

Rider girls, Shamrock boys capture OVAC titles

•Bruney, Perun win individual crowns; St.C. boys, Barnesville girls earn class nods

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

A few familiar, but a few not so familiar faces captured Ohio Valley Athletic Conference titles Saturday morning in Byesville.

The familiar faces consisted of Martins Ferry and Barnesville, while St. Clairsville, Weirton and John Marshall stood up and were recognized among the conference cross country juggernauts.

The Lady Riders and Shamrocks captured the overall titles and their respective class titles.

The Lady Shamrocks, who finished second overall, won the A-AA combined battle for an unprecedented sixth straight time.

The Red Devils, which were second overall, captured the boys' 3-A race, while Weirton's boys and John Marshall's girls prevailed amongst the big schools.

The Lady Riders, who have been

enjoying great success this season, added yet another team trophy to the display case.

The Ferrians scored 49 points, which was 26 better than that of runner-up Barnesville.

Ferry coach Joe Ellis summed it up best when he said, "Another great day for the Purple Rider girls."

That statement would not be argued by too many that witnessed another Lady Rider dominating act.

"It was a little bit hotter today, so some of the times were slower, but I still think the girls ran their best races. I think the rest we gave this week really helped the kids both physically and psychologically," Ellis continued.

For the third straight week, Ferry's senior standout Mandy Bruney brought home the meet's top honor. This also marked the first time Bruney has won the OVAC title.

Bruney was 11-seconds better

than her nearest competitor as she closed the race with a time of 20:18.

"It feels really great (to win the OVAC). I can hardly believe right now. I felt good today, and I just tried to pace myself early in the race and then see how much I had at the end," the modest Bruney offered.

Bruney's victory marked the first overall Ferry champion since 1993 when Pete Beck won.

The second finisher to cross the line was also Ferry's second runner as junior-dandy Katrina Jones continued her fine season with a time of 20:29 and an all-OVAC award.

The next Lady Riders received a fine performance from freshman-sensation Amy Bruney. Amy earned all-OVAC courtesy of a fourth place award. The younger Bruney toured the 3.1 mile terrain in a time of 20:55.

That was not the last Lady Rider to earn all-OVAC as steady-senior Angie Delbrugge was the ninth runner over the line with a time of 22:09.

The newest Purple OVAC hardware is the ninth won by Ellis during his tenure, with five of those being courtesy of the Lady Purple people.

THE BOYS' OVERALL title went to Barnesville. The Shamrock cross country team has had a lot of success over the past few years, but the latest award was the first ever won by the boys' contingent.

"We had two kids that were sick, but they still ran well enough today to win," long-time Barnesville coach Mark Brown said.

The 'Rocks were paced by their junior-sensation Chris Perun. Perun captured the overall title on the boys' side with an impressive time of 16:46.

"It feels great right now (to win the OVAC). I was not real sure about this meet coming in. I didn't feel very well last night or this morning. I was just hoping for a good race. The start was really fast today, and I wasn't really ready. I

18:24.

The 3-A boys race appeared coming in, it would be one of the toughest classes.

It was just that as St. Clairsville handed coach Tony Cirolini his first OVAC championship. The Red Devils placed second overall.

"I figured from last week, looking at the times, it was going to be a dogfight. Both,

Martins Ferry and Bellaire, are tough competition for us.

They both ran well today, but we just happened to come out on top," Cirolini said.

The Devils were led by four all-conference performers.

Exchange-student Ola Dahlen led the way as he was seventh overall in a time of 17:53.

Solid-senior Drew Turner continued his fine season as he was 10th with a time of 18:02. Classmate Cody Creamer finished 16th in a time of 18:14.

Zack Brown was the fourth Devil to finish as he was 20th and posted a time of 18:26.

"The kids have been working really, really hard and they really deserve every bit of this. I am ecstatic. As a coach, (you) don't get paid a whole lot, but this really an added bonus to the paycheck to see kids do well like this," Cirolini continued.

