

Cheryl Bridges Wins National Junior Championships

from Archie Owens

Baltimore, Maryland, November 11: The beautiful Druid Park course in Baltimore was the scene of perhaps the largest cross country field ever assembled in these parts. However, as fate and the gross inefficiency would have it, the meet was all but a fiasco and was saved only by the sterling performances of the athletes.

The little ladies from Lincoln Park, Michigan, established themselves as contenders for the senior title in Albuquerque as they ran rough-shod over the opposition to annex the Junior Championship as well as the age-group meet held in conjunction with the Junior Championships. While the Parkettes were placing 2-3-4, Mrs. Cheryl Bridges of Indiana State U of Terre Haute was breezing away to first place in a new record time for the course of 11:56.6s. This was our first look at Mrs. Bridges whose husband is track coach at Marian College. Cheryl has to be one of the best to run in the East this season, and she may be very tough to beat in New Mexico.

Bridges trailed during the opening stages of the race as Sherry Korpman of Baltimore and Cindy Jo Farmer of Canton, Ohio, poured it on far ahead of the pack. By the middle of the second circuit, (which is slightly different from the first), the battle was between Cheryl and little, but speedy, Pam Bagaen and Kathy Moore, both of Lincoln Park. Korpman and Farmer had dropped behind and Sara Burman and the always improving Kathy McIntyre filled in behind Jackie Ford, still another Parkette.

At the finish, however, the only question was who would be second as Bridges came home in a romp at least 60 yards ahead.

The race was run on a clear, sunny day with the temperature in the mid 60's. The course measured two miles on grassy rolling hills.

RESULTS: 1-Cheryl Bridges (Indiana State U) 11:56.6; 2-Kathy Moore (Lincoln Park, Mich) 12:13; 3-Pam Bagaen (LP) 12:21; 4-Jackie Ford (LP) 12:27; 5-Sara Burman (Metropolitan AC, Mass) 12:36; 6-Kathy McIntyre (LIM) 12:42; 7-Sherry Korpman (Baltimore Stridettes) 12:51; 8-Cheryl Toussaint (Atoms TC) 12:57; 9-Deidra Moore (Atoms) 12:59; 10-Brenda Merritt (Atoms) 13:10.....13-Nancy Norvell (Houston) 13:18..... 22-Joan Shaw (Fleet Feet)!!!!...27-Christie Smallwood (Frederick TFC) 14:22. Number of competitors - 50.
Team scoring: 1-Lincoln Parkettes, Michigan 37; 2-Atoms TC, Brooklyn, NY 48; 3-Baltimore Stridettes 66; 4-Central Jersey TC 108.