

1952 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

4 mile (6.4km) Classic Results*

Location:	Chester Bowl, Duluth, Mn	Date:	2/2/1952
Snow conditions:	In January 1952, Mother Nature was somewhat stingy with fifteen inches of snow, with a mild thaw at the end of the month.	High Temperature:	Race day was a high of 32 degrees, after two days in the high thirties just prior, making waxing a difficult task. Senior Ron (Don) MacDonell, two-time XC champion was upset by upstart Allen Erickson, who seemed to find a better klister combination to win as a sophomore.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Allen Erickson	10	Duluth East	26:50
2	Frank Richter	12	Cloquet	27:03
3	Tom Patterson	12	Cloquet	27:21
4	Ron (Don) MacDonel	12	Duluth Central	27:31
5	Jim Nygaard		Duluth Central	28:04
6	Glen Nelson		Duluth Central	28:12
7	Robert Carlson		Duluth Central	28:19
8	Glen Fox		Duluth Denfeld	28:29
9	Arve Grimsmo		Roosevelt	28:54
10	William Swanson		Minneapolis North	29:44
11	Bill Bard		Duluth Denfeld	29:58
12	Jerry Lewis		Duluth East	30:40
13	Dennis Ojakangas		Grand Rapids	30:41
14	Duane Sermon		Duluth Denfeld	30:59
15	Ronald Hammerstrom		Duluth Denfeld	31:30
16	Roger Dahlin		Duluth Denfeld	31:33
17	Bradley Swanson		Minneapolis North	31:33
18	Clarence Besmehn		Roosevelt	31:59
19	Ronald Sack		Roosevelt	32:02
20	Dick Bolt		Duluth East	32:32
21	Brad Libbey		Grand Rapids	32:42
22	Paul Polski		Eveleth	33:35
23	Robert Campbell		Eveleth	34:16
24	Robert Youngquist		Duluth Central	34:37
A total of Sixty-five skiers participated in the cross-country event.				

* Results from the Duluth News Tribune, dated February 2nd, 1952

The race is listed as 3.5 miles in the Duluth News Tribune article.

Stories of 1952 winner are found in Amazon book "Norm Oakvik: The Inconspicuous Coach"

www.amazon.com/dp/B0DX7JZ9SK

Cross-country Team Scores

Place	School	Time	Top two	DNT
1	Cloquet	54:24	27:03+27:21	same
2	Duluth Central	55:35	27:31+28:04	56:15
3	Duluth East	56:30	26:50+30:40	57:30
4	Minneapolis North	57:30	29:44+31:33	61:23
5	Duluth Denfeld	59:28	28:29+30:59	58:27
6	Roosevelt	60:53	28:54+31:59	60:11
7	Grand Rapids	63:23	30:41+32:42	same

Team times may appear different from MSHSL times but they are equivalent. MSHSL times are reported as the total of two skiers, i.e. Denfeld's time is listed as 58:87 (28:29 + 30:59). This author has rounded the time to the next minute and subtracted 60 seconds from the MSHSL time., i.e. 58:87=59:27.

Corrections or additions, please email Doug Edmonson at edmonsondm@outlook.com



Allan Erickson
Duluth East—State Cross Country Champion

Sophomore Allen Erickson's victory over senior and two-time champion, Ron (Don) MacDonel, was a true upset. The author is fairly certain that Ron MacDonel is the same person as Donald MacDonel. MacDonel is listed as Don in the 1950 and 1951 Duluth Central yearbooks and then as Ronald in the 1952 yearbook. (Photos of MacDonel match from his sophomore to junior to senior years. Donald is also listed on Ancestry.com as Ronald Joseph (Donald) MacDonel, born Apr 26, 1933, died Jul 23, 2000). Erickson would win again as a junior, beating Robert Carlson, but suffer the same fate as MacDonel as a senior, losing to Carlson, also a senior.

This was Cloquet's second consecutive overall team win. Herb Drew, the Cloquet coach, was a teacher, coach and Athletic Director at Cloquet for 37 years from 1920 to 1957. Something of an enigma, Drew coached football and skiing, two disparate sports. The only other Nordic ski coach, in this author's memory, was Norm Kragseth, who after starring in football at Northwestern University, began coaching football at Minneapolis Vocational, then also coached both football and skiing at Hopkins, starting in 1967. Many Cloquet grads remember Drew for the middle school pool named after him, not his ski coaching success.



Cloquet - Nordic Champions and Team Co-Champions

Team

Photo above (L-R): A. Martin, T. Patterson, F. Richter (holding trophy), G. Flynn, E. Olson, R. Olson, J. Luomala, S. Benson, G. Green, Coach Herb Drew (holding trophy)