

Hurley is top coach

Girls uphold Red Hawk tradition

By Marty Budnar
staff writer

Troy Athens is fast gaining a reputation for girls' cross country excellence. The Red Hawks upheld that tradition this season.

It was the third straight year the Athens girls' cross country squad finished among the state's top 10 teams with a ninth-place showing. The team also successfully defended its Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) championship.

Coach George Long's girls went 7-0 in dual meets this season. In fact, Red Hawks' only loss last year in nine meets was to Berkeley which gives them a two-year 15-1 dual-meet record.

Athens' success this year is in part due to the running of senior captain Wendy Davy and Jill Thauvette, both of whom are represented on the 1982 Observer & Eccentric girls' cross country first team.

The remaining members of that supreme first team include Marie Plum of Troy; Jean Kayser of Birmingham Seaholm; Kathy Kubicki of Rochester Adams; Ellen McCarthy of Farmington Our Lady of Mercy; Annemarie Ribant of Rochester and Annette Sulick of Farmington.

The All-Area coach of the year is Lahser's Dennis Hurley. Following is a brief description of each first-team runner:

WENDY DAVY (senior) — Davy is the first four-year letter winner for the Athens girls' cross country team. She was second on the Athens team (fourth overall) behind Thauvette at the MSAA meet and took fifth at the regional meet. Her best time of the season was 20 minutes flat. She was the Red Hawk team captain this fall.

JILL THAUETTE (sophomore) — In only her second year on the team, Thauvette has established herself as the team's top runner. She won the regional championship and placed 24th overall at the state meet with a time of 19:37. Thauvette placed third at the MSAA meet. Thauvette's best time of the season was a 19:20 at the Center

Line Invitational where she placed third. "She was a money runner. She seemed to do a lot better on Saturday's than in dual meets," said Long.

MARIE PLUM (junior) — Plum was second at the regional and 21st at the state meet where she ran her best time of the year (18:51). "She started coming on at the end of the season when you want them to," said Troy coach Gary Collins. "Her times started dropping like crazy."

JEAN KAYSER (senior) — Kayser was a late-comer to the Seaholm girls' cross country program this fall. "It was the surprise of the year," said Seaholm coach Ron Wheeler. Kayser transferred in from Oregon and found the longer courses a little more to her liking. She gained All-County honors by taking sixth at the county meet and finished 51st at the state meet. "Her mother called just before the season started and wanted to know if it was too late to try out for the cross country team," recalled Wheeler. "She was used to running 5,000 meters in Oregon and she ran 5,000 meters here. She adapted very well to the change. She was a very strong runner for us." Kayser finished fourth at the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) meet, and took third at the SMA-MSAA meet.

KATHY KUBICKI (junior) — Kubicki won the MSAA title with a record time of 20:06 at the tough Oakland University course. She was third at the regional and placed fifth in the state team race with a time of 19:21. Last year, as a sophomore, she was 10th at the state meet. "She had an ankle injury that kept her out from mid-September until mid-October," said Adams coach Bud Ciccarelli. "She didn't have much of a dual-meet season to talk about. That's why I was surprised that she did as well as she did. She was in good shape. She adapted to running on her heels — she's a real little runner because she completely changed her style." Kubicki is the only runner among the girls who made the O&E team last year.

ELLEN MCCARTHY (sophomore) — In only her second year on the Mercy team, McCarthy won the Catholic

League C-Sectional meet that included such teams as Harper Woods Regina and Birmingham Marian. McCarthy finished seventh at the Catholic League finals and fourth at the regional meet held at Cass Benton Park in Northville. McCarthy was 26th overall at the state meet in the team race with a personal-best time this season of 19:37.

ANNEMARIE RIBANT (senior) — Ribant, a three-year varsity veteran and three-year state qualifier, was unquestionably Rochester's top runner this fall. She was seventh at the county meet with a personal-best time of 20:23, sixth at the Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) meet and 43rd at the state meet. "She finished first in every meet this year but two," said Rochester coach Paul York. "She runs on guts and she's dedicated. She's not a talented runner, but she has tremendous desire."

ANNETTE SULICK (senior) — Farmington coach Gerry Young said Sulick runs "very well in big meets."

And one of the biggest meets is the annual city meet between the trio of Farmington public schools — Farmington, North Farmington and Farmington Harrison. Sulick won that meet for the third straight season. "There's a real strong rivalry in that race and she really likes to do well in it," said Young. Sulick has qualified for the state meet the past three years, finishing 47th as a sophomore, 32nd as a junior and 22nd this season. She was 17th at the regional meet even though she fell with a mile to go, and she took 13th at the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) meet this year. Her best time was a 20:03 at the state meet's individual race.

DENNIS HURLEY (Lahser) — Dennis Hurley has been a model of consistency over the past five years as Bloomfield Hills Lahser's coach, and that's why he was selected by his peers as coach of the year. During Hurley's years the Knights have compiled a credible 34-11 dual-meet record, including a 6-2 mark this fall.

girls' cross country

FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	SCHOOL	YEAR
Wendy Davy	Troy Athens	Sr.
Marie Plum	Troy	Jr.
Jean Kayser	Seaholm	Sr.
Kathy Kubicki	Rochester Adams	Jr.
Ellen McCarthy	Farmington Mercy	Soph.
Annemarie Ribant	Rochester	Sr.
Annette Sulick	Farmington	Sr.
Jill Thauvette	Troy Athens	Soph.
Dennis Hurley	Bloomfield Lahser	Coach

SECOND TEAM: Mini Baker, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Beth Emery, North Farmington; Mamie Healey, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy; Sharon Libby, Birmingham Seaholm; Carol O'Brien, Troy Athens; Cathy O'Brien, Troy Athens; Lori Runk, Farmington Harrison; Patty Smith, Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: Shelley Spratt, Southfield Christian; Anna Tavarozzi and Shelli Blumer, Troy; Michelle Cadaret, Troy Athens; Emi Vuolila, North Farmington; Melanie Richards, Rochester; Barbara Dyzewski, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy; Kris Courter, Southfield; Lesley Pereria, Southfield-Lathrup; Karin Hector, Birmingham Groves; Linda Clayton, Birmingham Seaholm; Alla Newman, Detroit Country Day.

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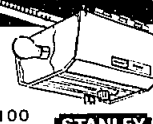
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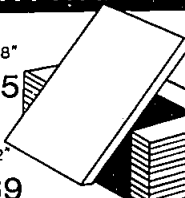
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