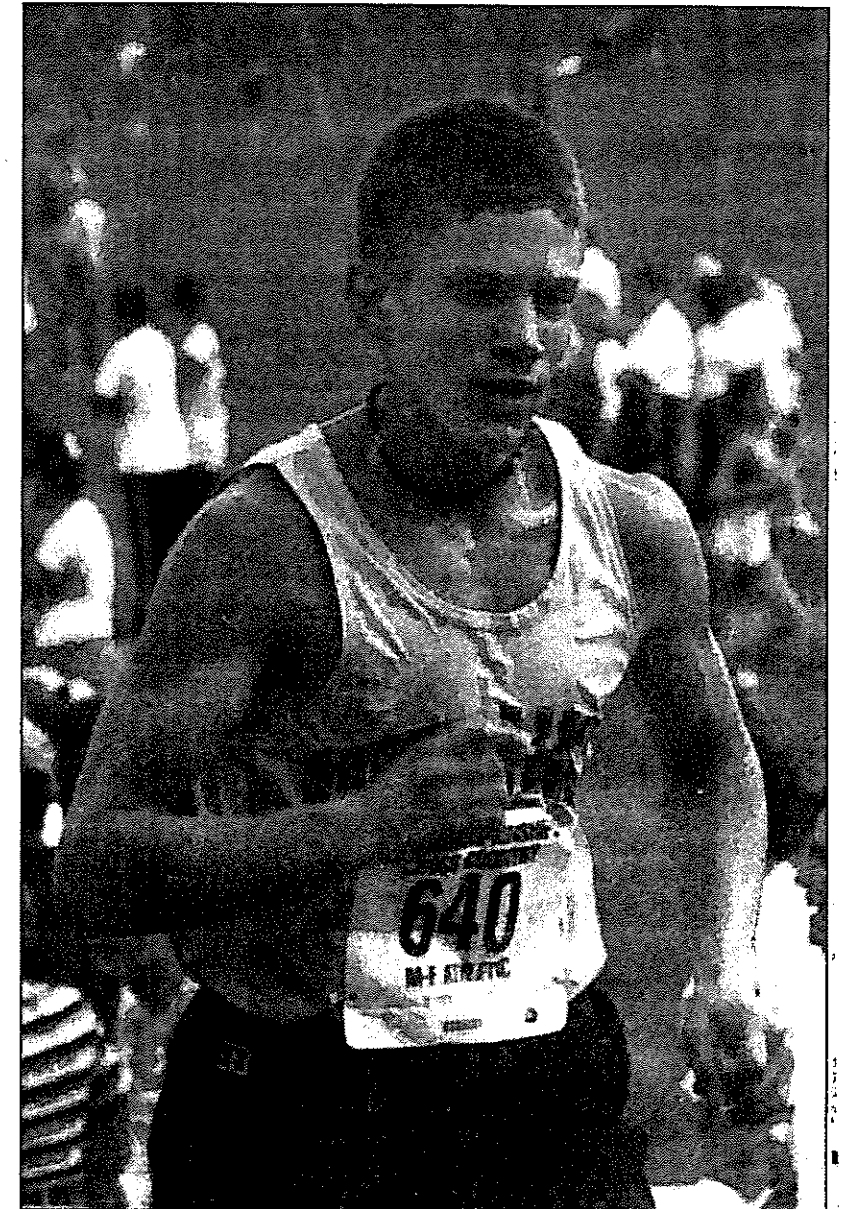
Runner-up Martins Ferry had one runner achieve all-OVAC as junior-phenom John Tierney placed ninth in 17:59.

Bellaire was led once again by sophomore-dynamo Jed Perko. He closed the event in sixth place with a time of 17:47.

Harrison Central's Matt Kidd earned all-OVAC for the second straight season with an eighth place finish and a time of 17:56.

IN A-AA, Shadyside finished third with 189 points. The Tigers, of coach Joel Joseph, had two runners crack the top 20 and take home all-OVAC honors.

Senior Dane Runyon finished in 14th with a time of 18:10. Senior-standout Andrew Lewis also earned



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

HEADING towards the finish line of the OVAC cross country meet is Buckeye Local senior Ben Bolock. Bolock finished in second place with a time of 17:12.

country with yet another title.

The Lady Shamrocks closed with 75 points, which was 57 better than runner-up St. John Central.

"The girls ran well. Our goal was to win our division. We knew Ferry was going to be tough. We got second behind Ferry and that is nothing to be ashamed of," Brown offered.

