

Coach Optimistic about Neenah harrier season

NEENAH — Optimistic about this year's cross country fortunes, Neenah High School Coach Tom Jensen will take 18 runners to Madison Saturday for the USTFF meet and the kickoff of the Rockets' harrier schedule.

Neenah's team consists of 23 candidates, freshmen through senior, including six lettermen, several promising juniors and three outstanding sophomores.

Jensen is working with about 15 boys and the rest are drilling at Shattuck under Jayvee Coach Glen Severson.

Jensen said the squad is working hard in preparation for the season, in fact it has been drilling twice a day, including 8:15 a.m.

Returning lettermen, all seniors, are Mike Edmonds, Mark Salsieder, Steve Emmrich, Jim Goodman, Bob Menning and Bill Murray.

The junior group includes Dave Kierstead, Jack Champaigne, Pete Danielson, Mike Charron and Dick Owens, Steve Verkuilen, Dan Schaller and Rick Schmidt are the sophomores working with the varsity.

Jensen said that some of the newcomers may make it difficult for the lettermen to run in every meet. Right now, Menning and Murray are showing best among the returnees.

The Rocket mentor believes the team could be as good as the outstanding 1971 unit, especially in the fifth, sixth and seventh positions, although he doesn't know if there will be any outstanding individuals as the group had.

He likes the depth of the team but said injuries could be a factor.

"Whether we can win the big ones, I'm not sure," Jensen said, pointing out that the Rockets will meet some of the best teams in the state in the various invitationals.

The regular season opener will be the Rhinelander Invitational on Sept. 14.

Last year's team was edged by Appleton East by three points for the Fox Valley Association title.

It was fourth in the state meet, second in the sectional and third in the regional. In addition, it picked up three seconds a third and a fourth in invitationals.

Eric Murphy and Tom Smith were the only graduating seniors on that team.

The schedule:

Sept. 7 — USTFF at Madison; Sept. 14 — Rhinelander Invitational; Sept. 17 — at Menasha; Sept. 19 — Oshkosh North Invitational; Sept. 21 — Shawano Invitational; Sept. 24 — Kimberly, Appleton East of Appleton; Oct. 1 — Oshkosh North, Kaukauna; Oct. 4 — Blackhawk Invitational of Graham; Oct. 5 — Appleton West, Oshkosh West; Oct. 12 — Fond du Lac Relay; Oct. 16 — FVA meet at Kaukauna; Oct. 23 — WIAA Regional.

Neenah runners second

RHINELANDER — A third place by Bob Menning led the Neenah High School cross country team to a second place in the Hodag Invitational here Saturday.

It marked the second year that the Rockets had finished second to Milwaukee Thomas More, which led with 41 points.

Neenah tallied 77 and finished far ahead of the rest of the field. Other totals included Rhinelander 111, Stevens Point 140, Wisconsin Rapids and Antigo 145, Wausau West 149, Shawano 157, Wausau East 243 and Appleton West 247.

Menning's time was 15:23 while other Neenah places and times included Bill Murray 13th, 16:05; Jim Goodman, 18th, 16:16; Dan Schaller, 20th, 16:25; Dave Kierstead, 23rd, 16:28; Steve Verkuilen, 27th, 16:34; Steve Emmrich, 28th, 16:35; and Mark Salsieder, 35th, 16:47.

"I'm very much pleased," Rocket Coach Tom Jensen said of his team's effort. "We beat a lot of teams we were

wondering about. More is a super team."

The Rockets garnered first place among seven teams in the junior varsity meet, which took in boys freshmen through seniors.

Paul Gooch, running his first race, won the meet in 16:30. Mike Edmonds was second, Mike Charron third, Jack Champaigne ninth, Tim McArty, 27th; Bill Neer, 32nd and Pat Murphy 36th.

Neenah collected 42 points while Wisconsin Rapids took second with 88.

Neenah was third in the freshman-sophomore meet with 41 points. Thomas More was first with 28.

Freshman Phil Edmonds of Neenah won the race in 16:53. Rick Schmidt was fifth, Steve Blank seventh, Dan Kierstead 15th, Shawn Carpenter 16th, Tom Hicks 17th, Mark Plamann 23rd and Fritz Hildebrand 24th.

The Rockets will open their conference season against Menasha at Jefferson Park Tuesday afternoon. The Jayvee meet will start about 6:30 p.m.

NHS runners annex third crown

NEENAH — The Neenah High School cross country team evened a lot of scores Wednesday afternoon.

Defeated three times by Appleton East this fall, the Rockets got their revenge in a big way when they outscored the Patriots for the Fox Valley Association championship at Oakwood Hills.

Neenah scored 30 points, four less than East.

Oshkosh North was third with 106, followed by Kaukauna 129, Menasha 130, Appleton West 150, Oshkosh West 157 and Kimberly 231.

The Rockets Bob Menning passed East's Joe Nabbefeld with about 200 yards left in the race to capture the individual title. His time of 16:58 was eight seconds faster than the Appleton runner.

