

Three area athletes win D-III district crowns

By DON HOHLER
Reflector Sports Editor

BUCYRUS — St. Paul's Sally Schnellinger, Monroeville's Tim Wise and the New London boys 3200-meter relay team proved to be the best in their respective events on the first day of the Division III district competition Thursday at Bucyrus High School.

Schnellinger, teammate Michelle Gardner and Western Reserve throwers Jenny Tinney and Tiffany Sommers all advanced to the regional meet in the district.

Schnellinger won the event with a school record 139-5 effort.

Tinney threw 138-4, just a shade off her personal best of 140-feet.

Sommers slipped in for third, throwing 126-11, while Gardner also had a personal best of 122-4.

"Sally is coming on strong since that operation," St. Paul coach John Livengood said. "To be throwing a personal best with less than three weeks work says a lot about the girl. Michelle is also peaking at the right time."



Schnellinger



Tim Wise

Tinney, also second last year at the Bucyrus meet, saw her effort as just passable.

"The key is advancing, getting in the top four and moving on. My hope is that Sally and myself can push each other all the way to Dayton," the Lady Rider junior added.

Wise was not happy with his effort, passing on the last jump in the finals.

"He knew he could have done better," Monroeville coach Bernie Yoder said. "But his effort was good enough to win just like last year. Hopefully, he can get off the kind of jump at Lexington that will get him back to Dayton. He grabbed the final paying spot at

Lexington last year."

The best Wise could muster was 21-5 1/4, certainly not bad considering his closest rival was almost a foot and a half short of that measurement.

St. Paul senior Dan Coletta continued his great run over the last 10 days, finishing fourth with a leap of 19-5 1/4. A second Monroeville athlete, Mark Johnson, was seventh (18-4 1/2).

Three New London juniors, Ben Kaufman, Tom Landis and Russ Roberts, teamed with freshman Zac Sendelbach, to run a 8:36.15 in the eight-lap event.

This was two minutes better than what they ran in winning the event at the Firelands Conference meet Saturday.

Four other Firelands Conference teams finished in the top-10, including Western Reserve who was seventh (9:22.90), St. Paul eighth was eighth at 9:26.70, Plymouth, ninth; Monroeville, 10th and South Central, 12th.

The New London quartet will be joined in Lexington by Lady Cat senior Stephanie Dearth, who placed fourth place in the high

TRACK AND FIELD

jump at 4-10.

That mark was just two inches short of the winning jump from Carey's Kristin Buhl. Plymouth senior Stephanie Cunningham was one of five jumpers who cleared 5-8. She placed seventh.

A second Monroeville athlete, sophomore Josh Perry, advanced in the shot put. His best of 48-4 1/4 placed second behind Matt Burger of Seneca East, who won with a 54-10 effort.

Plymouth junior Randall Lewis captured third at 47-7 1/4.

Three other Firelands Conference shot putters also placed in the top-eight, including Western Reserve's Rod Dewalt who just missed Lexington who finished at 46-9.

St. Paul's Frank Linder was seventh (45-8 3/4) and South Central's Evan Clemons checked in ninth (43-8).

"Josh is getting better every time out, apparently getting more comfortable with the surroundings," Yoder said. "He might even

have a chance of getting out of Lexington if he can better his best of 51 and change. He is real comfortable at that 50-foot mark."

New London also had a near miss in the form of junior vaulter Drew White.

He finished fifth, losing on earlier misses prior to 10-6. The winner was Colonel Crawford's Curtis Emerick, who cleared 12-0 feet.

South Central sophomore Jordan Ray was one notch behind White, clearing 10-feet, New London's Brian Pickering was 10th.

White also finished in the top-10 in the long jump, finishing ninth with a leap of 17-9 1/2.

Many of the same athletes will return on Saturday to run either the semi-finals or finals in events they qualified in Thursday night.

The following is a summary of those qualifiers:

100 hurdles — Brandi Ackerman and Amanda Myers, Monroeville; Rebecca Bement, Western Reserve; Veronica Geretz, St. Paul.
110 hurdles — Tyler Wilhelm and Mike Coburn, South Central; Brian Pruitt and Levi Viadiff, Monroeville; Brent Thompson, New London; Sean Tyler, St. Paul.
400 relay (boys) — Western Reserve, St. Paul

and Monroeville.
400 relay (girls) — South Central, Monroeville and Plymouth.
300 hurdles (boys) — Ryan Wilson, New London; Brian Pruitt, Monroeville.
300 hurdles (girls) — Myers, Monroeville; Bement, Western Reserve; Jackie Graziani, St. Paul.

800 relay — Western Reserve and South Central.
400 dash (boys) — Joe Kromer, St. Paul; Jake Dellisanti, Western Reserve; Brian Koch, Monroeville.

