

# Coldwater girls take 1st in Twin Valley harrier meet

By ANDY FLANAGAN

It was a perfect day for a cross country meet, and a perfect day for the Coldwater Lady Cards.

Under sunny skies and unseasonably warm temperatures, the Coldwater girls did the expected and won the Twin Valley Meet Tuesday at Messenger Lake Park.

Led by sophomore Jill Strawser's winning time of 19:26, the Lady Cards took five of the top 15 places and ran away with first place. Coldwater finished with 33 points while Hillsdale was second with 50.

"I HAD a lot of confidence in the girls," a relieved Coldwater coach Jim Bilsborrow said. "They did it all season long."

Bilsborrow admitted he was scared about the meet last night.

"I was afraid somebody might fall down or something," he said. "I guess it was one of those nights where things turned out the way you hoped it would."

Strawser came in just four seconds ahead of Hillsdale's Cathy Acus. The Hornets' Kathy Osbourne took fifth with in 20:34, but Coldwater wasn't to be denied.

**FINISHING BEHIND** Strawser for the Lady Cards were Dawn Valle (fourth, 20:21), Joan Monroe (seventh, 20:49), Tammy Huntley (11th, 21:22) and Robin Brodt (13th, 21:41). Also competing for the Lady Cards were Mary Kay Nowak (18th, 22:10) and Michelle Laughry (19th, 22:39).

Strawser, Valle and Monroe gained all-conference honors as a result of their finishes, while Huntley made the second team. The top 14 runners were honored.

Bilsborrow said that the day was actually almost too nice, noting some of his runners were suffering from stomach cramps.

"It was tougher to do (win the Twin Valley) because of the heat. It's a shock to the system," he said. "Jill ran the same time as Friday (in the Branch County Meet), but she said it was a whole lot harder."

"I'M HAPPY with the whole bunch."

Finishing behind Hillsdale in the girls' race was Sturgis (57), Lakeview (92) and Hastings (134). Albion, Marshall and Harper Creek didn't have enough runners to field complete teams.

Counting the dual meets, Coldwater finished in first place with 16 points. Sturgis and Hillsdale tied for second with 13 each, Lakeview was fourth with 10, Hastings had eight and Albion was sixth with three.

The boys' race also went as expected, with Sturgis winning with 48 points. Hillsdale was second with 66 and Coldwater third with 81. Hastings (110), Lakeview (112), Marshall (121), Albion (170) and Harper Creek (193) rounded out the finishers.

**COLDWATER'S TAD** Thayer finished fifth in 16:46. Teammates Shane Finney (10th), Brian Licht



**NIP AND TUCK** — Coldwater's Jill Strawser holds a slim lead over Hillsdale's Cathy Acus at the halfway point of Tuesday's Twin Valley cross country meet at Messenger Lake Park. Strawser went on to win the race in 19:26, tying her course record set a week ago. (Photo by Bud Barnes).

(11th, 17:01), Jeff Ryder (25th, 17:56) and Pat Angle (30th, 18:09) completed the Cardinals' scoring. Also running were Paul Brown (18:38) and Jim Barnes (18:45).

Hastings' Wayne Oom won the race in 16:20. Thayer made first team all-conference while Finney and Licht were named to the second team.

Sturgis finished first overall with 16 points, followed by Hillsdale (14), Coldwater (12), Hastings (9), Lakeview (8), Marshall (7) and Harper Creek and Albion (3 each).

Both Coldwater teams will now travel to Bath on Saturday for the Class B regionals. The Lady Cards will be out to defend their regional championship of a year ago.

## \*\*\*\*\* Bronson at SMAA Meet

**OLIVET** — The Bronson girls' cross country team ran away with the Southern Michigan Athletic Association meet here Tuesday.

The Vikings finished with 27 points, well ahead of runnerup Springfield's total of 67. Only three schools fielded teams, so no official scores were kept.

Bronson's Dottie Wiler finished second to Bellevue's Jodi Shay. Wiler clocked a 20:33. Teammates following her were Jean Miller (fourth, 21:22), Pam Smith (fifth, 21:48), Heather Badgley (seventh, 21:59), Angie Cuthbert (ninth, 22:40), Tammy Fry (11th, 24:40) and Tonia Bercaw (12th, 24:48).

Bronson placed fourth in the boys' meet and fourth overall in the SMAA. Olivet was first, followed by Pennfield, Springfield, Bronson, Bellevue and St. Philip.

L.D. Wiler topped Bronson by finishing 10th in 18:00, which was good enough to make the all-conference team. Teammates Darrell Vorce (16th, 19:07), Mike Johnson (21st, 19:32), Doug Anderson (22nd, 19:39), Gene Jones (24th, 20:02), T.J. Cline (28th, 20:34) and Neal Alger (31st, 20:55) followed.

Bronson will compete in the Class C regionals Saturday at Niles Brandywine.

## \*\*\*\*\* Quincy at Big Eight Meet

**SPRINGPORT** — The Quincy girls finished second to Concord in Tuesday's Big Eight cross country meet here.

Concord finished with 30 points and the Orioles had 47. Homer and Springport were next, as only four schools fielded teams. Quincy also finished second overall.

Loretta Tobolske clocked a 21:29 to finish fourth and lead the Orioles. Cary Coonce (sixth, 21:39), Dawn Russell (10th, 22:34), Shirley Delaney (18th, 25:25) and Deb Berry (22nd, 26:56) followed.

Jonesville's Sarah Collins won the girls' race.

Concord also won the boys' meet, finishing with 20 points. Homer (60), Reading (66), Springport (122), Quincy (142), Union City (150) and Jonesville (153) followed.

Scott Marvin paced Quincy with a 14th-place time of 19:22. Orioles following him were Joe Stevens (23rd, 19:52), Shane Russell (29th, 20:36), Don Banker (34th, 21:11) and Tim Dowker (37th, 21:47).

Quincy will travel to Bath Saturday for the Class C regionals.