Paul Gooch was third, Jim Goodman seventh, Dan Schaller eight, Bill Murray 11th, Mike Edmonds 14th and Dave Kierstead 15th.

Gooch's time was 16:59, Goodman 17:22, Schaller 17:27, Murray 17:30 and

Edmonds 17:35.

Other Appleton East runners were fourth, sixth, 10th and 16th.

Previously this season, the Patriots edged the Rockets in the Shawano Invitational, Fond du Lac Relays and in the FVA dual meeting.

Both schools have won two individual conference championships and they shared the other.

The Rockets also captured the junior varsity meet outscoring the Patriots, 18-53.

Menasha was third with 79, followed by Oshkosh North 99 and Kaukauna 111. Kimberly, Appleton West and Oshkosh West didn't enter.

Neenah's Steve Verkuilen was first in 17:49. Rick Schmidt took second. Phil Edmonds third, Tom Hicks fifth, Shawn Carpenter seventh, Dan Kierstead 11th and Fritz Hildebrand 14th.

Neenah runners 2nd in 18-team Shawano event

NEENAH — Neenah High School's cross country team came in second in the large school division of the annual Shawano Invitational meet Saturday.

Appleton East finished first in the 18-team meet with 84 points. The Rockets had 103 and De Pere was third with 154.

Bob Menning paced Neenah with a third place finish in 15:24. Bill Murray was 18th in 16:01.

Paul Gooch placed 24th, Jim Goodman 26th, Dan Schaller 31st, Dave Kierstead 32nd, Rich Schmidt 41st and Steve Verkuilen 47th.

"I thought we showed great progress," Neenah Coach Tom Jensen said. He pointed out that Menning ran the three miles in 16:33 at Menasha last week and most of the other runners bettered their previous effort by 30 seconds to a minute. "We beat 16 teams," Jensen explained.

Neenah entered two jayvee teams and they gained first and third place finishes.

The first unit had 27 points and the second 68. East was in between with 85. There were 14 schools entered.

Mark Salsieder was first while other finishes included Steve Emurich second, Mike Edmonds third, Jack Champaigne 10th, Mike Charron 11th, Pat Murphy 73rd and Tony Edmonds 88th.

Second team finishes were Phil Edmonds fourth, Tom Hicks eighth, Dan Kierstead 13th, Mark Klemm 20th, Tim McAarty, 21st, Bill Neer 23rd and Fritz Hildebrand 31st.

Neenah runs against Kimberly and

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Neenah harriers record easy win

MENASHA-NEENAH — Only 14 seconds separated its first and seventh place runners as Neenah High School swept Oshkosh West and Appleton West in a cross country meet on the Armstrong Course Tuesday afternoon.

The Rockets compiled the minimum 5 points while Oshkosh posted 61 and Appleton 63.

Bob Menning and Bill Murray both haiked up 16:23 but Menning was awarded first place.

Paul Gooch was third, Mike Edmonds fourth, Dan Schaller fifth, Jim Goodman seventh and Rich Schmidt eighth.

Vince Wolff of Oshkosh West was sixth, Scott Schuldes, Appleton West, ninth and Kelly Green, Oshkosh West, 10th.

Coach Tom Jensen ran two other runners unattached and they also finished among the leaders.

The visiting teams didn't have enough runners for a junior varsity meet.

Appleton East scored 22 points to down Oshkosh North (43) and Menasha (61) at Jefferson Park.

First place went to Appleton's Bob Spoo in 16 minutes. Teammate Joe Nabbefeld didn't run.

North's Golds was second, followed

by Gene LeFevre, East; Gorr, North; Shubart, East; Fitzpatrick, East; McKenzie, East; Menges, North; J. Tellock, Menasha; and Ellinger, East.

Other Menasha finishers were M. Northam 11th, Larry Bevers 12th, Rick Hills 14th, Jim Geuren 15th, Brian Vitek 19th and Bob Svichenberg 21st.

East edged the Bluejays, 26-30, in the junior varsity meet.

North only entered five runners when one failed to finish its point total were not counted.

Bluejay finishers were Pat Nichols second, Scott Abel fifth, Chuck Wojcik sixth; Greg Skibba eighth; Mike Pelton ninth, Rich Steffens 10th and Bill Brantmeier 14th.

Neenah will compete in the Fond du Lac Relays Saturday along with Milwaukee Washington, Racine Horizon, Milwaukee Marshall, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Waukesha South and Appleton East and West.

Menasha is entered in the Ashwaubenon Invitational Saturday with Edgings, Ashwaubenon, Berlin Green, East, Prable and Southwest, Kaukauna, Kimberly, New London, Portmontre and Luxemburg-Casco.

Coach Russ Leitz announced that Northam was the latest runner to win "harrier of the week" honors.

Rocket runners best Bluejays; Murray 1st

MENASHA — The team score wasn't close but the battle for first place was a dandy when the Neenah High School cross country team bested Menasha, 18-44, over a 3-mile course through Jefferson Park Tuesday afternoon.

Involved in a spring to the finish line were Bill Murray of the Rockets, the

eventual winner, and Menasha's Gary Van Handel.

Four runners, Murray, Van Handel and Neenah's Bob Menning and Jim Goodman, were nunched together through most of the race.

As they headed toward the finish line along the shore of the river, Van Handel pulled ahead but he was overtaken by Murray to win in 18:27. Van Handel's time was 18:28.

Menning garnered third place and Jim Goodman was fourth. The Rockets also took the next four places with Dan Schalle fifth, Dave Kierstead sixth, Steve Verkuilen seventh and Paul Gooch eighth.

Other Menasha finishers were Jeff Tellock ninth; Larry Bevers 10th, Rick Hills 11th, John Straw 12th, and Brian Vitek 13th.

The Rockets also posted a 20-38 in the junior varsity meet.

Neenah freshman Phil Edmonds, who won at Rhinelander last week, was first in 17:33. Menasha's Mike Northam placed second.

Other Neenah places included Steve Blank third; Tom Hicks fourth, Dan Kierstead, fifth, Mark Keenan seventh, Fritz Hildebrand ninth; and Tom McArty, 11th.

For the Bluejays, Scott Abel was sixth, Pat Nichols eighth, Chuck Woychik 10th, Bob Swichtenberg 12th, Mark Pelton 13th and Greg Skibba 14th.

Both schools will compete in the Oaish North Invitational Thursday afternoon.

They are entered in the large school division along with Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan North and South, Green Bay East and other area schools.

The race will be held at North High school instead of at Menominee Park as in other years.

Final three miles for Neenah runners in state WIAA meet

NEENAH — Members of the Neenah High School cross country team have traveled more than 800 miles on foot in practice and in meets this fall but the three biggest of all are still in front of them.

The Rockets, who in their last three starts took championships in the conference, regional and sectional meets, will run the three miles in the WIAA Class A meet at Milwaukee's Dretzka Park.

The three-class meet will begin with the Class C test at 11 a.m. Saturday which means that Class A probably will start about noon.

Neenah's lineup is composed of Bob Menning, Bill Murray and Mike Edmonds, seniors; Jim Goodman, Dave Kierstead and Paul Gooch, juniors; and sophomore Dan Schaller.

Neenah finished fourth in last year's run. West Allis Hale and Madison West, who were second and third, also are back.

The field also includes Monroe, ranked No. 1 in the coaches poll, which captured the Class B crown in 1973.

Coach Tom Jensen believes his Rockets have a good chance to win the championship and doesn't see any team overpowering the field.

The Rockets' initial goal this fall was to win the conference title. They achieved it by topping Appleton East, a team that beat them in three previous meetings.

To reach that goal and for the next one — the state crown — the Neenah run-

ners have worked out twice a day, beginning last September. They work out from about 6:15 to 7:30 a.m., eat their breakfast in the locker room and then practice again from 3:15 to 5 or 5:30 p.m.

"We run about 15 miles a day and we wouldn't be able to do it in one practice," Jensen said. He noted that "if you're winning, you can get them to do anything."

For work on hills, the Rockets sometimes run at Winchester Hills.

Menning is competing in the state meet for the third year. He was 24th last fall. The senior co-captain has improved rapidly and is beating runners who defeated him earlier in the season.

Gooch is out for athletics for the first time but has established himself as the No. 2 runner. Jensen said he was timed at 18:33 in his first outing and now runs the three miles in 15:40. He is called a tremendous natural runner by his coach.

Murray, the other co-captain, is out for the sport for the second year. He has one less season of running because he plays baseball in spring instead of participating in track.

Edmonds, Jensen said, has shown unbelievable improvement. He didn't make the squad for the first five meets but no one has dislodged him since then.

Goodman won a letter last year. Kierstead is up from the Jayvees and Schaller is the last of four brothers to run for the Rockets.

Senior letterman Steve Emmrich pulled a thigh muscle in practice and has been out most of the season.

Jensen said other runners such as senior Mark Salsieder, sophomores Rick Schmidt and Steve Verkuilen and juniors Mike Charron, Pete Danielson and Jack Champaigne could run for any team in the conference.

Jensen said he wouldn't hesitate to use any of them in a varsity race or as alternates in the state meet.

The Rockets, who are in the field for the fifth straight year, won their only state cross country title in 1963 when they competed in the medium school class.

Grand slam for 3 T-C harrier teams

NEENAH-MENASHA — The weather was chilly and the first snow of winter 1974-75 appeared but Tuesday was a fine day for Twin City prep harriers.

Neenah, playing host to a Fox Valley Association triangular at Armstrong, scored 21 points to outdistance Oshkosh North (54) and Kaukauna (60).

Menasha traveled to Oshkosh West and also won a 3-way meet, posting 25 points to West's 38 and 67 for Kimberly.

St. Mary Central, in its first home meet, scored an 18-45 dual triumph over Xavier at Jefferson Park.

