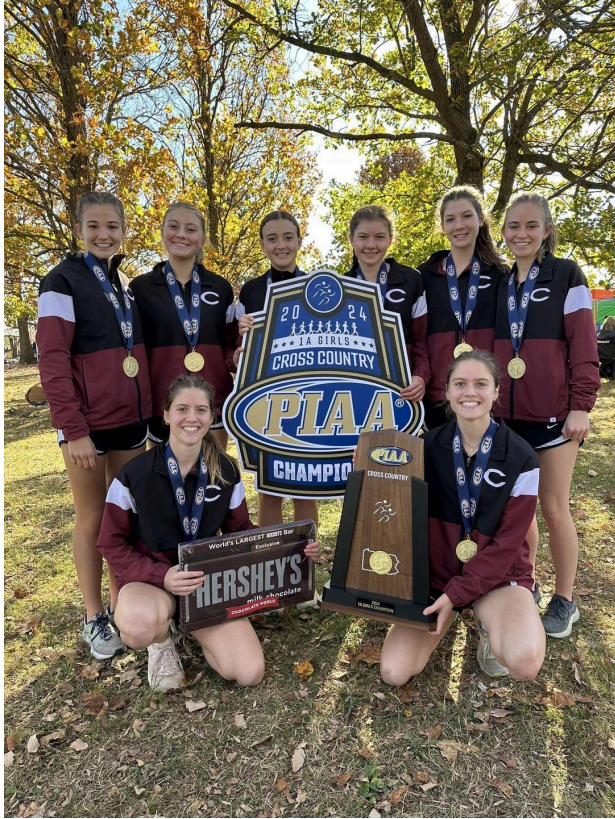


The Cranberry girls capped a highly successful season under coach Rob Anthony by winning the PIAA Class 1A state championship in cross country Nov. 2 at Hershey.



The Berries totaled 88 points to runner-up Our Lady of Sacred Heart (101) in the 20-team meet.

Beatrice Kolesar led the way with a 17th-place finish, covering the 5,000 meter course in 20:28.

Next were:

Kayla Hanna, 37th in 21:24;

Elena Ishman, 42nd in 21:32;

Karleigh Shaffer, 48th in 21:39;

Darien Wenner (also a state qualifier in golf), 64th in 22:01;

Kelsey Hanna, 87th in 22:21;

Gracee Hess, 178th in 24:45.

There were 247 runners in the race.

Earlier, the Berries won the Rocky Grove, Big Red (West Middlesex) and Kiski Area invites and were second to this year's 2A state champion, Cathedral Prep, in the Titusville Invitational.

They were also runners-up to Winchester-Thurston in the prestigious PIAA Foundation Invitational and to Brockway (sans Kolesar) in the District 9 meet, and thereby overlooked -- didn't even rate a mention -- in the MileSplit state preview.

But the Berries showed all doubters.

The state team title was the fourth in Cranberry history. The Berries won three straight girls hoops crowns from 1992-94. And it was the first for a Venango County team since 2018 when the Rocky Grove baseball team brought home the championship trophy.

It also was the 10th state team title in county history. All the others have come in basketball, including the St. Joseph boys with PCIAA titles in 1939 and 1941; the VC girls in 1980 and the Franklin boys in 2001 and 2006. For a list of all Venango County state champs, team and individual, click [HERE](#).

For results of other state qualifiers from Venango County, see the Fall Sports 2024 page by clicking [HERE](#).

In addition to Prep, District 10 produced another team state champion as Grove City, as usual in recent seasons, dominated the 2A boys.

And another local individual medalist was Rocky Grove's Isabel Griffin in 1A.