

# DIVINE CHILD SURPRISED ENTIRE REGION BY TAKING SECOND AT THE REGION 16-2 CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 28, 2023

53 Degrees

Everyone knew Pinckney was favorite to win the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Region 16-2 at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg, Michigan. Pinckney is ranked number four in the State. The question was, which two schools in the region would qualify for next weeks MHSAA Division 2 State Championship. Divine Child hasn't run in this Region in over 15 years. They have been part of Region 18-2 which was held at Lake Erie Metropark.

At the beginning of the season, the pre-season rankings had Divine Child ranked sixth in Region 16-2. The top five pre-season rankings in the region were: 1) Pinckney; 2) Cranbrook Kingswood; 3) Orchard Lake St. Mary's; 4) Detroit Country Day; and, 5) Linden. These ranking were made because Divine Child has a very young team, after losing 5 of the top seven from last year's program. The Divine Child cross country team took this pre-season ranking personal.



Pre-season Rankings



Divine Child team that place 2<sup>nd</sup> second at Region 16-2

Pinckney totally dominated to earn an easy victory with 24 points. Divine Child edged Cranbrook Kingswood by 2 points to be Region 16-2 runner-up 102 to 104,

respectively. As the new comer to the region, this was a total shock to all the teams that participated. The following four places were: Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 4<sup>th</sup> – 121 pts.; Detroit Country Day, 5<sup>th</sup> – 123 pts.; Lake Fenton, 6<sup>th</sup> – 135 pts.; and, Linden, 7<sup>th</sup> – 149.

Pinckney had five runner in the top nine, led by Even Loughridge (Sr) who won with a time of 15 minutes 25.42 seconds. For the first 2 miles, the top five ran as a pack. Running the first mile at 5 minutes and the two mile under 10 minutes, they separated themselves by over 30 seconds from the rest of the field. In that pack was Divine Child's Colin Murray (Jr) who finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall with a fine time of 15:49.50.

Rounding out the top seven finishers were runner-up, Solomon Kwartowitz (Sr) of Cranbrook Kingston with a 15:35.62; Pinckney's Paul Moore (Sr), 3<sup>rd</sup> – 15:46.99 and Ethan Sandula (Sr), 4<sup>th</sup> – 15:48.03; Lake Fenton's Nolan Pinion (Sr), 6<sup>th</sup> – 16:18.62; and, Pinckney's Cole McCraw (Fr), 7<sup>th</sup> – 16:53.99.



**Coach Randy Williams (L) and Coach Nicholas Ellis (R) is with Divine Child's All-Region runners: Colin Murray (5<sup>th</sup>) and Tamez Zahr (13<sup>th</sup>)**

Murray, earned All-Regional for Divine Child's and was joined on the All-Regional team by Tamer Zahr (Jr) who placed 13<sup>th</sup> with a time of 17:22.39. The next five DC runners were: Maximiliano Juarez (Jr), 23<sup>rd</sup> – 18:04.55 (PR); Ethan Lewis (Sr), 30<sup>th</sup> – 18:34.90 (PR); Nicholas Nakic (Jr), 31<sup>st</sup> – 18:36.62; Grant Goodwin (Fr), 43<sup>rd</sup> – 19:01.87; and, Robert Modrzejewski (Sr), 49<sup>th</sup> – 19:19.96.

In the Junior Varsity Post Regional Open Meet, Divine Child earned 7<sup>th</sup> place with 210 pts. The top five were all Division 1 schools as Brighton won with 16 points. They were followed by Dexter with 47 pts.; Ann Arbor Skyline (3<sup>rd</sup>) – 68 pts.; Davison (4<sup>th</sup>) – 105 pts.; and, Howell (5<sup>th</sup>) – 176 pts.

In the JV race, Divine Child was led by Brendan Miller (Fr), 59<sup>th</sup> – 20:06.00 (PR). The next 6 DC finishers were: Matthew Fuqua (Jr), 60<sup>th</sup> – 20:10.04; Charlie Murray (Sr), 61<sup>st</sup> – 20:14.75; Samuel Corak (So), 67<sup>th</sup> – 20:18.84 (PR); Sami Sayara (So), 75<sup>th</sup> – 20:41.96 (PR); Joseph Arriola (Fr), 83<sup>rd</sup> – 20:47.77; Christian Howarth (Jr), 21:38.67 (PR).

A special congratulation goes to Alexander Thomas of DC who ran his personal best of 24:30.33. He knocked off over a minute from his time.

Divine Child is scheduled to run at Dakota High School in Macomb, MI at the **“Last Chance to Run Fast Invite”** on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30PM and 5:10PM. Followed by the Division 2 **MHSAA State Championship** at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM.