

1961 MSHSL Nordic Ski Racing Championship

4 mile (6.4km) Classic Results*

Location:	Chester Park, Duluth Mn	Date:	February 18th, 1961
Snow conditions:	It was a rough winter to train, with less than three inches of snow in January and just four inches in February, two of those falling during Saturday's jumping and cross-country events.	High Temperature:	After a week of temperatures hovering around 32F, race day was a high of 13 degrees. The combination of little snow and warm temperatures produced an icy track with some dry new snow atop it.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Darryl Kurki	10	Duluth Central	26:46
2	John Jeffery	12	Ely	27:08
3	Tom Butler		Cloquet	27:10
4	Jerry Jutila		Cloquet	27:17
5	Al Wiinikainen		Ely	27:23
6	Randy Ryan		Duluth Central	27:32
7	Gene Shotley		Cloquet	27:54
8	George Polany		Minneapolis North	29:51
9	Bruce Moland		Duluth East	31:16
10	Stephen Pearson		Minneapolis South	31:37
11	Douglas Erickson		Minneapolis North	31:46
12	Joe Benda		Fergus Falls	31:48
13	Bryan Nisson		Duluth Denfeld	32:09
14	Bob Conklin		Minneapolis North	32:52
15	Danny Ahd		Ely	32:55
16	John Miller		Duluth East	32:56
17	Dean Nelson		Fergus Falls	34:05
18	Dave Kreager		Duluth Denfeld	34:49
19	Alan Anderson		Duluth Denfeld	35:04
20	Howard Engnell		Minneapolis Roosevelt	35:36
21	Roger Arechiga		Minneapolis Marshall	37:02
22	Richard Forster		Minneapolis Edison	37:05
23	Robert Fretag		Minneapolis Edison	38:28
24	Phil Lyden		Minneapolis South	39:25
25	Richard Peterson		Minneapolis Edison	39:41
26	Harney Hendrickson		Minneapolis Washburn	39:44
27	Maynard Schultz		Aurora	40:07
28	Bruce Richardson		Minneapolis Henry	40:31
29	Don Mattison		Minneapolis Roosevelt	40:32
30	Jim Harelson		Minneapolis Marshall	41:11

31	Mike Kupka		Minneapolis Roosevelt	44:18
32	Miles Rose		Fergus Falls	44:49
33	Allan Olson		Minneapolis Washburn	45:18
34	George Snell		Minneapolis Central	45:44
35	John Krause		Minneapolis Henry	46:23
36	Charles Dustrud		Minneapolis South	55:52
37	Jerry Pesch		Minneapolis Central	66:08

* Results from the Duluth News Tribune, dated February 19th, 1961

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

Stories of 1961 winners are found in Amazon book "Norm Oakvik: The Inconspicuous Coach"

www.amazon.com/dp/B0DX7JZ9SK

Cross-country Team Scores

Place	School	Time	Top two
1	Duluth Central	54:18	26:46+27:32
2	Cloquet	54:27	27:10+27:17
3	Ely	54:31	27:08+27:23
4	Minneapolis North	61:37	29:51+31:46
5	Duluth East	64:12	31:16+32:56
6	Fergus Falls	65:53	31:48+34:05
7	Duluth Denfeld	66:58	32:09+34:49
8	Minneapolis South	71:02	31:37+39:25
9	Minneapolis Edison	75:33	37:05+38:28
10	Minneapolis Roosevelt	76:08	35:46+40:22
11	Minneapolis Marshall	78:13	37:02+41:11
12	Minneapolis Washburn	85:02	39:25+45:37
13	Minneapolis Henry	86:54	40:31+46:23
14	Minneapolis Central	111:52	45:44+66:08

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



Central squad:

Back Row: R. Rein, R. Smith, Coach Banks,
Middle Row: J. Makowsky, P. Mattson,
Front Row: D. Lundmark, D. Kurki

**Darryl Kurki (above left) and
Duluth Central - Nordic state
champs**



Darryl Kurki was a phenom cross-country skier and Nordic combined competitor. Kurki won the state cross-country titles in 1961 and 1962 as a sophomore and junior but opted to compete for the 1964 Olympic jumping team in the winter of 1963. Darryl was an excellent jumper but faced uphill odds with Jim Balfanz and Gene Kotlarek as established national team members and a host of other seasoned veteran jumpers. Kurki would most probably have won a third Nordic title in 1963, had he competed for the Duluth Central team. His Olympic dreams did not come to fruition but he gave his all and joined the Army after high school, never jumping or competing in cross-country events again.

Darryl's coach, Charles Banks, was the 1942 state Nordic champion and helped Duluth Central continue their dominance when he took over from long-time head coach Rudy Sebo in 1955. Banks established his own training racing course on Korkki Road near Two Harbors Minnesota and took his team there daily to train.