The western-Belmont Countians once again received a strong showing from senior-sensation Jennie Castle.

Shadyside also produced two runners with all-conference awards.

Sophomore Whiteny Brown finished in eighth as she closed with a 22:04.

Solid-senior Andrea Lewis was 16th in 22:37.

Linsly-senior Megan Govindan placed 14th in a time of 22:30.

IN THE 3-A, Bellaire took home the second place trophy.

The Lady Big Reds were paced by freshman Aimee Vavrek.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

HEADING towards the finish line of the OVAC cross country meet is Bellaire freshman Aimee Vavrek. Vavrek finished in third place with a time of 20:48.

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"It feels great right now (to win the OVAC). I was not real sure about this meet coming in. I didn't feel very well last night or this morning. I was just hoping for a good race. The start was really fast today, and I wasn't really ready. I just tried to relax the first mile and that kept me going," an elated Perun remarked.

"Chris ran super. He had been having trouble with his hip this week, so we backed off a little bit on him," Brown continued.

The Shamrocks placed two other runners on the all-conference team as junior Travis Taylor was 13th in a time of 18:10.

Senior-dandy Ben Fisher was 19th as he finished with a time of

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Runner-up Martins Ferry had one runner achieve all-OVAC as junior-phenom John Tierney placed ninth in 17:59.

Bellaire was led once again by sophomore-dynamo Jed Perko. He closed the event in sixth place with a time of 17:47.

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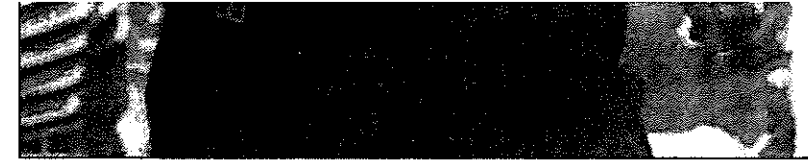
Senior Dane Runyon finished in 14th with a time of 18:10. Senior-standout Andrew Lewis also earned all-OVAC with a 17th place run. He was timed in 18:15.

WEIRTON'S 4-A title was paced by Matt Apesos as he was all-OVAC with a time of 18:04.

Buckeye Local, which closed with 239 points, was led by super-senior Ben Bolock.

Bolock, the 1999 OVAC champion, finished second overall in a time of 17:12.

Barnesville's girls continued to blister the OVAC 2-A field in cross



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The western-Belmont Countians once again received a strong showing from senior-sensation Jennie Castle.

Castle crossed the line in fifth place with a 21:26. Junior Ruthie Morgan was not far behind as she was sixth in a time of 21:40.

Freshman Molly Morgan continued her fine first-season as she was 10th with a time of 22:15.

The Lady Irish produced two all-OVAC harriers as freshman Brienne Cattran was 12th in an effort of 22:20, while senior-Eva Kotsen was 13th as she crossed the line when the watch hit 22:26.

Shadyside also produced two runners with all-conference awards.

Sophomore Whitney Brown finished in eighth as she closed with a 22:04.

Solid-senior Andrea Lewis was 16th in 22:37.

Linsly-senior Megan Govindan placed 14th in a time of 22:30.

IN THE 3-A, Bellaire took home the second place trophy.

The Lady Big Reds were paced by freshman Aimee Vavrek.

Vavrek earned all-OVAC by virtue of finishing in third place. The talented ninth grader was third with a 20:48.

St. Clairsville-senior Cara DePalma was 15th overall and earned all-conference status with a 22:32.

JOHN MARSHALL'S girls won the 4-A race as the Lady Monarchs scored 114 points.

They were led by all-OVAC runner Stacey Sada.

OVAC CC Results

BOYS
Team Scoring: Barnesville, 99; St. Clairsville, 117; Caldwell, 142; Martins Ferry, 145; Bellaire, 187; Shadyside, 189; Weirton, 192; East Liverpool, 235; Buckeye Local, 239; Wheeling Park, 275; John Marshall, 333; Harrison Central, 351; Meadowbrook, 388; Oak Glen, 428; Wheeling Central, 532; Indian Creek, 544; Steubenville Central, 549; Brooke, 551; River, 554; Union Local, 569; Cambridge, 573; Tyler Consolidated, 576; Linsly, 608; Edson, 611; Magnolia, 616; St. John's, 619; Cameron, 633; Monroe Central, 724; Wellsville, 603; Steubenville, 610.

