

# New London breezes to FC boys' crown

By TOM WOLFE  
Reflector Correspondent

## CROSS COUNTRY

PLYMOUTH — No close call this time.

A year ago the New London boys' team came up one point short in the race for the Firelands Conference title.

Dan Olien's squad made certain there were no repeat disappointments this year.

Wildcat runners took five of the top 10 spots in Saturday's race over the rugged course at Mary Fate Park for 32 points and an easy win.

Crestview finished a distant second with 66 points, followed by Plymouth, 79; Mapleton, 92; Monroeville, 96; Western Reserve, 163 and St. Paul, 175. South Central does not have a team.

Thomas Landis finished second overall to lead the Wildcats.

Landis posted 17:34 over the 3.1 mile course. Crestview's John Halter took the top spot at 17:28.

The top seven runners earned first team all-league honors, while the next seven were selected to the second team.

Also earning first team honors for the Wildcats were Zac Sendelbach and Russ Roberts. Sendelbach was sixth in 18:02 while Roberts was seventh in 18:11.

Ben Kaufman and David Kamm were eighth and ninth notching 18:18 and 18:20, respectively, to round out the scoring for the champions.

After the race, a proud and happy Olien said it was tough on his harriers knowing they were the pre-meet favorites.

"It is tough knowing you are the favorites and this is a tough course with a lot of tight turns and hills. It really slows you down. I just hope we can get better before next week," Olien said.

The Wildcats, as well as all other teams in the state, enter district competition next week. It is the first leg on the journey to the state meet in Columbus.

Olien was most pleased with his team's packing on the tough course.

"They did a nice job. That was not bad packing," he said. "They were all within 46 seconds and our best is 38 seconds.

St. Paul coach Scott Endsley also referred to the hills during his post meet talk.

"The boys did not do well with the hills and the cold," he said. Several coaches said Saturday was the coldest day of the season to date.

Endsley did have reason to smile as he looked to the future of the St. Paul program.

"This is a young team and they are working hard," he said.

St. Paul runners finished between 30th and 40th.

Brian Allard led the way at 30th in 20:27, followed by Josh Beebe, 31st, 20:37; Nick Fries, 35th, 21:08; Scott Gfell, 39th, 21:27 and Matt Holmer, 40th, 23:15.

Three Plymouth runners earned second team honors. Mike Pritchard was 12th in 18:39; Jeremy Rowe, 13th, 18:33 and Adam Wade, 14th, 18:39.

Mike Ball recorded 18:59 for 19th, while Skylar Branstool finished 21st in 19:09.

