

SPORTS

Edison girls place fifth, advance to state meet

By TOM WOLFE
Reflector Correspondent

TIFFIN — Edison's girls are going to the state cross country meet next weekend.

Dean Stanfield's talented group chalked up 168 points to grab the fifth and final state ticket during Division III Regional competition Saturday over the rugged 3.1 mile Hedges Boyer Park course.

Afterwards, an elated Stanfield praised the efforts of his gutsy Lady Chargers. "I am just so proud of the girls being able to pull this together," Stanfield said.

He noted his team has battled injuries all year and one of the biggest surprises was the effort of Sarah Foster. "For her to come back and finish 33rd, that was it right there. He noted that Foster's place kept the Chargers ahead of another talented area program, Seneca East. Actually, Foster's 33rd place overall was good for 26th in the team race.

Leading the way for Edison was the dynamic duo of Shelly and Kelly Schnee. They ran 20:31 and 20:37 to finish 10th and 12th respectively in the team race.

After the race, Shelly Schnee spoke about what it means to be going to Columbus for the first time. "It really feels good," she said before revealing her strategy for the Scioto Downs course. "At state, I plan to take it easier (than this past Saturday) the first mile and not go out so fast. "I will push it harder the second and third mile. I went out too fast today," she said.

Shelly noted that Kelly is making her second trip to Scioto Downs. "It's great that we are both going," she said.

Senior Nicole Hoag and surprising freshman Maria Carratola ran 22:27 and 22:29 respectively to place

59th and 61st in the team race. Edison's two non-scoring runners Saturday were Sarah Frock and Mandi Wurmser. They ran 22:57 and 23:46 respectively.

Western Reserve was the only other full area girls' team in action Saturday. The Lady Riders finished 16th and failed to land a team or individual berth in the state competition.

Mara Lee Albright came the closest for the Lady Riders. She was 20th in the team standings and 27th overall in 21:11. Rebecca Bement wound up 50th in the team race in 22:18.50, followed by Jackie Davis. Davis posted 23:19 to place 90th.

Freshman Caitlin Bement ran 24:12 in her first regional race to place 102nd., while Brittany Pickett ran 24:40 to finish 112th. She was the last scorer for the Lady Riders.

Other Western runners were Jennifer Drennen and Jessica Patrick. They ran 26:27 and 26:49, respectively.

"It's been a great year," Western coach Keith Landis said. "It is the first time in nine or 10 years that we have been at the regional. My senior girls (Albright and Rebecca Bement) ran great. They did a fantastic job. I am disappointed that we have come to the end of the road but compared to last year it feels great," Landis said.

Norwalk, St. Paul and Willard all had individual girls running Saturday. Brittany Vannatta ran a respectable 21:35, but it was not good enough to earn a state berth. She finished 45th in Division II.

Willard's Danielle Stockmaster actually came the closest to a state berth among the also-rans when she recorded 20:39 to finish 18th overall in Division II.

St. Paul was represented in Division III by Luda Pasechnyk and Amanda Allard. They ran 21:32 and 21:45, respectively, to finish 40th and 46th.



JERRY HARRINGTON/REFLECTOR

New London senior Thomas Landis crosses the finish line Saturday afternoon.

Clay Millican wins final IHRA race of the season

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. — Clay Millican of Atoka, Tenn., closed out the most dominating season in the history of Top Fuel drag racing Sunday by winning the seventh annual IHRA CARQUEST World Finals at Rockingham Dragway.

In reaching the winners' cir-

cle for the 11th time in 12 races this year, the 36-year-old veteran applied an exclamation point to his second consecutive World Championship season.

Other winners in the concluding event in the 2002 IHRA Hooter's Drag Racing Series included

Mark Cox of Yadkinville, N.C., who upset 65-year-old Ray Price of Raleigh in the Nitro Harley-Davidson final, and Mitch Stott of Mill Spring, N.C., who won his third straight Pro Modified race at the expense of former IHRA Pro Stock Champion Rickie Smith of King, N.C.

New London boys advance to state

By TOM WOLFE
Reflector Correspondent

TIFFIN — New London's boys' cross country team is going to the big dance.

Dan Olien's Wildcats used a coach's favorite formula — close packing — on the way to chalking up 180 points to place securely in the fourth and final state-qualifying position at Hedges Boyer Park in Tiffin Saturday.

The Wildcats are the only area Division III boys' team that will be in competition at Scioto Downs, south of Columbus.

The area was blanked in Division II boys' competition. Edison, the only area Division II school with a full boys' team at Tiffin, finished 10th overall. Norwalk's Scott Hamernik was 57th in 18:13, while Willard runner Ricky Featheringill ran 18:03 to finish 43rd.

As expected, senior Thomas Landis led the way for the Wildcats, placing 21st. He finished the demanding 3.1 mile Hedges Boyer Park course in 17:35 to finish 21st in the team race.

Two other Wildcats finished in the top 30 spots. Zach Sendelbach was 24th in 17:38 while senior Russ Roberts finished his last race at Hedges Boyer in 17:47 to take 29th in the team race.

Ben Kaufman finished 40th in 18:08, making New London one of only two schools with four runners under 40th place. The other was champion Old Fort.

Also running for the Wildcats were Jordan Campbell and David Kamm. They posted 18:42 and 18:50 respectively and did not figure in the team scoring.

"We are really glad to be going back," Olien said. He noted that his team is advancing despite a somewhat sub-par performance. "We did not hit on all cylinders today but the important part is we advanced to the state meet," the veteran coach said.

Olien noted he will have a hungry team at Scioto Downs. "We're not satisfied. We feel we can really do well in Columbus next



JERRY HARRINGTON/REFLECTOR

Edison's Aaron Jones competes Saturday in Tiffin.

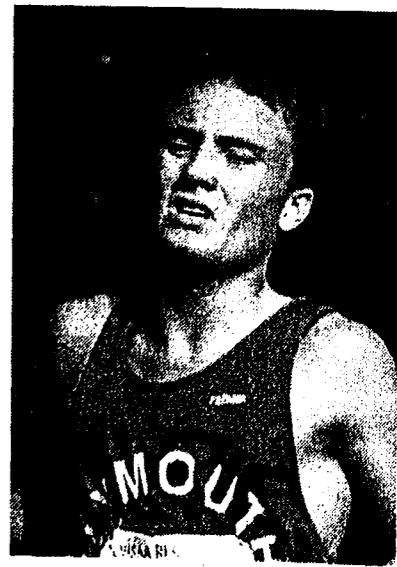
week," he said.

Plymouth, the only other area Division III school represented by a full boys' team, was 17th with 346 points and no state qualifiers.

Jeremy Rowe was the top Plymouth runner, recording 17:57 to finish 33rd in the team race. Adam Wade turned in 18:40 for 64th, followed by Mike Ball in 69th in 18:46. Mike Pritchard placed 77th in 18:52 and Skylar Branstool (19:36) rounded out the team.

Monroeville's only placer, Kyle Shaffer, was 89th in 18:40.5.

"I am happy that Kyle gets to come back. He will learn from this. Overall, it was a great year. This was only the third year for



Jeremy Rowe competes for Plymouth.



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cross country at Monroeville. We are just trying to improve the program and I think we are," Eagles coach Wayne Chesney said.

Running for Edison were: 26. Aaron Jones (17:47); 41. Edwin Hill (18:01); 54. Jeffery Meinert (18:11); 76. Brian Collins (18:43); 81. Angelo Trent (18:49); 89. Anthony Hart (19:22); 96. Jonthon Sutter (19:46).