Bob Menning led the Rockets to their victory in 16:14. Bill Murray was runnerup in 16:31 with Paul Gooch fifth, Mike Edmonds sixth, Jim Goodman seventh, Rick Schmidt eighth and Dave Kierstead 10th.

An Oshkosh North runner finished third and Dale Carnot of Kaukauna was fourth.

The course was about 100 yards longer than three miles.

Vince Wolff of Oshkosh West won the meet at Oshkosh in 18:56.

Menasha sophomore Mike Northam was second, followed by Jeff Tellock third, Jim Gueren fifth, Larry Bevers

sixth, Brian Vittek ninth and Gary Van Handel 11th. Rick Hills didn't finish.

St. Mary's John Hale won the Xavier meet in 15:15. Terry Engel was second. John Probst fourth, Ron Zoromski fifth, Tim Miller sixth, Jim Ropella seventh and Brian McClone eighth. Xavier's Steve Lueck finished third.

Neenah won its junior varsity meet with 20 points. Kaukauna had 49 and North 61.

Phil Edmonds of the Rockets was first in 18:17. Mark Kleman finished second, Bill Neer fourth, Shawn Carpenter fifth, Fritz Hildebrand eighth, Pat Murphy 11th and Tony Edmonds 12th.

There was no jayvee competition in the Menasha and St. Mary meets.

The Zephyrs will entertain Xavier Thursday afternoon at Jefferson Park while the Bluejays travel to New London, also on Thursday. Neenah's next meet will be the Blackhawk Invitational at Grafton Saturday.

Bluejay Coach Russ Leitz announced that "Harrier of the week" honors for the first two weeks went to Northam and Scott Abel of the jayvees and Bevers and Van Handel at the varsity level.

Neenah runners trail by 20 seconds

NEENAH — Only 20 seconds separated first place Appleton East and second place Neenah in the Fond du Lac cross country relays Saturday.

The Patriots totaled 83 minutes while Neenah had 83 minutes, 20 seconds.

Fond du Lac was only one second behind the Rockets while Manitowoc had 85:54, Waukesha South 88:51, Milwaukee Marshall 87:38, Racine Horlick 90:34, Milwaukee Washington 101:08 and Appleton West 104:11.

The meet consisted of seven different races with all of the No. 7 men running first, the No. 8 men second and so on down the line. The five best times were used in compiling the team totals.

Neenah's times were Dave Kierstead, No. 7, 16:59; Mike Edmonds, No. 6, 16:56; Paul Gooch, No. 5, 16:27; Dan Schaller, No. 4, 16:59; Jim Goodman, No. 3, 16:44; Bill Murray, No. 2, 16:44; and Bob Menning, No. 1, 16:28.

Kierstead and Gooch finished first in their divisions while Edmonds' was third and Schaller fourth.

The Rockets had an 8-second lead going into the final race, which was won by Bob Mead of Waukesha in 15:19.

The Rockets and East will collide again in the Fox Valley Association meet at Oakwood Hills Wednesday. The jayvee meet starts at 4:30 p.m.; the varsity text at 5 o'clock.

Neenah High harriers, Menning sweep first places in North test

OSHKOSH — Placing three runners in the top 15, the Neenah High School cross country team won the Oshkosh North Invitational here Thursday afternoon.

The Rockets scored 61 points, 14 fewer than second place Fond du Lac.

Manitowoc had 119, Wausau West 123, Sheboygan South 151, Oshkosh North 184, Kaukauna 185, Sheboygan North 181, Menasha 232, Green Bay East 253, Appleton West 271, Oshkosh West 274 and Kimberly 374. Milwaukee West didn't have five finishers.

Neenah's Bob Menning was the winner in 15:08, placing eight seconds ahead of Tom Bronkhorst of Fond du Lac.

Kevin Nichodem of Sheboygan North took third, Mark Swanson, Waurau

West, fourth, and Coby Verdegem, Fond du Lac, fifth.

Other Neenah finishes were Bill Murray 12th, Dave Kierstead 15th, Jim Goodman 16th, Dan Schaller 18th, Paul Gooch, 26th, and Steve Verkuilen, 35th.

Menasha's places included Gary Van Handel 13th, Jeff Tellock 44th, Larry Bevers 48th, Mike Northam 59th, Jim Gueren 68th, Rick Hills 71st and Brian Vitek 83rd.

"We received a great performance from everyone," Neenah Coach Tom Jensen declared. "This has been a flux meet for us. We finished second so many times. Even in 1971 when we had our good team, we were second."

Neenah, led by Rick Schmidt, a sophomore, who won in 16:05, also took the junior varsity test.

Sheboygan South was runner-up with 57, followed by Fond du Lac 78, Sheboygan North 116, Manitowoc 154, Green Bay East 175, Menasha 185, Wausau West 193, Oshkosh North 229 and Kaukauna 280.

Steve Blank was fourth for the Rockets, Phil Edmonds sixth, Tom Hicks ninth, Dan Kierstead 14th, Mark Klemman 22nd and Bill Neer 26th.

