

# Neenah captures FVA boys' cross country title

Ricardo Arguello, Post-Crescent Media 11:04 p.m. CDT October 21, 2014



(Photo: Joshua Bessex/Post-Crescent Media)

KAUKAUNA – Kimberly had been Neenah's nemesis on the cross country trails all season.

That changed last Thursday when the Rockets met coach John Morgen's challenge and placed five runners in the top 10 to clinch the Fox Valley Association boys' title by just two points over the Papermakers at the conference meet at Countryside Golf Course.

Neenah finished with 33 points. Kimberly (35), Oshkosh West (96) and Appleton North (100) rounded out the top four.

Appleton North won the girls' meet with 55 points. Kimberly was second at 105 followed by Fond du Lac (108)

and Neenah (111).

"It's a great moment," Morgen said. "Kimberly's a very good team and a team that we haven't beaten all year, so hat's off to them. They have a real great group of runners, especially the Rink boys, so we just felt like to be competitive today we needed to put five guys in the top 10 and we were able to do that."

Kimberly's Nicholas Rink won the individual title with a time of 16:41.33. Derek Rink was second (16:53.14) and the Rockets' duo of Derek Gross (17:11.38) and Andrew Belot (17:12.50) were fourth and fifth, respectively.

The Rockets' Matt Bourland (6th, 17:16), Jonathan Moderson (8th, 17:27) and Bradley Gumtow (10th, 17:30) all finished in the top 10 for Neenah, which secured its first conference title since 2010.

Nicholas Rink won the FVA title last year with a time of 15:56.54 and was able to gut out the win despite sloppy conditions that added nearly 45 seconds to his time.

The Countryside course took a beating with two JV races before the varsity competitions. Morgen said he told his Neenah runners to not worry about things that they "can't control."

"We talked to them about being sure footed around the corners and a lot of kids were going down," he said. "But if that happens you have to get up, and as simple as it sounds, get right back into it and not feel sorry for yourself.

"We wanted to keep them confident that they could do this ... there's no way they're going to win this race if they believe they can't do it. We came in thinking we could do it and they did."

In the girls' meet, Appleton North won its first girls' FVA title since 2006, the final year of a four-year championship dynasty by the Lightning.

North's outstanding depth proved too difficult for the rest of the league to overcome, as the Lightning won the title by 60 points over second-place Kimberly.

Lauren Farina was North's highest individual finisher, placing fourth (19:26.29) with Dakota Holzem (9th, 20:16), Payton Fors (13th, 20:25), Kari Brekke (14th, 20:26) and Ariana Holzem (15th, 20:28) following.

Hortonville's Hannah Lohrenz was the girls' medalist with a time of 19:11.76.

Neenah's top finisher was Ellen Knaus, who took 12th at 20:23. Teammate Madison Meinke was 18th at 20:31.

Both Neenah teams will compete in a WIAA Division 1 sectional Friday afternoon at Lake Breeze Golf Course in Oshkosh. The boys' sectional meet starts at 4 p.m. followed by the girls' meet.

Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association  
Rankings for the week ending October 18, 2014

**Division 1 Boys**

- 1 Madison West
- 2 Madison LaFollette
- 3 Stevens Point
- 4 Arrowhead
- 5 West Bend West
- 6 Marquette
- 7 Middleton
- 8 Green Bay Preble
- 9 Neenah
- 10 Kimberly
- 11 Kenosha Bradford
- 12 Badger
- 13 Sun Prairie
- 14 Muskego
- 15 Port Washington
- 16 South Milwaukee
- 17 Waukesha North
- 18 LaCrosse Logan
- 19 Baraboo
- 20 Madison Memorial

**DIVISION 1 GIRLS**

- 1 Stevens Point
- 2 Whitefish Bay
- 3 Arrowhead
- 4 Madison Memorial
- 5 Waukesha West
- 6 Appleton North
- 7 Sun Prairie
- 8 Brookfield Central
- 9 Pulaski
- 10 Middleton
- 11 Eau Claire Memorial
- 12 Madison West
- 13 Kimberly
- 14 Bay Port
- 15 Divine Savior Holy Angels
- 16 Green Bay East
- 17 Muskego
- 18 Stoughton
- 19 Menomonie
- 20 Homestead

**DIVISION 2 BOYS**

- 1 Wisconsin Lutheran
- 2 Pewaukee
- 3 Shorewood
- 4 Lakeland
- 5 Valders
- 6 Freedom
- 7 Little Chute
- 8 McFarland
- 9 New Berlin Eisenhower
- 10 Notre Dame
- 11 Edgewood
- 12 Colby/Abbotsford
- 13 Mauston
- 14 Nekoosa/Port Edwards
- 15 Xavier
- 16 Catholic Memorial

**DIVISION 2 GIRLS**

- 1 Notre Dame
- 2 McFarland
- 3 Dodgeville/Mineral Point
- 4 Shorewood
- 5 Two Rivers
- 6 Wisconsin Lutheran
- 7 Edgewood
- 8 Plymouth
- 9 Luxemburg-Casco
- 10 Deerfield/Cambridge
- 11 Freedom
- 12 Cedar Grove-Belgium
- 13 Pewaukee
- 14 Southern Door
- 15 Winneconne