), Elmuccio, Tom (DelSordo) and Savage, I think it'll take under 15:50 to win and I feel I can run faster than I did today."

CBA coach Tom Heath liked what he saw from his team.

"We ran better than I expected," said Heath. "I thought we'd score 55 points and we scored 36. But this race is over and the race next week is what really counts. If we run we'll win and if we don't we'll lose."

Daniels, one of the favorites with Elmuccio and Slattery in the M of C race, coasted to a 16:25.0 victory in Parochial A to remain undefeated.

"I knew about Slattery's time and I wanted to break 16," said Daniels, a senior who has never beaten Slattery in cross-country. "But after a mile there was nobody around me, so I just kind of cruised. I think it could take 15:50 to win next week and I feel I can run that time. Slattery and Elmuccio are good runners. Of course I want to win, but there is no shame in losing to runners like them."

A team and an individual were conspicuous by their absence in the Parochial A race as Paul VI of Haddon Township and Kyle Witkowski of St. Peter's Prep didn't compete. Both were present but not allowed to run because meet officials said the NJSIAA hadn't received their entry forms.



Manchester's Lorena Adams celebrates her victory in Group 3 race yesterday at Holmdel Park.

BOYS GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

GROUP 4
TEAMS: 1-Westfield 75, 2-Randolph 131, 3-Highland Regional 143, 4-Ridgewood 159, 5-Mt. Olive 160, 6-Toms River 207, 7-Hurston Central 244, 8-Palmdale 247, 9-Middlesex South 255, 10-East Brunswick 280, 11-East Side 290, 12-Shawnee 297, 13-Overbrook 298, 14-Vernon 303, 15-Del Bridge 343, 16-Clermont 349, 17-West Windsor 357, 18-North Bergen 429, 19-Phillipsburg 440, 20-Columbia 496.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Matt Elmuccio, Westfield 16:00.1, 2-Karl Savage, Eastern Regional 16:02.3, 3-Murphy Campbell, Overbrook 16:15.1, 4-Jon Fauso, Hurston Central 16:18.3, 5-Matt Runt, Triun 16:24.6, 6-Roger Munoz, Kearny 16:28.6, 7-Skip Allen, Hurston Central 16:37.2, 8-Ali Rappoli, Toms River East 16:41.0, 9-Ryan Shufus, Westfield 16:42.6, 10-Kenn Conner, Highland 16:46.2, 11-Nick Ferreira, Toms River East 16:46.6, 12-Brian Blangier, Lenape 16:51.8, 13-Joaquim Oliveira, East Side 16:53.1.

GROUP 3
TEAMS: 1-Morristown 61, 2-Brick 79, 3-Demarest 168, 4-North Hunterdon 180, 5-Ocean Township 197, 6-South Brunswick 200, 7-Cumberland 238, 8-Mainland 243, 9-High Point 268, 10-Rockaway 279, 11-Garfield 304, 12-Toms River South 305, 13-Hightstown 310, 14-Ramapo 322, 15-Chambers 371, 16-Mt. Olive 376, 17-Absarcon 382, 18-West Morris 393, 19-Paranum 401, 20-Red Bank 434.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Steven Slattery, Mt. Olive 15:56.4, 2-Tom DelSordo, Morristown 16:03.2, 3-Cary Snyder, Demarest 16:26.4, 4-Mike Ratta, Brick 16:30.3, 5-Eric Lyle, Middle Township 16:37.5, 6-Ali Rappoli, Middle Township 16:37.8, 7-Tian Hahn, Manchester Township 16:44.4, 8-Nathan Sisco, North Hunterdon 16:45.7, 9-Andrew Stogard, Rockway 16:55.4, 10-Robert Menzies, Nottingham 16:56.2, 11-Ryan Smith, Morristown 17:00.0, 12-Kian Mawood, Morristown 17:03.3, 13-Dan Giammar, Matawan 17:05.8, 14-Craig MacInnes, Brick 17:06.3, 15-Russ Reed, Rockway 17:08.7, 16-Craig Giammar, Demarest 17:07.8, 17-Jaden Pirelli, Morristown 17:08.1, 18-Sam Holland, High Point 17:09.7.

GROUP 2
TEAMS: 1-Jefferson 112, 2-Somerville 129, 3-Haddonfield 134, 4-Clearview 193, 5-Kingsway 197, 6-Whispering Park 200, 7-Bernards 208, 8-Mt. Olive 216, 9-Dover 236, 10-Dear 273, 11-Newton 302, 12-Central 320, 13-Freshford Borough 328, 14-Holmdel 330, 15-Chatham 338, 16-Kittany 349, 17-Gladwin 356, 18-Rumsey 373, 19-Buena 438, 20-New Milford 458.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Eric Bonetta, Haddonfield 16:43.6, 2-Simon Roman, Monroe 16:44.0, 3-Rory Gibson, Ridge 16:50.0, 4-Adam VanAntwerp, Jefferson 17:00.2, 5-Michael LaDover 17:02.5, 6-Ray Tomczak, Denville 17:03.1, 7-Gilby Hawkins, Lyons 17:04.8, 8-Matt Chaszczak, Iselin-Kennedy 17:07.3, 9-Jason DeAngelis, Carteret 17:06.9, 10-Matt Caposelli, Westwood 17:12.4, 11-Luke Durrillo, Lodi 17:12.6, 12-Russ Giancola, New Milford 17:14.2.

GROUP 1
TEAMS: 1-Palisades Park 74, 2-Henry Hudson 84, 3-Metuchen 110, 4-Haddon Township 124, 5-Mt. Olive 173, 6-Whispering Park 200, 7-Bernards 208, 8-Kearnsburg 217, 9-Montgomery 221, 10-Adams 300, 11-Ridgewood 316, 12-Point Pleasant Beach 329, 13-AP, Schick 335, 14-Glen Rock 344, 15-Madison 372, 16-New Providence 375, 17-Bogota 376, 18-Ridgewood Memorial 409.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Jeff Clark, Bogota 16:30.2, 2-Brian Satter, Whispering Park 16:38.6, 3-Diego Goffio, Palisades Park 16:42.1, 4-Mike Tulon, Maple Shade 16:42.3, 5-Jonnyong Pak, Haddon Township 17:10.1, 6-Jay McGovern, Henry Hudson 17:17.4, 7-Ben Shan, Bernards 17:26.0, 8-Frank Antonelli, Point Pleasant Beach 17:26.2, 9-Edwin Lora, Arts 17:31.6, 10-Shawn Bolger, Henry Hudson 17:32.7, 11-Eric Paul, Kinnelon 17:35.0, 12-Hugo Juarez, Palisades Park 17:36.0, 13-Sean Ryan, Metuchen 17:39.3, 14-Bobby Green, Palisades Park 17:42.3, 15-Chris Piskalski, Metuchen 17:42.6, 16-Mike Guzzi, Metuchen 17:43.1, 17-Mark Sebastian, Palisades Park 17:44.1, 18-Matthew Duran, Whispering Park 17:53.1, 19-Brian Varnum, Haddon Township 17:57.6.