For the Jays, Scott Abel finished 24th, Chuck Wojcik 31st, Pat Nichols 37th, Mark Pelton 46th, Greg Skibba 47th, Rich Steffens 56th and Bob Swichtenberg 62nd.

Neenah's next outing will be in the Shawano Invitational Saturday morning. The meet is run at the high school and opens with the varsity test at 10:30 a.m.

Menasha next faces Appleton West and Kaukauna at Pierce Park Tuesday afternoon.

NM runners drop 1-point verdicts

NEENAH-MENASHA — The Neenah and Menasha High School cross country teams were victims of 1-point setbacks in Fox Valley Association meets Tuesday afternoon.

The Rockets were edged by Appleton East, 27-28, at Appleton. Kimberly finished a distant third with 85 points.

Menasha was ripped by Kaukauna, 35-36, in another meet at Appleton. West was third with 82 points.

The Patriots garnered the first, second, sixth, eighth and 10th spots against the Rockets, who had runners finishing third, fourth, fifth, seventh and ninth.

East's Joe Nabbefeld was first in 15:36 while Bob Spoo ran the course in 16:04. Bob Menning led the Rockets with his third place time of 16:00. Bill Murray was fourth in 16:33.

Jim Goodman took fifth, Gene LeFevre, East, sixth, Dave Kronenkal, seventh, John Schubert, East, eighth, Paul Gooch, ninth, and Lee Allinger, East, 10th.

Other Neenah finishers were Mark Salsieder 12th and Dan Schaller 14th.

"We showed progress. They beat us worse at Shawano," Coach Tom Jensen said.

Bluejay Coach Russ Lutz also was pleased with the improvement of his squad against Kaukauna and West.

Kaukauna garnered three of the first

five places but then the five Bluejay runners came in before the Ghosts' fourth place finisher.

Several Bluejay runners were in good position but were passed by West and Kaukauna harriers late in the race to give the narrow edge to the Ghosts.

West's Scott Schelider finished first in 15:33, followed by Dale Carnot, Kaukauna, Gary Van Handel, Menasha, Steve Pomeroy, Kaukauna, and Joe Harman, Kaukauna.

Other Bluejay places included Jeff Tellock sixth, Larry Bevers eighth, Mike Northam ninth, Rick Hills, 10th, Jim Gueren, 12th, and Scott Abel 15th.

Both the Neenah and Menasha Jayvees were winners. The Rockets bested East, 23-35, and Menasha took Kaukauna, 17-43.

Neenah's Phil Edmonds won in 17:20 and was followed by Tom Hicks third, Dan Kierstead fourth, Mark Klemman seventh, Bill Neer eighth, Fritz Hildebrand ninth and Pat Murphy 11th.

Brian Vitek of Menasha was the winner at Appleton in 16:01. Chuck Wojcik took second, Bob Swichtenberg third, Pat Nichols fourth, Mark Pelton seventh, Greg Skibba sixth and Rich Steffens 10th.

Both varsity teams are idle until next Tuesday. The Bluejays meet Oshkosh West and Kimberly at Oshkosh and the Rockets are home to Oshkosh North and Kaukauna.

Grafton Invitational

NHS harriers sweep title

GRAFTON — Placing its seven runners in the top 15, the Neenah High School cross country team ran away with the Blackhawk Invitational meet here Saturday.

The Rockets chalked up 30 points with West Allis Central a distant second in totaling 87.

South Milwaukee had 168, Milwaukee Hamilton 114, Brookfield Central 119, Oshkosh North 162, Kenosha Bradford 171, Milwaukee Pulaski 136, Wauwatosa West 223, Waukesha South 264 and Racine Horlick 290.

Menasha, competing in a smaller school division in the same meet, had a poor day and finished 13th.

Menomonee Falls North was the winner with 51 points. Hartford had 80, Sussex Hamilton 107, Menomonée Falls East 117, Whitefish Bay 123, Oak Creek 124, Port Washington 165, Homestead

177, New Berlin West 226, West Bend West 233, Cedarburg 236 and the Bluejays 253. Milwaukee Riverside didn't finish.

The Rockets' top finisher was Bob Menning, who garnered a fourth place. Bill Murray was fifth.

Jim Goodman took eighth, Dan Schaller ninth, Paul Goesch 13th, Mike Edmonds 14th and Rich Schmidt 15th.

Coach Tom Jensen was pleased with all of his runners but especially the final five. He noted that there was only a 44-second spread between the Rockets' first and seventh place finishers. "We've been jumping around in three through seven," the winning coach said.

The triumph was the second of the fall for the Rockets, who previously won at Oshkosh North. They had been second in big meets at Rhinelander

and Shawano.

Neenah's Jayvees also won the first place trophy with 45 points.

Brookfield Central had 53. West Allis Central 80, South Milwaukee 95, Kenosha Bradford 184, 164, Milwaukee Pulaski 180, Milwaukee Hamilton 196, Waukesha South 210, Wauwatosa West 222, Milwaukee Rufus King 224 and Racine Horlick 290.

