

# Chargers win 1st CISAA crown

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The Providence Day boys team, led by three runners in the top six, won its first ever Charlotte Independent Schools Athletic Association cross country title by edging two-time defending champion Charlotte Country Day by nine points 43-51 Friday at McAlpine Park.

In the girls race, Hammond School (S.C.), won its second straight conference crown since joining the league last year, scoring a perfect score as the Skyhawks took the top three positions.

In the CISAA, the girls only score three runners, as opposed to five for the boys.

"Very, very proud of the team," Hammond coach Russ Merritt said. "The girls cross country and track (teams) are the only (teams) to win conference championships. Hammond's very pleased to be in this conference."

And he should be pleased for the next few years as his top returning runners, Harriet Farrey, Pierrine Todd and Mae Todd Wil-

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liams, are still young with none over the 10th grade.

In the boys race, Providence Day's Ben Hovis went out hard in the first mile and held off Charlotte Latin's David Coyle 16 minutes 45 seconds to 17:03.8, but the race was to see if the Chargers could hold off Country Day.

The Buccaneers placed five runners in front of Providence Day's fifth finisher, so were the Chargers worried?

"When I looked over (at the finish line area) I saw all these Country Day guys shaking hands," Hovis said. "And I saw our fifth guy coming in, so I wasn't sure."

Hovis' first and teammates' Ryan Nunley and Terrance McCrae's third and sixth place finishes respectively helped the Chargers, but Chargers coach Gil Murdock said the fourth and fifth Providence Day runners were what made the differ-

ence.

"We knew Ben, Ryan and Terrance would be up there in that top group," he said. "(But) it was that fourth and fifth man (Bart Green and Matt Mason) that really brought it in for us. Those guys ran their best times for us today."

Providence Day and Country Day will try to upend Durham Academy, which has won 13 consecutive N.C. Independent Athletic Association crowns, at Bond Park in Cary next Saturday.

**Boys Team Results:** 1. Providence Day 43; 2. Charlotte Country Day; 3. Heathwood Hall 70; 4. Charlotte Christian 107; 5. Charlotte Latin 111; 6. Hammond School 150.

**Boys Individual Results:** 1. Ben Hovis (PD) 16:45.5; 2. David Coyle (CL) 17:03.8; 3. Ryan Nunley (PD) 17:20.1; 4. Scott Williams (CCD) 17:32.3; 5. William Tinman (HH) 17:39.4; 6. Terrance McCrae (PD) 17:45.0; 7. Greg Hipp (CC) 17:50.5; 8. Thibault de Chazal (CCD) 17:55.8; 9. Joel Collier (HH) 18:02.9; 10. Johnny Bocoock (HS) 18:03.8.

**Girls Team Results:** 1. Hammond School 6; 2. Heathwood Hall 25; 3. Providence Day 28; 4. Charlotte Country Day 39; 5. Charlotte Christian 43; 6. Charlotte Latin 54.

**Girls Individual Results:** 1. Harriet Farrey (HS) 20:18.2; 2. Pierrine Todd (HS) 20:47.3; 3. Mae Todd Williams (HS) 20:53.4; 4. Jane Maxwell (PD) 20:57.3; 5. Ashley Murray (CC) 21:24.1; 6. Haydon Stands (HH) 21:38.7; 7. Elyse Kopecky (PD) 21:41.8; 8. Elaina Vishniakova (HH) 21:47.2; 9. Lauren Gardner (CL) 21:51.7; 10. Nancy Simar (CCD) 21:55.6.