Top 20 (All-OVAC) — Chris Perun, Barnes, 16:46; 2. Ben Bolock, BL, 17:12; 3. Justin Simpson, OG, 17:19; 4. Ryan Smith, Brooke, 17:30; 5. Cory Neal, JM, 17:38; 6. Jed Perko, Bell, 17:47; 7. Ota Dahlen, SLC, 17:53; 8. Matt Kidd, H.C., 17:56; 9. John Tierney, MF, 17:59; 10. Drew Turner, SLC, 18:02; 11. Matt Apesos, Weir, 18:04; 12. David Hesson, Cald, 18:09; 13. Travis Taylor, Barnes, 18:10; 14. Dane Runyon, Shady, 18:10; 15. Mark Montgomery, EL, 18:11; 16. Cody Creamer, SLC, 18:14; 17. Andrew Lewis, Shady, 18:15; 18. Adam Brookover, Zanes, 18:18; 19. Ben Fisher, Barnes, 18:24; 20. Zack Brown, SLC, 18:26.

A-AA
Top 10 — Chris Perun, Barnesville, 16:46; 2. David Hesson, Cald, 18:09; 3. Travis Taylor, Barnes, 18:10; 4. Dane Runyon, Shady, 18:10; 5. Andrew Lewis, Shady, 18:15; 6. Ben Fisher, Barnes, 18:24; 7. Ryan Lemck, Cald, 18:35; 8. Matt Fultem, Barnes, 18:42; 9. Matt McConnell, Cald, 18:51; 10. Bryan Tilton, Cald, 18:53.

AAA
Top 10 — Justin Simpson, OG, 17:19; 2. Jed Perko, Bell, 17:47; 3. Ota Dahlen, SLC, 17:53; 4. Matt Kidd, HC, 17:56; 5. John Tierney, MF, 17:59; 6. Drew Turner, SLC, 18:02; 7. Cody Creamer, SLC, 18:14; 8. Zach Brown, SLC, 18:26; 9. Mike Carpenter, Bell, 18:44; 10. Chad Becca, MF, 18:46.

AAAA
1. Ben Bolock, BL, 17:12; 2. Ryan Smith, Brooke, 17:30; 3. Cory Neal, JM, 17:47; 4. Matt Apsen, Weir, 18:04; 5. Mark Montgomery, EL, 18:11; 6. Adam Brookover, Zanes, 18:18; 7. Joey Price, EL, 18:29; 8. John Burke, WP, 18:48; 9. Kevin Williams, Weir, 18:50; 10. Sean Garoe, 19:07.

GIRLS
Team Scoring: Martins Ferry, 49; Barnesville, 75; John Marshall, 114; St. John Central, 132; Zanesville, 139; Caldwell, 189; Bellaire, 208; Wheeling Park, 220; Shadyside, 222; Meadowbrook, 247; Linsly, 260; East Liverpool, 323; St. Clairsville, 327; Wellsville, 346; Magnolia, 350; Brooke, 367; Oak Glen, 403; Indian Creek, 442; Tyler Consolidated, 447; Wheeling Central, 469.
Top 20 (All-OVAC) — 1. Mandy Bruney, MF, 20:18; 2. Katri-

na Jones, MF, 20:29; 3. Aimee Vavrek, Bell, 20:48; 4. Amy Bruney, MF, 20:55; 5. Jennie Castle, Barnes, 21:26; 6. Ruthie Morgan, Barnes, 21:40; 7. Crystal Goldsmith, Zanes, 22:00; 8. Whitney Brown Shady, 22:04; 9. Angie Delbrugge, MF, 22:09; 10. Molly Morgan, Barnes, 22:15; 11. Stacey Sada, JM, 22:15; 12. Brienne Cattran, SJC, 22:20; 13. Eva Kotsen, SJC, 22:26; 14. Megan Govindan, Lin, 22:30; 15. Cara DePalma, SLC, 22:32; 16. Andrea Lewis, Shady, 22:37; 17. Allison Mason, JM, 22:39; 18. Jessica Whapkey, 22:42; 19. Hope Hunt, Zanes, 22:48; 20. Heidi Schoeppner, Cald, 22:49.

