

## Surprise Winner in AAU Youth Cross Country National Championship



Runners compete in the 10 & under Division in AAU Cross Country National Championship. Photo Courtesy of [southeasternsportsphotos.com](http://southeasternsportsphotos.com).

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by Rick Sheek

KINGSPORT – Danny McBride finished 13th in the Missouri high school state meet, was the No. 2 runner on his team and didn't win a race this fall. He was certainly a different runner on Saturday at Cattails at Meadowview.

McBride breezed to the Young Men's title in the AAU Youth Cross Country National Championships. He covered the five-kilometer course in 15:52.41, with Denton Jones of the Knoxville Track Club second in 16:01.58.

"I ran in the middle hard," McBride, who competes for Wilderness Running Club, said. "I was just trying to run my hardest,"

McBride was running fourth at the mile mark, which he hit in 4:46, when he made his move and surged to a large advantage. Jones closed the gap slightly down the stretch in holding off Adam Douad (unattached). The Brocaw Blazers' Brock Phillips and Bret Musser crossed fourth and fifth.

"I was just trying to get a top 10, if I ran well and had my greatest day," McBride said. "That was my best race this year."

Indeed he led by more than 100 yards in the final quarter mile. He said he wasn't sure if he shocked the field with his performance.

"I just run my hardest." McBride said. "They could be right on me and I wouldn't even know. I have no clue what everybody else expected. I'm pretty surprised." Brocaw was team champion over Jenks America, 23-67.

Mallory Champa, the Kansas 4A high school champ, devoured the Young Women's field. She ran 18:06.60, with runner-up Amy Laskowske of the Elgin Sharks crossing in 18:27.8.

"It was perfect weather," Champa, of Brocaw, said. "It was good. This is the best I've ever run, this year anyway.

"There were some really good runners in the race. I just tried to be patient." She assumed the lead just past the mile mark.

"I usually wait," Champa said. "I got a little too antsy. I didn't want to take the lead that early, but I was ready to go.

"It was a pretty good season for me. I was pretty happy."

Carmen Mims and Sara Hater, both from Team Kentucky, placed third and fourth. Brocaw's Lindsay Pierson was fifth. Brocaw defeated Kentucky 35-40 for the team title.

Ben Brammeier romped in Intermediate Boys, clocking a 16:06.55 to best Brocaw's Lance Boyer's 16:13.04.

"It was a little smaller field than I expected, so I got out real good," Brammeier said. "I was just stalking the leader at the

mile. Then I just made my move, because I knew I had the kick once I needed it. I built a big lead, and it paid off at the end.

"I didn't make a really huge move. I just made a gradual move, just started to break from the pack."

Brammier finished third in his state meet.

"Usually I run a lot hillier courses," Brammeier said. "My time was pretty normal, because the mud was kind of an equalizer."

Tyler Morey was third, Johnson City's Todd Smalling finished fourth and Kendall Robbins from Oklahoma was fifth. Wilderness captured the team title, 37-62 over Brocaw.

In Intermediate Girls, Cassandra Scherck won going away (18:54.47) over Brocaw's Laura Roxberg (19:17.23), the Texas 6A state champ.

"The weather was perfect," Scherck, who runs for Greater Cleveland, said. "I'm use to running in cold, and it was warm I think. There were some long hills towards the end that I didn't like very much, but other than that it was a pretty good course." Scherck finished fourth in the Ohio state meet. She said the competition on Saturday was equally as challenging.

"Mentally it was tough," Scherck said. "Because I could hear them behind me, and that pushed me a lot."

Elgin's Nancy Nieto was third, Brocaw's Leah Thompson (3A state champ) was fourth and Taylor Rigsby of Tulsa, Okla., placed fifth. Brocaw was team champ, 29-51 over Jenks.

On a four-kilometer course, Elgin's Neil Klein prevailed in 13:13.35 for the Youth Boys' championship. Philadelphia CYO's Phillip Wood was second in 13:25.25. Third through fifth went to Kentucky's Blake Askin, Andrew Ryan Sullivan (unattached) and Knoxville's Matthew Sommerfeldt. Brokaw took the team title over Elgin 54-42.

Rachel Buser of Bertkley, W.Va., ran 14:27.20 to win Youth Girls over Brooke Dinsdale (15:02.58) of Trayer, Iowa. Elgin's Kristina Aubert was third, Trayer's Blaire Dinsdale fourth and Elgin's Taylor Mottarella crossed fifth. Elgin was team champ over Brocaw, 46-100.

On a three-kilometer course, Derek Lillard of the South Dayton Flyers won Midget Boys in 10:46.44 over Brocaw's Austin O'Brien (10:49.50). Matthieu Caldwell (unattached) was third, Daniel Carmack (unattached) fifth and Elgin's Roger Klein took fifth. Brocaw (20-50) defeated Philly CYO for the team trophy.

Amanda Bascelli of Folson, Penn., won Midget Girls in 11:15.72 over Katherine Gibson of Flower Mount, Texas. Nicolet St. Lawrence of Garrison, N.Y., was third, Joelle Amaral of Sports Newark fifth and Grace Zanudio of New Hall, Calif., placed fifth.

The Valley Striders were team champs (42-79) over Philly CYO.

The Bantam Boys' champ was Californian Zachary Bornstein. He covered the 3k course 11:38.07. Adam Scott of Orlando Park, Kan., was runner-up in 11:39.87.

Third through fifth went to Belvidero's Tyler Yunk, Kyle Gilmore of Independence, Ohio, and Rashard Young of Raytown, Mo. Malibu, Calif., was team champ over Overland Park, 61-65.

In Bantam Girls, Nashville's Kaylor Murray crossed first in 11:41.88. Sarah Pray of Mapleton, Ga., was runner-up in 11:57.98.

Baltimore's Britney Rooks, Mallory White of Lakeland, Fla., and Natalie Mienzer of Batesville, Ark., took third through fifth. Philly CYO was team champ over Elgin 71-112.