PAROCHIAL A
TEAMS: 1-Christian Brothers 26, 2-St. Joseph's (Mt.) 93, 3-Debarton 96, 4-Don Bosco Prep 129, 5-Bishop Eusebio 157, 6-Pope John 165, 7-Hudson Catholic 248, 8-Notre Dame 290, 9-Paranum Catholic 389, 10-Saton Hall Prep 394, 11-Roselle Catholic 391, 12-St. Joseph (Mont.) 314, 13-Bergen Catholic 366, 14-St. John Vianney 375, 15-Holy Spirit 383, 16-Queen of Peace 400, 17-Bishop Abi 402, 18-Immaculate 484, 19-Mary, Donovan 520, 20-Carden Catholic 526, 21-Don Bosco Tech 596.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Adam Daniels, Seton Hall Prep 16:25.0, 2-Terence Rozier, Byrd, Christian Brothers 16:37.0, 3-Austin O'Reilly, Mary, Donovan 16:41.0, 4-Jim Steinhilber, Debarton 16:45.0, 5-Brian Bennett, Christian Brothers 16:51.0, 6-Bill Hoffman, Christian Brothers 16:53.0, 7-Todd Henderson, Notre Dame 16:56.0, 8-Dan Contreras, Don Bosco Prep 17:00.0, 9-Michael McDowell, Bishop Eusebio 17:02.0, 10-Walter Branch, Christian Brothers 17:04.0, 11-Doug Bennett, Debarton 17:05.0, 12-Scott DePhillips, St. Joseph's (Mt.) 17:13.0, 13-Dan Connolly, Christian Brothers 17:17.0, 14-Ray Orsillo, St. Joseph's (Mt.) 17:18.0, 15-Rob Zagala, Paranum Catholic 17:22.0, 16-Chris Moya, St. Joseph's (Mt.) 17:23.0, 17-Benjamin Schuler, Bishop Eusebio 17:23.0, 18-Cory Kunz, St. Joseph (Mont.) 17:24.0, 19-Brian Bentley, Bishop Eusebio 17:25.0, 20-Craig Shroy, Bishop Eusebio 17:25.3, 21-Gaef Fahy, Christian Brothers 17:27.0, 22-Boo Mescica, St. Joseph's (Mt.) 17:27.5, 23-Andrew Reiners, Don Bosco Prep 17:29.0.

PAROCHIAL B
TEAMS: 1-Red Bank Catholic 56, 2-Pingry 66, 3-Mt. Dei 113, 4-Widewood Catholic 120, 5-St. Rose 146, 6-Oratory Prep 163, 7-St. Joseph (Hamm) 171, 8-Monstar Immaculate 177, 9-Union Catholic 194, 10-Leawick Academy 235, 11-Eastern Christian 270, 12-St. James 294, 13-St. Mary (Rum) 369.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Rob Dobson, Mater Dei 16:56.8, 2-Kevin Sacco, Sacred Heart 17:00.0, 3-Andrew Grul, Pingry 17:01.1, 4-Martin Kerrigan, Red Bank Catholic 17:03.8, 5-Robert Esposito, St. Joseph (Hamm) 17:03.8, 6-Tim Callan, Sacred Heart 17:26.4, 7-Jamal Nesbitt, Monstar Immaculate 17:28.3, 8-Alex Fowler, Red Bank Catholic 17:34.5, 9-Tim Dwyer, Widewood Catholic 17:39.5, 10-Jacob Frank, Union Catholic 17:44.4, 11-Eugene Daly, Morris Catholic 17:45.7, 12-Joseph Maguire, St. Mary (S.) 17:52.5, 13-Derek Cunningham, Red Bank Catholic 17:53.0, 14-Jerry Amato, Mater Dei 17:55.4, 15-Michael Wagner, St. Rose 18:00.1, 16-Justin Mary, Pingry 18:04.4, 17-Daniel Nagler, Pingry 18:06.8, 18-Ryan Strader, Pingry 18:14.9, 19-Dan Reilly, Oratory Prep 18:18.5.

By Jim Lambert

Toms River East did it again.

For the second time in two weeks, Toms River East, No. 2 in The Star-Ledger Girls' Cross-Country top 15, knocked off the No. 1 team in the state.

On Nov. 2, Toms River East, ranked fifth at the time, beat then No. 1 Red Bank Catholic, 62-76, to win the Shore Conference championship at Holmdel Park.



Satir's time was the fastest of the year at Holmdel and tied her for 27th on Holmdel's all-time list.

In one of the most looked-for races of the day, Satir trailed defending-champion Amy Beykirch of Pinelands by 10 yards in the bowl about half way into the race. Satir made a big surge coming out of the bowl to grab the lead and put the hammer down in the woods before hitting the final straightaway on her way to victory. Beykirch, who ran 19:02 at Holmdel two weeks ago, was