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HCHS's Brown wins Mountain Biking State Championship

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Habersham Central High School's (HCHS) Kirsten Brown recently won the Mountain Biking State Championship in the sophomore class Saturday, Oct. 31.

Brown's overall time of 54:24.9 was more than 10 minutes faster than her next-closest competitor.

Brown, a transfer student from Tallulah Falls School, began riding with the HCHS Mountain Biking team in late August. According to her father, Joey Brown, Star Bridges and some more experienced and faster men worked with his daughter over the summer prior to the competition.

"Kirsten attended almost every practice and worked very hard to improve her skills," Joey Brown said.

"Mountain biking requires not only superior fitness, but also very good bike-handling skills to negotiate technical single-track trails."

In the first race of the season, held at the Olympic Course at the International Horse Park in Conyers, Kirsten Brown led the sophomore class by almost 20 minutes, despite a crash. She earned the series leader jersey after this race and would not relinquish it all season.

Kirsten Brown's next two races resulted in her earning first place, after she was able to pass several JV riders who started three minutes before her.

Her state championship in the sophomore class proved invaluable in helping the team secure a second-place finish in the overall team standings.

In the first two years, HCHS Raider Cycling has produced a team state championship and now, an individual state champion.

Kirsten also plays basketball and will be competing with the JV Lady Raider basketball team this winter.

Cycling Coach Kim Cantrell said he expects big things out of her next year.

Caption: Habersham Central High School's Kirsten Brown, center, is shown with the 2015 State Champion trophy for sophomores at the Oakwood campus of the University of North Georgia Saturday, Oct. 31.

Brown, who is in her first year with the team, is pictured wearing the series leader jersey.