A-AAA
1. Jennie Castle, Barnes, 21:26; 2. Ruthie Morgan, Bell, 21:40; 3. Whitney Brown, Shady, 22:04; 4. Molly Morgan, Barnes, 22:15; 5. Brienne Cattran, SJC, 22:20; 6. Eva Kotsen, SJC, 22:26; 7. Megan Govindan, Lin, 22:30; 8. Andrea Lewis, Shady, 22:37; 9. Heidi Schoeppner, Cald, 22:49; 10. Kylie Schell, Cald, 22:58.

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Mandy Bruney, MF, 20:18; 2. Katrina Jones, MF, 20:29; 3. Aimee Vavrek, Bell, 20:48; 4. Amy Bruney, MF, 20:55; 5. Angie Delbrugge, MF, 22:09; 6. Cara DePalma, SLC, 22:32; 7. Emma Archer, Mag, 23:04; 8. Jessica Booth, Meadow, 23:30; 9. Chelsey Taylor, Bell, 23:30; 10. Brooke Archer, Meadow, 23:31.

AAAA
1. Crystal Goldsmith, Zanes, 22:00; 2. Stacey Sada, JM, 22:15; 3. Allison Mason, JM, 22:39; 4. Jessica Whapkey, JM, 22:42; 5. Hope Hunt, Zanes, 22:48; 6. Danielle Stockash, JM, 23:01; Mallory Roadman, Brooke, 23:02; 8. Nicole Lemural, Weir, 23:03; 9. Maudie Robb, Zanes, 23:07; 10. Sarah Martin, Park, 23:45.

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS
TEAM SCORING: Bellaire, 55; Caldwell, 55; Union Local, 74; St. Clairsville, 99; Zanesville, 106; Cambridge, 109.
Top 10 — Evan Mathews, BL, 12:40; Timoco, Edison, 12:55; Eric White, UL, 13:22; Dusty Fowkes, UL, 13:26; Derek Carter, Cald, 13:46; Dustin Daugherty, Cam, 13:49; Alex Neal, Barnes, 13:55; Kyle Sowers, Zanes, 13:57; Brian Cummins, IC, 13:59; Jordan Blumling, Bell, 14:02.

GIRLS
Team Scoring: Bellaire, 39; Shadyside, 72; Edison, 82; Zanesville, 101; Cambridge, 127; Meadowbrook, 132; Caldwell, 184; Linsly, 196.
Top 10 — Jade Tuttle, Bell, 13:57; Marrisona Runner, MF, 14:06; Laky Bendle, Edison, 14:17; Kris Schuerto, Barnes, 14:18; Audra Frizzi, Bell, 14:21; Megan Miller, Zanes, 14:25; Sharyia Holenka, Shady, 14:40; Britany Luman, Cam, 14:42; Amber Elchison, MF, 14:45; Whitney Skelton, Shady, 14:49.

OVAC CC Champs



CAPTURING the ovac 3-A girls' title as well as the overall title was this team from Martins Ferry. Standing from left, are, Jaqueline Bartels, Amy Bruney, Mandy Bruney, Angie Delbrugge, Katrina Jones and Lyndsie Jendrusik. The Lady Riders are coached by Joe Ellis.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



CAPTURING the OVAC A-AA boys title as well as the overall title was this team from Bamesville. Kneeling from left, are Russ Young, Charles Morrow, Ben Fisher, Derek Allar and Matt Scaggs. Standing, from left, are Steve Butler, Travis Taylor, Chris Perun, Chris Scaggs and Matt Fuitem. The Shamrocks are coached by Mark Brown.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

OVAC Champs



CAPTURING the OVAC 3-A boys' title was this team from St. Clairsville. In front, from left, are Drew Turner, Cody Creamer and Ola Dahlen. Back row, from left, are Ben Eikleberry, Nathan Smith, Allen Loy and Zach Brown. The Red Devils are coached by Tony Ciroli.

