

PGH^NORTH

INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING TEAM

Pittsburgh North are Winners at Wainer

Beautiful Wainer Park in Edinboro was the site of the second and final conference race of the 2024 season, and the riders of Pittsburgh North Interscholastic Cycling showed out at the “Wild Ride at Wainer.” A full, gorgeous Saturday of racing was the perfect way to wrap up the Western Conference season and to prepare the riders for this coming weekend’s state championship racing.



High school riders took to the course in the morning with **Hayden Fischer** securing his second second place finish in as many weeks, just about three minutes off of the top of the podium. Hayden rode at an incredibly consistent pace, with all five of his lap times within ten seconds of each other. In the JV2 male race, **Aaden Benigni** brought home his first high school hardware, finishing in fourth place and climbing the podium for the first time in his PICL career. The JV3 male

race featured two Pittsburgh North racers, with **Luke Bachmann** just one minute off of a top ten finish in 11th place and **Paxton Pavshak** holding off a couple other JV3 riders for a 16th place finish.



As the morning dew cleared and the male riders finished racing, the JV2 female race were off and into the Wainer woods. **Mia Troiani** was first into the woods and first out of them as well over the course of her three laps, dominating the field and claiming the race victory by an over two minute margin. Mia’s race win finished her sweep of both Western Conference races in dominant fashion. **Brynn Beitko** followed Mia in the race, showing her technical prowess and endurance as her final lap negative split earned her the first podium of her PICL career as she finished in fourth place in the race.



The high school riders stuck around for the afternoon to cheer for the middle schoolers, and boy did they have a lot to cheer for. The 7th grade female was the first at the starting line, with **Grace Finley** and **Elyse Beitko** proudly representing Pittsburgh North. For the second week in a row Grace found herself in an all out battle for the race win, coming up just short of her second victory but finishing solidly in second place overall, her fourth podium in as many races this season and her ninth out of nine podiums in her PICL career. Elyse also climbed the podium for the second week in a row, finishing 5th with a negative split on her second lap as she held off a rider from Pittsburgh West.

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On the course at the same time were **Emily Loughney** and **Guiliana Troiani**. Emily, seeking her third consecutive podium and second consecutive victory brought it home, besting the second place rider by just under a minute. Guiliana posted the biggest progress of the weekend, following up last week's PICL debut by defeating two racers who had bested her just one week prior. Giulilana beat them at the start and in the woods as well, posting a negative split on her second lap and leaving no question that she is a force to be reckoned with. Guiliana's third place finish showed her grit and determination in only her second career race.



The middle school boys took the course next, with some sound system difficulties and their race countdowns crowdsourced to parents yelling "10!! 9!! 8!! 7!!..." At the gun, the 8th grade boys displayed their strong starting skills, from middle school advanced riders **Joel Parker** and **Michael Fuener** and 8th grade racers **Graham Smith** and **Brody Salai**. Graham and Brody were the first to finish, both racking up very consistent laps, each within three seconds of their first laps. Graham's negative split thrust him up the podium, his first PICL podium in history, a solid 4th place in the 8th grade race. Brody wasn't far behind, as he pushed for the finish and ended up just a tick off the podium but in a personal best 6th place.

7th graders **Oscar Pearlman**, **Gelis Straub**, **Evan Hartman**, and **Cy Prisk** were next to race, and just like the rest of the season, the Pittsburgh North seventh graders were absolutely neck and neck. The sea of highlighter green jerseys popped out of the woods at the finish, with Oscar powering to his personal best, a 4th place finish and Gelis rounding out the podium in 5th place, just 23 seconds later. Evan was next in 6th place and just 35 seconds behind Gelis, and Cy rounded out the Pittsburgh North field with a 7th place finish, just 14 seconds behind Evan. All in all the 7th grade crew finished with just 1:11 separating Oscar in fourth from Cy in seventh. If you blinked you might've missed them.



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Jeremy Parker and **Miles Miller** rounded out the Pittsburgh North riders in the 6th grade race. Jeremy was looking to repeat as the 6th grade male race winner, and Miles was looking to improve in his second career race, a week after sniffing the podium at Boyce. It was mission accomplished for both boys as Jeremy crossed the finish line first, arms raised in victory, and Miles passed 5 riders who had beaten him in the previous race to come home with a personal best third place finish, just a minute and a half behind Jeremy. Miles' performance was the most improved of the weekend and he has the hardware to prove it.

The last group to finish this week was the middle school advanced racers who again put on a show for the ages. Jockeying back and forth over the four laps, Joel and Michael found themselves again in an all out sprint to the finish, this time Joel getting the best of Michael by 0.2 seconds. Joel's race win was his first in his PICL career, and Michael's podium ran his consecutive podium streak to eight consecutive races.

Once again we'd like to thank **our generous sponsors**. As we approach the final weekend of the season and begin to reflect on all the positive memories and experiences of the year, we recognize that we couldn't have done any of this without their support.

Thank you, Sponsors!

We'll see you all this coming weekend at the State Championship!

Ride Fast
Coach Nick



Pittsburgh North Interscholastic Cycling Team Sponsors

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