

## Nordic skiing: Willmar Cardinals compete in Section 8 championships

February 09, 2022

Little Falls and Brainerd boys, Brainerd and Bemidji girls are headed to state after top performances



Willmar's Elizabeth Haugen skis down the home stretch to a time of 19.15.2 in the freestyle race

CALLAWAY — The Little Falls and Brainerd boys and Brainerd and Bemidji girls earned state meet berths by placing in the top two of the team competition Wednesday at the Section 8 Nordic skiing championships.

Little Falls' boys had 381 points. Brainerd took second with 374. Willmar finished 12th with 65 points.

The section champion was Little Falls' Connor Grant, who had a combined time in the Classic and Freestyle races of 28 minutes, 5 seconds for his overall pursuit time.

In the girls' division, Brainerd emerged as the second champion with 384 points. Bemidji was second with 384. Willmar took ninth with a 245.

The section champion was Brainerd senior Liliana Schaeffer, who had a combined Classic and Freestyle time of 33:07.3.

Wednesday's section championships were conducted at at Maplelag Resort near Detroit Lakes.



Willmar's Timothy Halverson skis the freestyle race in 19:09.5

Willmar's top boys' finisher was Timothy Halvorson. The ninth-grader finished 46th in 42:26.1. Sophomore Brandon Zepeda finished 51st in 1:05:19.8.

Willmar's top girls' finisher was ninth-grader Elizabeth Haugen, who had a pursuit time of 41:27.9. The Cardinals' Melinda Twedt, a sophomore, finished 50th with a 1:03.12.7.

Willmar also had a girls' relay team of Adeline Engan and Juliette Haugen that took 11th place in 26:09.6.



Willmar's Emmie Larson finishes the freestyle race in 22:27.9

The top two teams in each division of the section meet advance to the state meet. Individually, the first four pursuit skiers not on the top teams also advance to state. Also, the fastest relay squad not on the top two teams also advance.

The state meet is next Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 16-17, at Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort in Biwabik.

## **Section 8 championships**

### **Boys Team scoring**

(1) Little Falls 381 ... (2) Brainerd 375 ... (3) Moorhead 365 ... (4) Bemidji 350 ... (5) Fergus Falls 340 ... (6) Sartell/Cathedral 327 ... (7) Alexandria 312 ... (8) St. John's Prep 310 ... (9) TrekNorth 261 ... (10) Detroit Lakes 218 ... (11) Wadena-Deer Creek 209 ... (12) Willmar 65.

### **Individual (overall)**

**STATE QUALIFIERS** — (1) Connor Grant, LF, 28:05.0 ... (2) Zaine Braaten, M, 28:13.1 ... (3) Ethan Yorek, LF, 28:44.5 ... (4) Elias Knapp, Brain, 29:37.7 ... (5) David Ronnevik, FF, 29:42.8 ... (6) Mitchell Neumann, Brain, 29:43.5 ... (7) Johnny Nemeth, Sar/C, 29:51.4.

**WILLMAR** — (46) Timothy Haloverson 42:26.1 ... (51) Brandon Zepeda, 1:05.19.8.

### **Individual (relay)**

**STATE QUALIFIER** — (1) Louis Morrissey/Seth Lindgren, Bem, 16:00.4.

### **Girls Team scoring**

(1) Brainerd 384 ... (2) Bemidji 382 ... (3) Sartell/Cathedral 362 ... (4) Moorhead 361 ... (5) Alexandria 351 ... (6) Little Falls 325 ... (7) Detroit Lakes 315 ... (8) Fergus Falls 286 ... (9) Willmar 245 ... (10t) TrekNorth and St. John's Prep 238 (12) Wadena-Deer Creek 135

### **Individual (overall)**

**STATE QUALIFIERS** — (1) Liliana Schaeffer, Brain, 33:07.3 ... (2) Mary Beth Mathews, Bem, 34:08.6 ... (3) Jaelyn Miller, Alex, 34:24.6 ... (4) Annelise Baird, Brain, 34:32.1 ... (5) Mia Hoffman, Bem, 34:42.7 ... (6) Kennedy Olson, Moor, 34:53.3 ... (7) Ellie Brown, Brain, 35:02.2 ... (8) Emma Jamison, Sar/C, 35:18.3 ... (9) Violet Steil, Sar/C, 35:25.9

**WILLMAR** — (35) Elizabeth Haugen 41:27.9 ... (42) Emmie Larson 45:34.3 ... (50) Melinda Twedt 1:03.12.7

### **Individual (relay)**

**STATE QUALIFIERS** — (1) Anna Renn/Ella Simula, Bem, 18:45.6 ... (2) Siri Overturf/jamie Raske, Moor, 18:47.0

**WILLMAR** — (11) Adeline Engan/Juliette Haugen 26:09.6