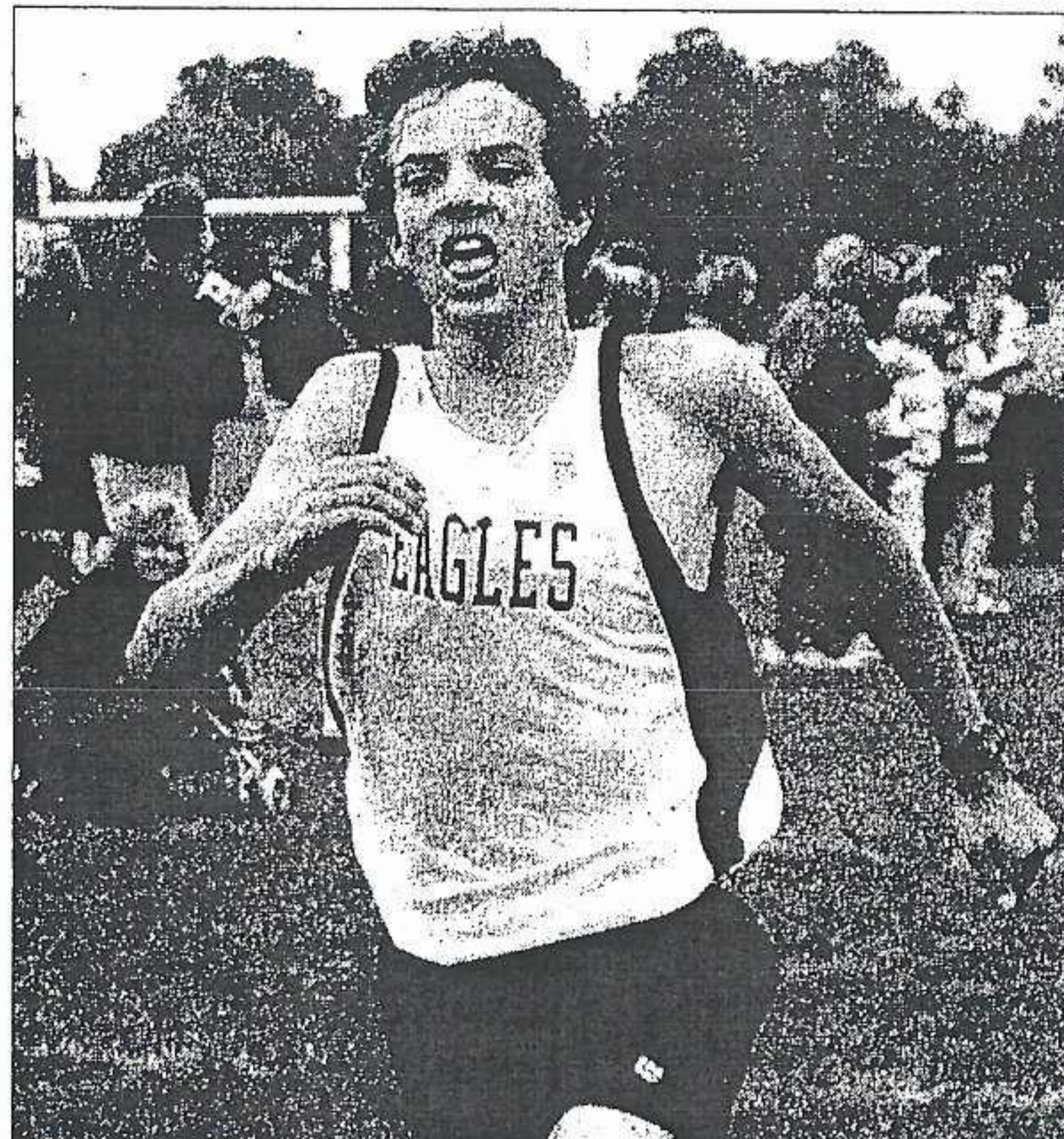
Kyle Schaffer was the only Monroeville runner to earn all-FC honors.

He ran 17:51, good for third place and a first-team berth. No. 2 runner Brian Koch just missed all-league honors with a 15th place time of 18:47.

Nick Ryan garnered 23rd in 19:16; Ben Wilhelm, 27th, 19:32 and Dan Wendt, 28th, 18th, 19:29.

Western was led by Daniel Cammam's 20th place time of 19:07. Shawn Martz ran 19:27 for 26th; Nick Gordon, 34th, 20:48, Perry Tracht, 41st, 23:15 and Ryan Burch, 42nd, 23:53.

In the district meet Saturday, New London, Plymouth and Western are headed to the Division III Galion site, while Monroeville and St. Paul are competing at Fremont Division III.



LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Monroeville's Kyle Schaffer, who is shown competing in the John Speer "Rider" Invitational Sept. 28, finished third overall in the Firelands Conference race Saturday at Plymouth.

## Edison places third at SBC meet

CASTALIA — Edison gained a pair of threes in the Sandusky Bay Conference league meet Saturday at Lions Park.

On the boys' side, the Chargers scored 75 points to finish behind winner Perkins with 44, while Clyde checked in at 54.

Behind the top three were Huron with 80 points; St. Mary, 106; Margaretta, 158; Oak Harbor, 163 and Port Clinton, 212.

The win for Perkins was the first for the school in the SBC in six years.

For the Chargers, Aaron Jones and Pete Hill earned first-team all-league honors with a sixth and seventh place, respectively.

Jones turned in a 17:18, while Hill was right behind at 17:23.

The top seven runs garner first-team all-league honors; the next seven claim second-team and Nos. 15 to 21 are honorable mention.