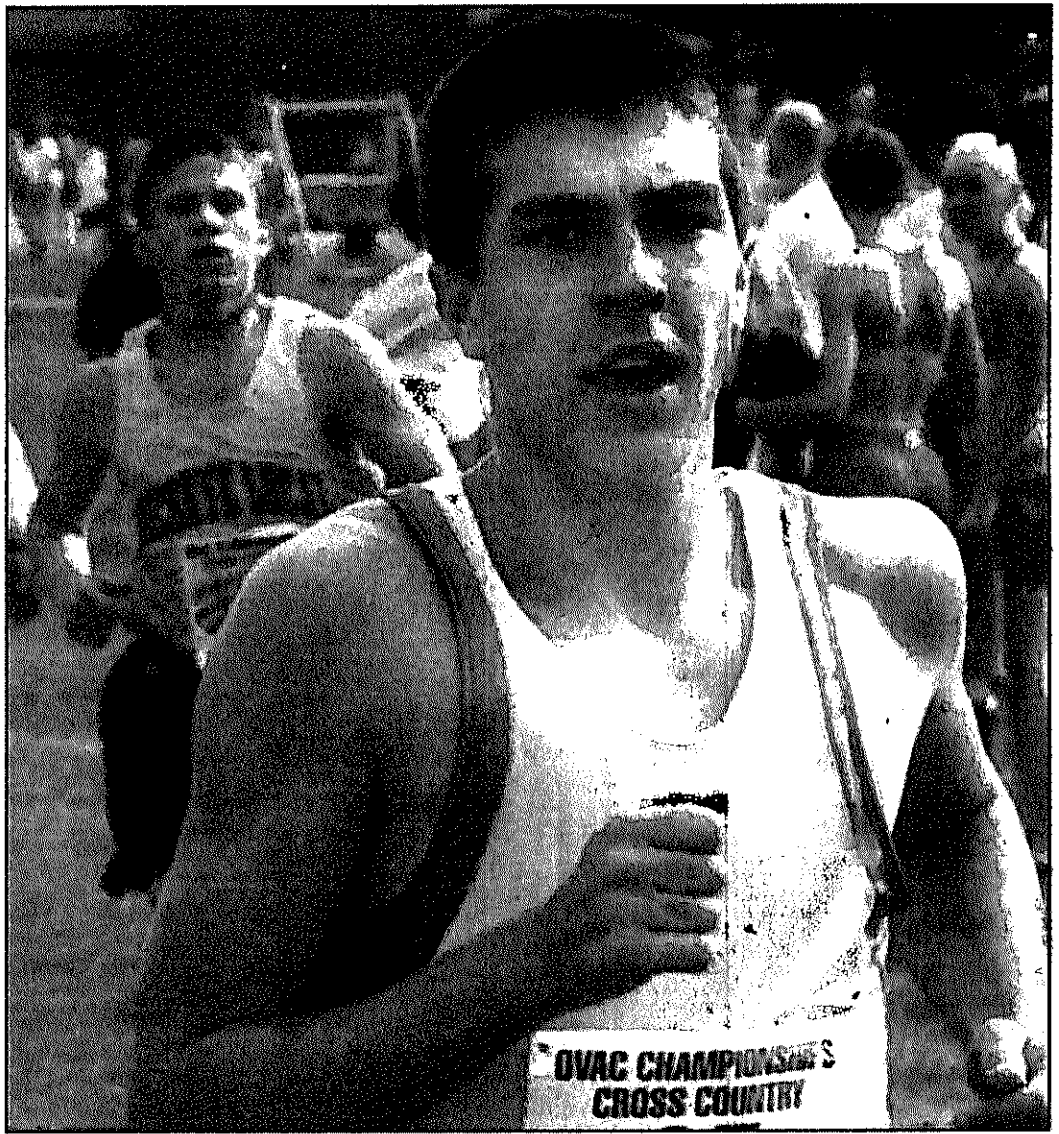
T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



CAPTURING ITS sixth straight OVAC title in A-AA was this team from Bamesville. Pictured in front, from left, are Ruthie Morgan and Jennie Castle. Back row, from left, are Molly Morgan, Karri Anderson, Angie Kemp and Tristy Pickens. Absent was Liza Anderson. The Lady Shamrocks are coached by Mark Brown.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

OVAC Cross Country



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

MARTINS FERRY senior standout Mandy Bruney cruises to victory at the OVAC Cross Country Meet at Meadowbrook High School. Bruney finished with a time of 20:18.

