

Runners advance to Tiffin

By RICK SCHAFFER
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GALION — The Edison girls' and Western Reserve boys' cross country teams will lead an area contingent of six teams and three individuals into Saturday's cross country regionals in Tiffin.

The Chargers won a Div. II race while the Roughriders took a Div. III race at Saturday's district competition in Galion.

Also advancing were the Western girls (second, Div. III), Willard girls (fourth, Div. I), Willard boys (second, Div. II), and New London boys (fourth, Div. III).

Individuals runners who qualified for regionals were: Lynn Cole of Plymouth (13th, 18:10), Frank Thayer of Edison (15th, 17:43) and Sarah Dvorak of New London (15th, 21:36).

The state divides the boys' teams into three divisions and the girls' teams into two divisions. Any ner who finished in the top 15 race qualified for regionals.

The Edison girls edged We 65-74 for their championship.

Running for the Chargers were Dawn Griffith (second, 20:24), Denise Griffith (ninth, 21:37), Andrey Litun (16th, 21:37), S Kossman (17th, 21:41), Jody T (21th, 21:54), Sara Coles (23:03) and Tara Leimeister (23:38).

"We knew it would be tough because we only beat Western four points at their own invitational couple weeks ago. Three of our five runners are all in their first year on the team but they've come on as the season progressed," said first-year Charger coach (Cunningham). "Andyrea Litun came out for conditioning for basketball and ended up liking it doing well."

Regional qualifiers

GALION — The following teams and individuals have qualified for Saturday's regional cross country action in Tiffin:

- Boys' Div. III — Western Reserve; New London. Individuals (Lynn Cole, Plymouth).
- Boys; Div. II — Willard. Individuals (Frank Thayer, Edison).
- Girls' Div. II — Willard; Edison; Western Reserve. Individuals (Sarah Dvorak, New London).

TOP 15 LOCAL FINISHERS AT GALION

- Boys' Div. III, District II — 2. Chris Nickoli, WR, 16:56; 3. Ravi Sharma, NL, 16:57; 4. Chris Rowland, NL, 16:58; 8. Steve Mahl, WR, 17:48; 12. Ron Buchanan, WR, 18:08; 13. Lynn Cole, Ply, 18:10.
- Boys' Div. II — 3. Chris Bores, Wil, 16:36; 11. Chad Rapson, Wil, 17:27; 13. Steve Souslin, 17:33; 15. Frank Thayer, Ed, 17:43.
- Girls' Div. II, District I — 12. Kristen Henry, Wil, 21:14.
- Girls; Div. II, District II — 2. Dawn Griffith, Ed, 20:34; 4. April Nickoli, WR, 21:11; 9. Denise Griffith, Ed, 21:22; 11. Tricia Pickett, WR, 21:24; 15. Sarah Dvorak, NL, 21:36.

The coach said the competitive Sandusky Bay Conference got here team ready for post-season action. "Our conference has St. Mary's and Margaretta and Perkins (who all advanced to regionals) and they're challenging teams," she said. "At conference we didn't do well but we put that behind us and worked hard for this."

Running for the Western boys were: Chris Nickoli (second, 16:56), Steve Mahl (eighth, 17:48), Ron Buchanan (12th, 18:08) Bob Baker (16th, 18:18), Tim Church (29th, 20:53), Curt Linder (32nd, 19:03) and Matt Stinson (68th, 20:53).

Western nosed Seneca East for the win 67-69.

The second-place Lady Riders were April Nickoli (fourth, 21:11), Tricia Pickett (11th, 21:24), Nicki Bores (18th, 21:42), Paula Motolik (19th, 21:48), Paulette Brookover (22nd, 22:11), Melissa Beveridge

(37th, 22:58) and Stephanie Baker (48th, 23:32).

"I came in thinking we could get two team championships," said Rider coach Dave Rice. "We've been looking toward the regionals all year. We felt both teams could make it."

Running for the Willard boys were: Chris Bores (third, 16:36), Chad Rapson, (11th, 17:27), Steve Souslin (13th, 17:33), Jason Goble (17th, 17:50), Terry Henry (23rd, 18:08), Brandon Myers (36th, 18:28), and Chris Neidermeier (68th, 19:56).

The Willard girls were: Kristen Henry (12th, 21:14), Beth Dotson (18th, 22:14), Dawn Newland (20th, 22:35), Marie McClint (24th, 22:43) and Lori Kuhn (45th, 24:49).

"Our top five runners in the boys' race had their best times of the season," said Willard coach Dominic Fratta. "That's how you want to do it. The top three teams here will be in the top five in the state. This district is that good."

The advancing New London boys' team consisted of: Ravi Sharma (third, 16:57), Chris Rowland (fourth, 16:58), Marty Abfall (18th, 18:24), Abe Dvorak (27th 18:47), Brad Crawford (51th, 20:07), Derrick Marsh (56th, 20:19) and Joss Cross (59th, 20:34).

"The guys were real happy," said Wildcat coach Bob Knoll. "The first four all ran really well and the five, six and seven runners have really improved."

Norwalk's Tiffany Ferrell just missed advancing, finishing 16th in 20:38. Also running for the Truckers were: Michelle Geretz (18th, 20:45); Joan Christel (64th, 22:46); Heather Elmer (78th, 23:34); and Amy Emmons (89th, 24:46).

Running for the Norwalk boys were: John Christel (50th, 18:50); Jason Penrose (51st, 18:51); Walt Robertson (62nd, 19:22); Chris Gore (67th, 19:48); and Jerod Adkins (73rd, 20:28).

"We had four runners turn in their personal best times," said Norwalk coach Linda Showers. "It was probably the best competitive race both teams have run this season. Everyone competed well at the same time."

Kathy Scheid of Monroeville, who practices and competes with Norwalk, finished 19th in the Div.