



*Staff photo by John Cannon*

Brunswick's Simon McGillivray, left, and Asher Adelman, right, run during the final 800 meters of the Class 1A boys race at Hereford High School on Saturday. McGillivray won the state crown, and Adelman placed third.

## 'Like a Brunswick locomotive'

Roaders' McGillivray stuns by powering to first career win for 1A boys crown

### ■ CLASS 1A AND 2A CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP

**By JOHN CANNON**

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PARKTON — Wins had eluded Brunswick cross-country runner Simon McGillivray for his entire high school.

He was a fine, hard-working runner from a family that's been sending quality cross-country athletes to the Railroaders, both boys and girls, for a decade. But he just happened to be teammates with fellow senior Asher Adelman, a standout and recent regional champion who McGillivray usually trailed oh-so-closely in races.

So while competing in Saturday's Class 1A state meet, McGillivray envisioned a result that was realistic,

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## 'Like a Brunswick locomotive'

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respectable and true to form.

"I thought I was gonna be top four, whatever," he said. "And then I saw everyone getting tired and I had some left."

McGillivray pulled ahead of everyone going up a notoriously hilly course's biggest hill, never let up and won the 1A state title, the first victory of his high school career, with a time of 16 minutes, 28.02 seconds at the MPSSAA cross-country state championships at Hereford High School.

He beat second-place Dylan Herbst of Smithsburg and Adelman.

"Sorry I took that from you," McGillivray told Adelman after the race. Adelman, one of many runners affected by unseasonably warm weather on Saturday, finished third and, along with McGillivray, helped the Railroaders place second in the team standings to Smithsburg.

"He's usually ahead of me the whole season, but things change," said McGillivray, whose nails were painted garnet, one of Brunswick's colors, to show team spirit. "I was pretty happy to do that because, I mean, [it's my] last year, I wanted to put everything in."

McGillivray, who placed

sixth in the recent 4A West meet and was eighth at last year's state meet, was Brunswick's first individual boys state champion since 1989, when Russ Adams won.

"First win in four years, I think," Railroaders coach Lee Zumbach said of McGillivray. "There are several other guys out there who could've won this thing, and he did it, man."

Asked if he had ever won a big meet in high school, McGillivray said, "No. Only once in PVYA."

He ended that drought in one of the most unlikely ways imaginable, pulling ahead while running up a Hereford hill that's been humbling runners for decades.

"I was in second for like a mile, and then Simon passed me on the biggest hill," said Adelman, who drew praise from Zumbach for the contributions he's made to the Railroaders throughout his career.

"We had been training hills and I saw the end coming here, and I knew I had a kick in me," he said. "So I was like, 'Why not? It's a state meet, final race.'"

Zumbach said McGillivray's build helps him endure Hereford's tough course.

"He's got those long, powerful legs, kind of like a Brunswick locomotive," the longtime coach said. "He loves cross-country."

That last trait is a family tradition, with McGillivray following three older siblings at Brunswick. His sister, Ellie, finished an excruciatingly close second at the state meet eight years ago. His brother Noah ran for a Brunswick team that likely would've contended for a team crown at the 2020 state meet canceled by COVID, and his brother, Andrew, ran on a Brunswick team that captured the 2021 1A state crown.

"The McGillivrays have it in their blood," Zumbach said. "And their younger sister's coming up out of eighth grade."

Smithsburg beat Brunswick, which got an 18th-place

finish from Griffen Adelman, for the team crown, 43-89.

"They're too strong," said Zumbach, whose team was also second to the Leopards in the West region meet. "But we certainly didn't give up. Second ain't bad."

Other Frederick County top performances in 1A and 2A were: Catoclin's Noah Rilling placed sixth in 1A boys; Brunswick's Kate Virgilio was 23rd in 1A girls; Middletown's Garrett Howes was eighth in 2A boys; Walkersville's Lawrence Proulx was 37th in 2A boys; Middletown's Leah Harshman and Cara Carpenter placed 27th and 28th, respectively, in 2A girls.