T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

BARNESVILLE senior ace Chris Perun heads toward the finish line of the boy's OVAC Cross Country Meet. Perun closed with a time of 16:46 to claim the victory. In the background is Buckeye Local senior Ben Bolock.

OVAC CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

(at Byesville)

Boys

Team Scoring: 1. Barnesville 99; 2. St. Clairsville 117; 3. Caldwell 142; 4. Martins Ferry 145; 5. Bellaire 187; 6. Shadyside 189; 7. Weir 192; 8. East Liverpool 235; 9. Buckeye Local 239; 10. Wheeling Park 275.

11. John Marshall 333; 12. Harrison Central 351; 13. Zanesville 379; 14. Meadowbrook 386; 15. Oak Glen 426; 16. Wheeling Central 532; 17. Indian Creek 544; 18. Steubenville Catholic 549; 19. Brooke 551; 20. River 554.

21. Union Local 569; 22. Cambridge 573; 23. Tyler Consolidated 576; 24. Linsly School 608; 25. Edson 611; 26. Magnolia 618; 27. Bellaire St. John's Central 619; 28. Cameron 633; 29. Monroe Central 724; Wellsville 803; 31. Steubenville 810.

Top 20 Individuals

1. Chris Perun (Barnes.) 16:46.62; 2. Ben Bolock (Buck. L.) 17:12.46; 3. Justin Simpson (OG) 17:19.55; 4. Ryan Smith (Brooke) 17:30.84; 5. Corey Neal (JM) 17:38.36; 6. Jad Perko (Bell.) 17:47.96; 7. Ola Dahlen (St.C.) 17:53.07; 8. Matt Kidd (Harr. C.) 17:56.39; 9. John B. Tierney (MF) 17:59.40; 10. Drew Turner (St.C.) 18:02.43.
11. Matt Apesos (Weir) 18:04.41; 12. David Hesson (Cald.) 18:09.04; 13. Travis Taylor (Barnes.) 18:10.38; 14. Dave Runyon (Shady.) 18:10.76; 15. Mark Montgomery (EL) 18:11.75; 16. Cody Creamer (St.C.) 18:14.69; 17. Andrew Lewis (Shady.) 18:15.13; 18. Adam Brookover (Zanes.)

18:18.46; 19. Ben Fisher (Barnes.) 18:24.32; 20. Zack Brown (St.C.) 18:26.24.

Girls

Team Scoring: 1. Martins Ferry 49; 2. Barnesville 75; 3. John Marshall 114; 4. Bellaire St. John's Central 132; 5. Zanesville 139; 6. Caldwell 169; 7. Bellaire 208; 8. Wheeling Park 220; 9. Shadyside 222; 10. Meadowbrook 247.

11. Linsly School 260; 12. East Liverpool 323; 13. St. Clairsville 327; 14. Wellsville 346; 15. Magnolia 350; 16. Brooke 387; 17. Oak Glen 403; 18. Indian Creek 442; 19. Tyler Consolidated 447; 20. Wheeling Central 469.

Top 20 Individuals

1. Mandy Bruney (MF) 20:18.27; 2. Katrina Jones (MF) 20:29.38; 3. Aimee Vavrek (Bell.) 20:48.86; 4. Amy Bruney (MF) 20:55.26; 5. Jennie Castle (Barnes.) 21:26.08; 6. Ruthie Morgan (Barnes.) 21:40.10; 7. Crystal Goldsmith (Zanes.) 22:00.64; 8. Whitney Brown (Shady.) 22:04.27; 9. Angie Delbrugge (MF) 22:09.64; 10. Molly Morgan (Barnes.) 22:15.02.
11. StaceySada (JM) 22:15.81; 12. Brianna Cattran (BSJ) 22:20.95; 13. Eva Kotson (BSJ) 22:26.35; 14. Megan Govindan (Lin.) 22:30.85; 15. Cara DePalma (St.C.) 22:32.89; 16. Andrea Lewis (Shady.) 22:37.73; 17. Allison Mason (JM) 22:39.18; 18. Jessica Whipkey (JM) 22:42.44; 19. Hope Hunt (Zanes.) 22:48.64; 20. Heidi Schoepfner (Cald.) 22:49.94.