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Moving music: Playing the violin is one of many hobbies of Providence Day cross-country runner Ayron Dubinsky, who has the best reported time among high school girls in Mecklenburg County.

Cross-country, hobbies keep Dubinsky running

By LANGSTON WERTZ Jr.
Staff Writer

Providence Day's Ayrone Dubinsky says she has hobbies coming out of her ears.

Besides currently being the fastest girls cross-country runner in Charlotte's high schools, Dubinsky also rides bikes, skis, plays the violin and piano.

She also volunteers at an animal shelter.

But none of this has slowed her down on the cross-country course.

Dubinsky, a senior, is the defending Charlotte Independent Schools Athletic Association cross-country champion and she finished third in the N.C. Independent Schools' state final last year, after a second-place finish as a sophomore.

She's twice been named to the NCISAA all-state team, twice on the CISAA all-conference and twice on The Observer's All-Mecklenburg team.

"She came out for cross-country in her sophomore year, and we found out right away that she had the talent for distance (running)," says Providence Day coach Gil Murdock. "It seems like the longer the race, the stronger she becomes. She's great climbing hills, that's one of her big pluses."

So far this season, Dubinsky has turned in the fastest reported time of any runner in Mecklenburg County.

She's run in 20 minutes, 15 seconds, which puts her just ahead of North Mecklenburg's Natalie Hollar (20:20). West Mecklenburg's Stephanie Alexander

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



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Multi-talented: In addition to running and playing the violin, Ayrone Dubinsky also rides bikes, skis and plays piano.

(21:19) is third.

But Dubinsky believes she can go much faster.

"My immediate goal is to break 20 minutes," Dubinsky says.

"Then my other goals are — if I break 20 minutes, and I know I will — is to break 19:30 and to hopefully win the state."

Dubinsky began her running career as a ninth-grader at Provi-

dence Day.

She ran track. She had never run before.

Before then, Dubinsky says her mother was a bit opposed to her running because she was thin and her mom felt that because Ayrone didn't eat a lot that she might lose too much weight by running.

By ninth grade, Dubinsky had put on some pounds and running was OK.

By 10th grade she began to run cross-country.

She surprised everyone by starting out so well, despite a lack of experience. She nearly won the state title, finishing second. She was named all-conference and all-state.

And she's never stopped since. "She's a tremendous hard worker," Murdock says.

Dubinsky is also an excellent student with a better than a 4.0 grade-point average.

Because of her busy schedule, Dubinsky has had to give up some of her hobbies, including playing the violin on the school's orchestra, which she started doing last year.

Right now, she's just concentrating on the running.

She wants to win the state championship. And she's still kind of shocked that all of this success is happening to her.

"I am a little surprised by how successful I have been," Dubinsky says.

"I never really thought of myself as athletic in school sports, so it was surprising to me when I got to the top of the conference."