Steve Verkuilen was the individual winner in 18:25.

Phil Edmonds was second, 11 seconds behind, with Tom Hicks fourth. Other Neenah runners were Don Kierstead, Shawn Carpenter, Mark Kleman and Bill Noer.

Menasha's varsity was led by Mike Northam with 41st place. Larry Beyer was 43rd, Jeff Tellock 51st, Rick Hill 54th, Gary Van Handel 64th and Brian Vitek 78th. Jim Geuren didn't finish.

The Jayvees tied for 10th place in a field of 13 with 264 points.

Bob Swichtenberg placed 27th, Scott Abel 48th, Pat Nichols 50th, Mark Pelton 68th, Rich Steffens 71st, Bill Brandtmeier 77th and Chuck Wojcik, didn't finish.

Coach Russ Leitz said the varsity showed a complete reversal of form over recent meets and could have finished much higher.

The Jays entertain Appleton East and Oshkosh North at Jefferson Park Tuesday afternoon while the Rockets close their home slate at Armstrong against Appleton West and Oshkosh West.

NHS, East runners clash again in fifth FVA meet

NEENAH — The closely-matched Neenah and Appleton East High School cross country teams will clash for the fourth time this fall in the Fox Valley Association meet Wednesday afternoon on the Oakwood Hills Course at Combined Locks.

The Rockets were edged by the Patriots in all previous meetings — but not by much — and Rocket Coach Tom Jensen says "East will have to have a good day to beat us."

East scored 84 points and Neenah 103 in finishing one-two in the Shawano Invitational. The Rockets narrowed the gap to 27-28 in their Fox Valley Association meeting and they trailed by 20 seconds in the Fond du Lac Relays last Saturday.

East won last year's meet, 27-30, over the Rockets. They had a 19-point edge in the 1972 test and the two rivals shared the 1971 crown. Neenah won the circuit's first bunting in 1970.

Neenah's runners are expected to be Bob Menning, Bill Murray, Jim Goodman, Dan Schaller, Paul Gooch, Mike Edmonds and Dave Kierstead or Rick Schmidt.

Menasha's Bluejays are expected to be involved in the battle for third place, which they captured last year.

Bunched with the Jays, at a level below the leading contenders, are Osh-

kosh North, Kaukauna, Oshkosh West and Appleton West.

Menasha's top runners are Gary Van Handel, Jeff Tellock, Larry Bevers, Jim Gueren, Rick Hillis, Mike Northam and Brian Vitek.

The junior varsity meet will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the varsity test is slated for 5 p.m.

Following Wednesday's meet the Twin City squads will be idle until the Class A Regional at Fond du Lac next Tuesday.

Others in that field will be Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Oshkosh North and West and Two Rivers.

The top three teams and five individuals will qualify for the sectional Oct. 26 at Green Bay.

Other qualifiers will come from the Green Bay West and Mishicot Regionals. Two teams from six sectionals and the top five individuals in all meets will move on to the state run at Milwaukee Nov. 3.

Rockets FVA champs

COMBINED LOCKS — The Neenah Rockets reached their peak performance of the season Wednesday unseating Appleton East as Fox Valley Association cross country champion.

The Rockets scored 30 points to edge two-time champion East which had 34. Oshkosh North was a distant third with 106, Kaukauna had 121, Menasha 130, Appleton West 150, Oshkosh West 153 and Kimberly 231.

Neenah's Bob Menning burst into the lead with about 200 yards remaining in the three-mile run to defeat pre-race favorite Joe Nabbefeld of Appleton East. Menning was clocked in 16:36, while Nabbefeld posted a 16:44 time on the hilly Oakwood Hills Golf Course.

Rounding out the top ten were: Paul Gooch, Neenah, 3rd; Bob Spoo, East, 4th; Steve Goltz, Oshkosh North, 5th; Gene LeFevre, East, 6th; Jim Goodman, Neenah, 7th; Dan Schaller, Neenah, 8th; Steve Minges, Oshkosh North, 9th, and Stu LeFevre, East, 10. Bill Murray took 11th place to give the title to the Rockets.

An elated Neenah Rocket Coach, Tom Jensen, said, "It's the biggest day of the year. We've been shooting for this since the middle of August. The kids have been working hard and practicing twice a day.

"Nobody remembers if you win a regional or invitational, but they remember how you did in conference," Jensen said.

East and Neenah shared the 1971 championship after the Rockets captured the initial FVA cross country title in 1970. Appleton East won in 1972 and again in 1973. None of the other FVA schools has been in competition with the big two.

"I was beginning to wonder if they had the Indian sign on us," Jensen said. "They beat us in a dual and at the Fond du Lac and Shawano invitationals.

"Murray did a tremendous job for us in beating their fifth man. Menning and Gooch finished ahead of their one and two runners, too, which was very important.

"Menning trailed Nabbefeld the entire race until taking the lead with about 200 yards left. Then I knew things were looking pretty good."

