

1978

# Chuck Harriers Blank

By Bob Gretz

KANE — It must be discouraging to run against the Punx'ny cross country team in a District IX championship meet.

Last year no one was able to break into the coach John Smith's top five runners as they shutout the entire district, the first time it has been done in the Class AAA race.

Yesterday at Kane Country Club the Chuck harriers did it again taking the top five places and six of the top seven in garnering their fourth straight District IX-Class AAA cross country title.

Smith's squad did it behind the super performances of juniors Frank German and Rick Sherry. Despite a steady drizzle and cold temperatures German burned the three mile layout in 15:28.8 a new meet and course record. The old mark was 15:56 set in 1975 by Larry Semple of Clearfield.

Sherry was flying right behind German and toured the course in 15:33 almost a minute ahead of teammate Dale Hargraves in third place at 16:30. After that it was John Love in fourth, Doug Craft in fifth and Doug Shaffer in seventh. Only Bradford's Steve Bean was able to break the Punx'ny half dozen as he came in sixth with a time of 16:35.

"Our whole team did a tremendous job," said Smith after the affair. "I'm very pleased because we won but I'm also happy because they did what they were supposed to do."

German led the entire run from start to finish and only Sherry and Bean were able to stay near him. The Bradford runner however shot his chance into the second mile when Hargraves passed him. Love and Craft moved up in the last 400 yards.

Smith had sent his runners into the meet with the idea of it being a practice session of sorts. He wanted them to work on the aspect of their performance that needed the most practice for states. He predicted that they would all be in the top ten.

"I really can't say I'm surprised," Smith laughed. "I'm very pleased but no I'm not surprised."

What was surprising was the performances of German and Sherry under the conditions. Many areas of the Kane Country Club course were saturated from water and although the downpour quit as the race was starting, it fell during most of the last two miles. The temperature was in the high 40's.

"Under the conditions I'm very pleased with what

everybody did," Smith praised. "But Frank and Rick ran excellent races. Dale really looked a lot sharper but I know he can do better."

While the win wasn't unexpected it did help the Chucks mental attitude according to their coach.

"That's the first time this year I've seen them excited," Smith noted. "I think they are finally believing in themselves and they feel they have a shot at winning the state title."

Many cross country observers had counted Punx'ny out after they had a bad showing at the Penn State Invitational three weeks ago. In that race they were third as a team and German was fifth individually.

"A lot of people have dropped their support for us and are talking about State College and North Hills," Smith said. "But somebody forgot to tell me about it and today I think the team gained some confidence in themselves. The team that beats us now will be a better team."

Smith feels German and Sherry are on the verge of breaking the 15 minute barrier while he hopes to have Hargraves up near the pair by the time the gun goes off for the state start on Saturday, November 4.

"I really think Frank can get under 15," he predicted. "And I think Rick has a lot left. We have to get Dale up near the top if we want to win states."

Running at states for Smith will be the top six runners and sophomore Jay Depp who shared first place in the junior varsity run with Frank Test. The Chucks walked away with the JV team title placing five runners in the top six places.

"Despite injuries and the weather no one ran a bad race," Smith said. "And I think we can do a lot better. We have nothing to lose now and we just have to go after it."

Only one female ran for Smith at districts and that was freshman Jena Gaston who was clocked in a time of 17:16. Her coach was happy with her performance considering it was the first time she had run in anything but a dual meet.

"We looked good but we can look better," Smith added.

Jack Morgan of Clarion won the Class AA title while Kane took the team crown. In the girls competition Bradford and Kane won the team titles with Mary Jo Cline of Bradford finishing first in 12:55.

# District Again



Members of the Punx'ny cross country team that won its fourth straight District IX title yesterday at Kane are: Doug Craft, Dale Hargraves, Tim Demko, Frank German, Brian Gretz, Rick Sherry, John Love and Doug Shaffer. (Photo by Bob Gretz)

## CLASS AAA TEAM

1 - PUNX'Y 15, Bradford 69, St. Marys 79, Clearfield 95, Brookville 121, DuBois 128.

## CLASS AAA INDIVIDUAL

1 - FRANK GERMAN (P) 15:23.8 (new course and meet record, old mark Larry Semple of Clearfield 15:56 in 1975); 2 - RICK SHERRY (P) 15:33; 3 - DALE HARGRAVES (P) 16:30; JOHN LOVE (P) 16:32; DOUG CRAFT (P) 16:33; Steve Bean (B) 16:35; DOUG SHAFFER (P) 17:00; Chuck Crum (B) 17:03; Tim Cline (C) 17:07; Dan Brennen (SM) 17:09; Mike Bradley (SM); Hurley (D); Dippold (SM); Snell (D); Owens (C); Bickle (BV), Murphy (B); Burgess (B); Hunsinker (C); Williams (B); 32 - TIM DEMKO (P) 18:26; 50 - BRIAN GRETZ (P) 22:51.

## CLASS AA TEAM

1 - Kane 27; Elk County 78; DuBois Central 84; Clarion 93; Karns City 120.

## CLASS AA INDIVIDUAL

1 - Jack Morgan (C) 16:23; Tabb Wile (K) 16:38; Watt Hulings (K) 16:54; Tim Klaiber (ECC) 17:11; Dean McHenry (K) 17:18.

## CLASS AAA GIRLS TEAM

1 Bradford 17; Clearfield 38

## CLASS AAA GIRLS INDIVIDUAL

1 - Mary Jo Cline (B) 12:55; Shiela Wray (D) 13:09; Gretchen Gordon (B) 13:31; Tammy Songer (B) 13:54; Sandy Altemus (C) 13:56; 16 - JENA GASTON (P) 17:16.

## JV - Class AAA Individual

1 - JAY DEPP (P) and FRANK-TEST (P) 17:56; JIM WAZELLE (P) 18:02; Dan Peters (SM) 18:08; DAVE EDDINGER (P) 18:15; BRIAN MENNETTI (P) 18:19; Doug Connelly (SM) 18:24; Walt Snelick (SM) 18:23; Barger (C) 18:43; KOWALCHICK (P) 18:46; KEMMERER (P) 18:54; Feudbauer (SM) 19:04; Shadeck (C) 19:14; Stefano (SM) 19:19; McGonnell (SM) 19:23; WALKER (P) 19:23; Anderson (SM) 19:37; Evanho (C) 19:43; MORROW (P) 19:45; Welker (C) 19:55.