

Lack of letdown gives Moorestown top ranking

By JASON NARK
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Heading into last Saturday's Meet of Champions at Holmdel Park, the Moorestown High School girls' cross country team had yet to have a letdown.

And as of today, it still had not had one.

The Quakers won the Meet of Champions by 30 points and secured their third-straight *Courier-Post* Cup — awarded to the top team in South Jersey.

The Quakers' rule extends far beyond the reaches of South Jersey, however. They are ranked first in the state and, as of Nov. 12, ranked 14th in the nation by *Harrier's High School Cross Country Report*.

According to head coach Jim Brudnicki, the fear of having a bad race was there, but those fears never materialized out on the course.

"We hadn't had a bad race all season," said Brudnicki. "It was really the one thing we had worried about."

One thing is for sure, after winning a Group 2 state title the week before, it seemed the Quakers couldn't race any better.

In that race, Moorestown took first with 39 points with Cherokee's coming in second with

The Quakers had six runners

Final rankings

School	Rec.	Prv
1. Moorestown	7-0	1
2. Shawnee	6-0	2
3. Paul VI	4-1	4
4. Bishop Eustace	3-2	5
5. Cherokee	4-1	5
6. Delsea	7-0	6
7. Woodrow Wilson	5-0	7
8. Lenape	4-2	8
9. Haddon Twp.	6-0	9
10. Ocean City	10-0	10
11. Haddonfield	5-1	11
12. Absegami	9-1	12
13. Mainland	6-2	13
14. Kingsway	8-1	14
15. Highland	5-0	15
16. Schalick	9-3	16
17. Gloucester	7-2	17
18. Delran	8-1	20
19. Northern Burlington	5-1	18
20. Cherry Hill East	5-4	19

The Top 20 is selected by staff writer Jason Nark.

in the top 20, including Meghan Hughes, a junior who won her first title by finishing first for the Quakers in 19 minutes, 27 seconds.

Moorestown's top five finished with an average time of 20:15, the fastest of all six state champion teams.

The only South Jersey team that had the talent to knock Moorestown off the pinnacle

was No. 2 Shawnee.

But Moorestown's reign was to continue, as it rattled off an average time of 19:59, almost 20 seconds faster than Shawnee's average.

"We were really surprised by all this at end of the year. We've just been lucky," said Brudnicki of the Quakers, who did not have a serious injury all year. Ironically, the last South Jersey team to win the Meet of Champions was Shawnee in 1997.

The Renegades have finished the last two seasons behind Moorestown. They finished third in the Meet of Champions last Saturday.

Shawnee has no seniors on its team, and boasts a bevy of talented sophomores and juniors that will be gunning to topple Moorestown from its throne.

But Moorestown returns Hughes, along with sophomores Caroline Hipple, Kate Laramie, and Kori Shelton, and freshman Brigid Hughes.

"Those sophomores really turned it on at the end of the year," Brudnicki said. "They were a big key to us winning it all."

Paul VI, which finished the season as the third-ranked team in South Jersey, came on strong at the end of the season with a third-place finish in the Parochial A Group meet and a 13th place finish at the Meet of Champions.