The Neenah jayvees easily won with 18 points to East's 53. Menasha had 79, Oshkosh North 99 and Kaukauna 111 as the only participants. Steve Verkuilen led the runners with a 17:49 clocking.

Neenah runners eye state meet berth

NEENAH — "I think we have a chance," Neenah High School cross country Coach Tom Jensen says of the Rockets' aspirations for a berth in the state Class A meet.

The Rockets will compete in the Green Bay Sectional on the UW-Green Bay course at 10 a.m. Saturday. The two lowest-scoring teams will gain positions in the state meet at Milwaukee a week from Saturday.

Also in the field are Green Bay Preble, Fox River Valley Conference champion, Appleton East, De Pere, Bayland Conference winner, Marinette,

Green Bay Southwest, Fond du Lac and Manitowoc.

Preble edged East by one point for the Mishicot Regional title. The Rockets, in their last meeting with the Patriots, bested them in the Fox Valley Association meet.

Jensen noted that there are so many variables in the meet that it is difficult to pick the result. He'd be satisfied with a second place for the coveted state meet trip.

De Pere has an outstanding runner in Steve Hahn, who won the Mishicot Regional. The Redbirds also garnered

third place.

Manitowoc's individual Ben Dalton was the individual winner in the Fondy Sectional and the other entries also have some fine performers.

Neenah's team is composed of Bob Menning, Bill Murray, Paul Gooch, Dave Kierstead, Dan Schaller, Jim Goodman and Mike Edmonds.

All seven finished in the top 12 in the Fond du Lac Regional.

Last year the Rockets were second in the Wausau Sectional, two points behind East.

Rocket runners ramble

FOND DU LAC — Snaring seven of the top 12 places, the Neenah High School cross country team ran off with the championship of the WIAA regional here Tuesday.

The Rockets collected 30 points. Manitowoc finished second with 54 and Fond du Lac had 92. The three teams qualified for the sectional next Saturday morning at Green Bay.

Green Bay Preble, Appleton East and De Pere qualified from the Mishicot

Regional and Ashwaubenon. Green Bay Southwest and Marinette were qualifiers from the Green Bay meet.

Other totals at Fond du Lac were Two Rivers 102, Oshkosh North 121, Menasha 148 and Oshkosh West 174.

Manitowoc's Ben Dalton was the individual winner in 15:57. He finished four seconds ahead of the Rockets' Bob Menning.

Neenah's Paul Gooch was third, Mike Edmonds sixth, Bill Murray ninth, Dan Schaller 10th, Dave Kierstead 11th and Jim Goodman 12th.

Tom Brunkhorst of Fond du Lac finished fourth, Jim Rogala, Two Rivers, fifth, Steve Goida, North, seventh, and Rick Riebe, Manitowoc, eighth.

Coach Tom Jensen called the victory a "real team performance." He noted that the Rockets' seventh man finished ahead of Fond du Lac's second finisher and Manitowoc's third.

Menasha's places included Mike Northam 26th, Jeff Tellock 27th, Larry Bevers 28th, Gary Van Handel 29th, Rick Hills 38th, Jim Gueren 40th and Pat Nichols 41st.

With the meet, the Bluejays concluded their season.

"Last year everything fell into place and this year everything went wrong," Bluejay Coach Russ Lertz said.

Three of the top five from last year graduated and the other two didn't report. In addition, the team also was hampered by injuries.

Lertz said Bevers, on the varsity, and Nichols, jayvees, were last week's "harriers of the week." Northam received the honor this week.

Monroe A Nervous Victor

By Derrick Jackson
Special to The Journal

Uncertainty clouded the hopes of Coach Clarence Bruess of Monroe High School Saturday during the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Cross County Meet at Dretzka Park.

Bruess' team entered the meet as the top ranked Class A school in the weekly coaches' poll. But Bruess had to pull his leading runner, Pete Chandler, after the first mile of the three mile race because of an arch injury.

Bruess still had some solid performers in the meet, but at that point, he didn't know if their effort could carry the team.

"I looked at the boys coming in to the finish line, and I had no way of telling if we had won. So I walked over to the West Allis Hale coach (Leighton Betz) and asked him to swap point cards.

"I told him we had 88 points. He told me he had 89."

And so, by one point, Monroe won the Class A title. Monroe won the Class B title last year. Hale was 2.00 second last season in Class A, but was beat by Racine Case, 90-48. Greendale was third in Class A this year with 119 points, Neenah fourth with 121.

In the individual standings that included only runners from complete teams, Jim Ingold and Dave Benkert, both of Monroe, finished first and sixth, respectively. West Allis Hale had four runners between 4th and 12th place, with Tom Zimmerman 7th and Jeff Morin 10th. The fifth Hale runner finished 49th. Monroe's other finishers were 14th, 31st, and 36th.

The medalist in Class A was Steve Hahn of DePere, who had a time of 15 minutes 26.5 seconds. Hahn finished sixth in Class B last year.

"We knew that Chandler was hurt and we figured with him out, we could take it," Betz said. But Monroe's winning wasn't due to any of our runners doing poorly. It was just a great job on the part of their runners."

cor in Heights won the Class C title last year.

