

Harriers Defend District 9 Title

KANE — The Punx'y High cross country team defended its District 9 title by easily defeating the opposition here yesterday in the freezing weather.

"Considering the weather, I thought our kids did a good job," said Punx'y head coach John Smith. "It was easily 20 degrees colder here than in Punx'y. And it was also snowing. At first it came down in big flakes, then in that stingy-type of snow."

Despite the weather conditions, Smith thought that the meets were run off extremely well.

"They (Kane officials) did an excellent job," Smith praised. "The meet was put on better than any invitational we've been to. It was even better organized than the state meet."

Leading the Chuck harriers once again was Frank German. The veteran track performer toured the 3.1 mile course in 16:05. The time set a new course and meet record.

"Frank did another fine job considering the weather," Smith noted.

Placing second in the five team AAA meet was Punx'y's Rick "Hawk" Sherry with a clocking of 16:49. Teammate John Love was two seconds behind in third place.

"John ran a good race," Smith related, "but I don't know what happened, but I know that he did take a nasty fall during the race."

Clearfield's Joe Whitaker took the fourth spot with a clocking of 16:53. Ironically, Whitaker lived in Punx'y last year but did not compete in cross country. Also, he told the Punx'y runners that he may be moving back here next year.

Punx'y senior Doug Craft took the fifth position with a time of 17:11. "That was a good race for Doug considering he's been out the past few days with an ailment," Smith stated. "He still has a lot of speed work to do."

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17:42 and 47 respectively. Smith was also pleased with the job of the Chucks' next finisher, sophomore Dave Ed-

dinger, who placed 15 in 18:04.

Sophomore Brett Morrow was 17th, seven seconds behind Edginger.

When all the points were tabulated, Punx'y had 20, St. Marys 66, Clearfield 81, Bradford 95, and DuBois 121.

"We still have a lot of things to work on," cautioned Smith. "A lot of people think we should win the states, but we're going against the top teams in the entire state down there (at Indiantown Gap on November 3) and it's just not that easy. We just hope to be in it."

Punx'y's female harriers finished fourth in the four-team AAA meet.

Clearfield had 31, Bradford 41, DuBois 65 and Punx'y 81. Sheila Wray of

DuBois won the meet with a time of 20:41 and Clearfield's Tummy Smeal was second in 20:55.

Punx'y's finishers are as follows: 14.

Becky Emberg, 23:19; 15. Hollie Cavazza, 23:24; 16. Jennine Cassebaum, 23:24; 17. Bonnie Springer; 23:28; 19. Karen Dalton, 23:45; 23. Bonnie Jarbeck, 25:08; 26. Patty Menetti, 25:59.

"Most of the girls ran as well as I expected them to," said head coach Paula Boyd. "The cold seem to especially affect Emberg and Springer."

In the junior varsity boys meet, Punx'y easily ran off with the title as it finished with 35 points.

Punx'y's Jim Wazelle and Frank Test tied for first with an 18:25 clocking and junior Jay Depp placed fourth in 18:54.

Brian Chriavalle was 11th, Rick Smith 14th, and Doug Walker 20th.

In the AA boys meet, Elk County upset Kane 52-60. Brookville finished with 236 points. Smith noted that Kane's top two runners did not compete.

Jack Morgan won the meet with a