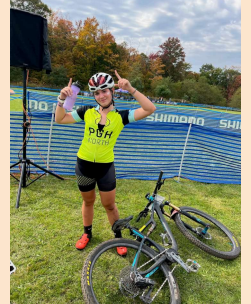


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INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING TEAM

Strong Showing at States for Pittsburgh North

The Pittsburgh North Interscholastic Cycling team wrapped up its race calendar on Saturday and Sunday at the PICL State Championship Johnstown Showdown. In only its third season, the team boasted its first ever state champion, **Mia Troiani**, and saw outstanding performances from a slew of riders on the team.



Pittsburgh North Dominant in Short Track on Saturday

Saturday's main event was a series of three short track races broken into Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced riders who rode half mile laps as many times as they could in the allotted time. The races amounted to extra long sprints, with riders needing power, speed, technical skill, and sheer will power to succeed. Needless to say, Pittsburgh North racers brought all of the above.

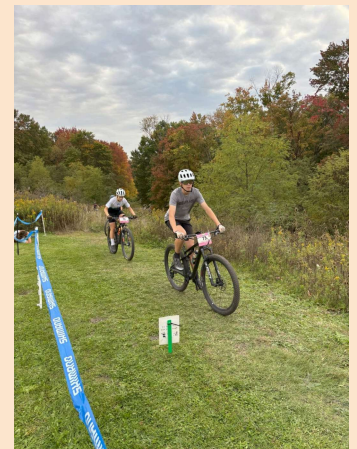


The Novice race was a show of strength from all five Pittsburgh North Riders. **Gelis Straub** took the race win with **Oscar Pearlman** finishing second. Oscar's pass on the final straightaway to secure second place was a show of pure guts. **Jeremy Parker** finished a solid fourth place, giving Pittsburgh North three of the top four finishers and leaving no doubt about the team's dominance. **Emily Loughney** came in 13th overall, the fastest 6th grade female rider in short track and the fourth female overall in the race. **Paxton Pavshak** rounded out the novice category with a 17th finish out of the 26 riders, just one lap down from the race champions.



The Intermediate race was another triumph for the team, with **Michael Fuener** and **Joel Parker** taking the top two positions in the race. **Mia Troiani** and **Grace Finley** took first and second place for all female riders and 6th and 14th overall, respectively.

Hayden Fischer, the team's sole representative in the Advanced race, brought home an 8th place finish out of 18 racers.



The only low spot for the day was the coaches race, where Pittsburgh North coach **Jon Parker** put in a dismal performance, losing by 3 full laps to the lady on the ebike.

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State Championship Sunday

Sunday's State Championship racing featured 21 Pittsburgh North riders jockeying for the first ever PICL state championship crowns. **Hayden Fischer** led off the racing in the Varsity Male category. Hayden put together his best varsity finish ever, just one spot and one minute off of the podium in 6th place overall. In the Varsity Female race, **Giuliana Contini** finished in 15th place with a big negative split on her second lap.

In the JV2 male race, **Aaden Benigni** fought through a few falls and mechanical issues to finish 38th out of 61 riders. The JV2 female race brought the excitement as **Mia Troiani** captured the first ever state championship win for the team as she pulled away from the field with a negative split on her second lap. Of note, Mia raced up all season and despite being in 8th grade defeated all of the high school riders in her category! **Brynn Beitko** cracked the JV2 top ten as well, finishing the race in 9th place, erasing a 34 second first lap deficit as she passed the eventual 10th place finisher with a powerful second lap.

The JV3 races featured first year rider **Paxton Pavshak**, who finished in 60th position out of the 67 rider field. **Mariella Contini** represented the team in the JV3 female race, pushing hard for a podium but coming up just short in 6th place out of the 18 riders in the race.

The afternoon events gave the Pittsburgh North Middle School racers an opportunity to showcase their speed, technical skill, and grit on the 2.8 mile Johnstown loop. Middle school female riders were the first out

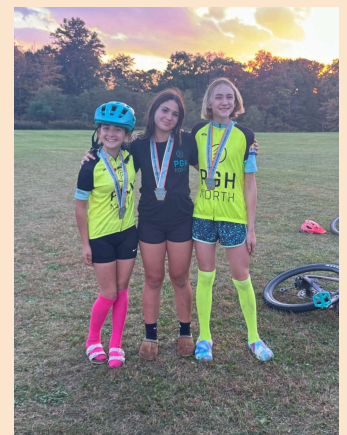


of the start chute, with

Grace Finley leading the way for Pittsburgh North. Third heading into the woods, Grace spent her laps trying to chase down the eventual race winner, passing into second position and holding on with a negative split on her second lap. Grace's 2nd place finish was the first podium of the afternoon. Right behind her in the 7th grade race was **Elyse Beitko** who powered through her two laps finishing with a sub 40 minute time and a 17th place finish.



The sixth grade female race saw another silver medalist for Pittsburgh North, with **Emily Loughney** riding a wire to wire second place through all the rocks and tight turns. Emily's podium was her fourth in as many tries on this year's PICL circuit. **Giuliana Troiani** raced right behind Emily, finding herself in a three way sprint to the finish and grabbing her second top ten of the year as the group of riders finished just 2 seconds apart from one another.



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Up next were the Pittsburgh North middle school boys, with the final middle school advanced race of the season. Leading the pack were **Michael Fuener** and **Joel Parker**, who had spent the conference races battling against just one another, finding themselves this week in a field of 11 strong riders. After some back and forth on the first two laps, Michael sprinted to the finish, his last couple passing attempts coming up barely short of the victory as he crossed the line in an impressive 2nd place, a half second shy of the race win. Joel willed himself onto the last spot on the podium, finishing in 5th overall.

In the 8th grade race, **Graham Smith** followed up his first podium of the year with another strong performance, his powerful two laps within 0.07 seconds of one another as he brought home a 22nd place finish in the 55 rider field. **Brody Salai** made some strategic passes right at the beginning of lap two and finished just one minute behind Graham in 28th place. **Nick Green** wrapped up the 8th grade Pittsburgh North crew with a 51st place finish and on the lead lap.

The 7th grade race featured consistent podium finisher **Gelis Straub** who kept his 2024 podium streak intact with a 5th place finish, just 13 seconds off of third place. **Evan Hartman** was next to finish for Pittsburgh North, bringing home a 16th place finish in a group of nine racers at a 30 minute race pace. In that same minute was **Cy Prisk** at 18th and **Oscar Pearlman** in 22nd. 7th grade races this year have been decided by razor thin margins, and the Pittsburgh North boys represented well in such a strong category.

The final race of the day was the 6th grade boys, with **Jeremy Parker** looking to follow up a couple conference wins and near podium finishes with a state race podium of his own. Jeremy hung with the chase group of three riders for both laps and pushed to a personal best 4th position, the first state podium of his career.



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INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING TEAM

After another outstanding racing season, the team wants to thank our **generous sponsors** whose donations helped our team take huge steps forward this season. More riders, more racers, and more podiums are only possible because of their support.

Thank you, Sponsors!

We're proud of all of our riders, racers, and families, and we're thankful for an excellent 2024 race season!

Ride Fast,
Coach Nick

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