Also for Edison, Brian Collins was 11th in 17:32 for second-team honors; Jeff Meinert, 23rd,

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18:07; Matt Triana, 28th, 18:20; A.J. Hart, 36th, 18:49 and Tyler Johnson, 40th, 19:12. Perkins' Ian Michalik collected first overall in 16:34.

The girls' saw Edison, despite missing some key personnel, score 86 points for their spot. Huron captured its third straight SBC crown with 37 points, edging out Perkins at 39.

Kelly Schnee and Shelly Schnee landed on the first-team all-league list. Kelly Schnee ran a 20:04 for fifth place, followed by Shelly Schnee at 20:08 for sixth.

Sarah Foster, Christie Shover and Maria Carrotola didn't compete due to injuries. Mandy Wurmser was the next runner for the Lady Chargers, 24th in 22:14; Paige Knittle, 25th, 22:19; Nicole Hoag, 26th, 22:21; Donna Wilson, 27th, 22:24 and Sarah Frock, 29th, 22:34.

Edison is at Galion for the district meet Saturday.

# Western places second again in girls' FC race

By TOM WOLFE  
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PLYMOUTH — Bridesmaids again.

That is the story for the Western Reserve's girls' team for the second year in a row in the annual Firelands Conference meet.

The Lady Roughriders finished with 63 points, 13 points behind Mapleton. Last year the margin was a scant, 36-38.

It is also marked the second straight week that Mapleton has edged Western for a crown.

Last week, the teams tied for the top spot at Western's annual John Speer Invitational.

Mapleton earned the title on a tie breaker, the placement of each team's sixth runner.

In the FC race, New London chalked up 72 points to finish third, followed by Crestview, 90; St. Paul, 106 and Monroeville, 127. Plymouth did not have a full team and South Central does not have a team.

Crestview finished fourth, despite having the meet's top two runners in sisters Grace and Jenni McCarron, who ran 20:36 and 21:11, respectively, to finish 1-2.

Veteran Mara Lee Albright continues to lead Western. She was third in 21:20.

Coach Keith Landis watched four of his girls post lifetime personal bests.

Rebecca Bement ran 21:55 to finish eighth; Caitlin Bement's P.R. of 23:02 earned her 17th, while Jessica Patrick's best of 23:36 place her 23rd.

Jackie Davis rounded out the Western scoring, running 22:29 to finish 12th while Jennifer Drennen checked in 36th in a P.R. of 25:50.

"The girls had a real good day. Mapleton is an excellent team," Landis said. "They are doing a great job right now. We packed really well again. It is especially good to see the seniors go out strong in their final conference meet," he said.

Landis said Saturday's weather was a factor in his team's success. It was much cooler than the past few weeks, something all cross

country runners like."

Competition among the team is also good and the coach is pleased with that aspect of his team.

Courtney Wuench led New London's third-place finish.

She was fourth in 21:41, earning first-team all-league honors.

Megan Shepherd ran 21:59 for ninth and second-team all-FC honors. Holly Perkins was 16th in 23:01, followed by Jenn Bottomlee, 19th, 23:18 and Holly Romelfanger, 24th, 23:43.

"We are young. I am pleased with the progress we have made," coach Dan Olien said. "This is a really good group that will only get better."

Olien said four of the seven Ladycats who ran Saturday had never run cross country before this year.

St. Paul finished among the also-rans, but still had some outstanding efforts. Amanda Allard finished fifth in 21:47; Luda Pasechynk, 11th, 22:10; Sara Nickoli, 28th, P.R. 24:24; Lindsay Bungard, 30th, 24:40 and Tiffany Woudstra, 32, 24:45.

"Our girls are young," Lady Flyers coach Scott Endsley said. "They have a lot of growing to do. We have to get more dedicated in the off season. These girls have the potential to win the conference if they will work at it," he said with a look to the future.

Rounding out the performances by area girls was Monroeville.

The Lady Eagles were led by Charlene Downing's 15th in 22:39, followed by Michelle Nielsen, 18th, 23:12; Tarah Faren, 21st, 23:29; Jenny Wilhelm, 35th, 25:31 and Renee Karnehm, 38th, 26:58.

Plymouth had only two runners. Brooke Waddles was 41st in 29:27, two in front of Michelle Boyce who posted 29:32.

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