400 dash (girls) — Marcle Buck, Western Reserve; Tiffany Karher and Gwen Helmrick, Monroeville.
100 (boys) — Sam Fries, Mark Prack, St. Paul; Wise, Zak Hancock, Monroeville; Kelly Dellisanti, Western Reserve; Nick Keaton, Plymouth.

100 dash (girls) — Brooke Skillcorn, New London; Cassandra Cloud, St. Paul; Jennifer Wilhelm, Monroeville; Emily Honeycutt and Charity Dalton, South Central; Amanda Shepherd, Plymouth; Krystal Bennett, Western Reserve.
800 (boys) — Ben Kaufman, New London; Michael Pritchard, Plymouth; Ben Rhine, South Central.

800 (girls) — Geretz, St. Paul, Emily Honeycutt, South Central; Alison Wallace, Western Reserve.
200 (boys) — Wise and Hancock, Monroeville; Keaton and Adam Reno, Plymouth; Matt Grose and Prack, St. Paul; Curtis Sullivan and Kalab McCormack, South Central; Brad Cunningham and Kelly Dellisanti, Western Reserve.

200 (girls) — Kelli Gahring and Charity Dalton, South Central; Brooke Skillcorn and Holly Romellanger, New London; Lily Papal and Jenny Hall, Western Reserve; Laurie Shepherd, Plymouth; Alecia Bore, Monroeville; Cloud, St. Paul.

1600 relay (boys) — (unofficial) St. Paul and Western Reserve.

Truckers pound Vermilion for third straight

NORWALK — For the last two seasons, the Norwalk baseball team has ended strong.

This season appears to be continuing that trend.

The Truckers pounded Vermilion 13-3 Thursday in six innings.

"Last year, we won six in a row and the year before, we won the last seven," Norwalk coach Wes Douglas said. "We take great

pride in playing to the last pitch."

The Truckers (10-13) had the complete game going against Vermilion (16-10).

"It was a big win for us, against a good baseball team," Douglas said. "It was the best game we've played all year defensively and offensively."

Brett Ritzenthaler led the 15-hit attack, going 4-of-4 with three

BASEBALL

singles and a triple. He gained three RBI, stole a base and scored two runs. Ben Borgeson went 3-of-3 with a triple, single and double, two runs and three RBI.

Craig Caprara added two hits, while Brice Fries contributed a two-run home run in the fifth inning.

Norwalk scored four runs in the first and fifth, two in the third and sixth and one in the second.

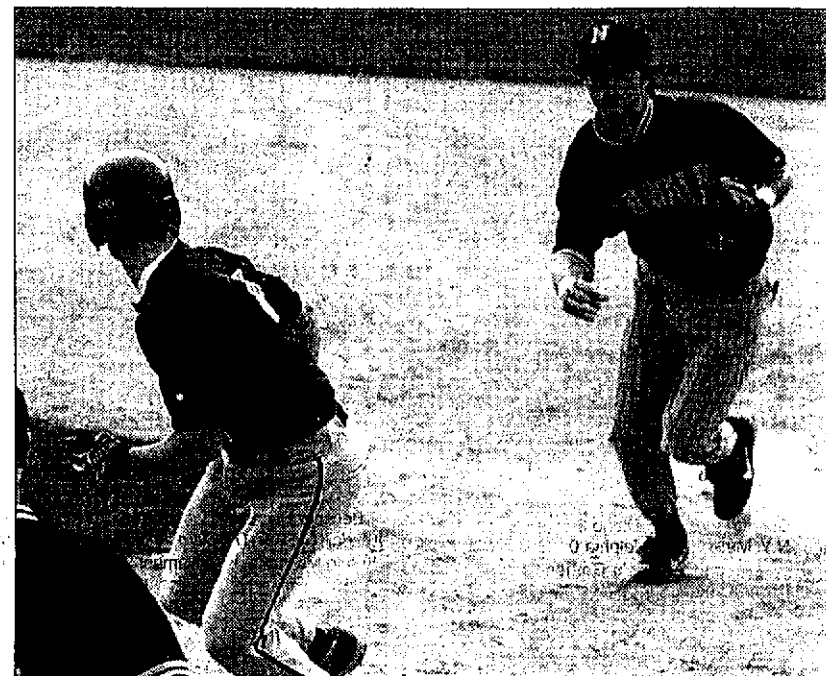
The Truckers did the scoring damage against Zach Thornton, who has signed a letter-of-intent to play for Purdue next season.

"It was a great effort from top to bottom," Douglas said. "Ben Borgeson has played sparingly, but he came back with a big game. Brice Fries has played well all year."

Nick Shullick went all six innings for the pitching win. He gave up seven hits, three earned runs and two walks, while fanning one.

Defensively, Norwalk didn't commit an error, Fries threw out three potential base stealers from the catching position and Jeff Ciersewski nailed a runner at the plate with a throw from the outfield.

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LOU REDA/REFLECTOR

Norwalk second baseman Cory Webb (right) gets a Vermilion runner in a rundown Thursday. The Truckers captured a 13-3 win.

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