Tim Ashmore and Terrance Shirley were third and fourth, respectively, in the overall individual Class C standings, sparking Fennimore to its championship. Fennimore scored 41 points while second place Albany had 57. Tom Reynolds of Hazel Green won the overall individual title with a time of 16:03.5.

CLASS A Team Scores
Monroe 89, West Allis Hale 88, Greendale 119, Neenah 121, Green Bay Preble 125, Milwaukee South 140, Menomonee Falls North 142, Madison West 174, Hart-Jorg 174, Racine Park and Superior, 224, Antigo, 228.

Individuals
1. Steve Hahn, DePere, 15 minutes 26.5 seconds. 2. Chuck Skensadora, Waukesha North, 15:34. 3. Bob Mead, Waukesha South, 15:34. 4. Kevin Nickodem, Sheboygan North, 15:37. 5. Jim Ingold, Monroe, 15:37. 6. Daniel Gaswill, Greendale, 15:41. 7. Bill Storch, Greendale, 15:43. 8. Joe Wabertold, Keshikon East, 15:50. 9. John Siffert, Menomonee Falls North, 15:52. 10. Dan Bontran, Green Bay West, 16:13.

CLASS B Team Scores
Vernon 47, Wisconsin Valley 48, Little Chute 77, Luxemburg-Casco 91, New Richmond 112, Holleville 124.

Individuals
1. Bill Markwardt, Verona, 16:00. 2. Ron Janibewski, Stanley Boyd, 16:00. 3. Rob Whitebeck, Richland Center, 16:13. 4. Tom Esser, Lancaster, 16:30. 5. Dave Galina, Wisconsin Heights, 16:30. 6. Paul Olsky, Prairie du Chien, 16:33. 7. Bob Mall, Wisconsin, 16:33. 8. Ken Marshall, Westfield, 16:37. 9. Bill Cook, Tomahawk, 16:42. 10. John Markwardt, Verona, 16:42.

CLASS C Team Scores
Fennimore 41, Albany 57, Drummond 58, Loyd 84, Lorraine 97, Greendale 131.

Individuals
1. Tom Reynolds, Hazel Green, 16:05. 5. Mike Krostling, Reedsville, 16:35. 2. Tim Ashmore, Fennimore, 16:39. 4. Terrance Shirley, Fennimore, 16:39. 3. Ken Miller, Loree, 16:46. 6. Pat Ryan, Drummond, 16:46. 7. Jim Lisk, Edgar, 16:57. 8. Joe Frydenlund, Keshikon, 16:57. 9. Ron Keegan, Albion, 16:54. 10. Shaun Shirley, Fennimore, 17:37.

Rocket harriers ready

NEENAH -- Neenah High School's cross country team makes its fifth straight appearance in the WIAA state Class A meet at Milwaukee Saturday and Coach Tom Jensen believes his Rockets have a good chance to win it.

The vastly improved Rockets, in their last three outings, won the Fox Valley Association, Fond du Lac Regional and Green Bay Sectional championships and have momentum going into the state finale.

"I think we've got a real good chance. As I compare times and (there is a limit from one regional to another because of the difference in courses), I think if we run a good race, we'll do well," the Neenah coach said.

Jensen thinks 80 points will win the meet. "I can't see a single team overpowering the field," he added, noting that in 1971 the Rockets were in the 50s and "we had an unbelievable team."

Depth, especially from the fourth through the seventh positions, has been the Rockets' strong suit all season.

They hadn't had that one single outstanding performer until the last month

when Bob Menning, who will be participating in his third state meet, emerged as one of the finest runners in the area.

The No. 2 runner has been Paul Gooch, a junior, who wasn't out for any sport previously, while senior Bill Murray, co-captain with Menning, has usually been the Rockets' third finisher.

Completing the top seven are Mike Edmonds, a senior; Jim Goodman and Dave Kierstead, juniors; and sophomore Dan Schaller.

Schaller is the fourth and last of the Schaller brothers to run for the Rockets.

Senior Steve Emmrich would have been in the top seven but an injury has sidelined him most of the fall.

The Rockets have depth on the squad beyond the top seven and Jensen said he wouldn't hesitate to put any of the others in the state meet.

Other teams in Class A are Antigo, Preble, Greendale, Hartford, Madison West, Menomonee Falls North, Milwaukee South, Monroe, Racine Park, Superior and West Allis Hale. Defending champion Racine Case didn't qualify.

Rocket runners qualify

NEENAH -- Neenah High School's seventh place runner finished before the fourth placer on most of the other teams as the Rocket cross country team won the WIAA sectional at Green Bay Saturday.

The Rockets tallied 83 points, followed by Preble 74, Fond du Lac 76, Appleton East 81, Manitowoc 105, DePere 106, Green Bay Southwest 222, Ashwaubenon 223 and Marinette 223.

Bob Menning led the Rockets with a fifth place in 15:25. Paul Gooch was seventh, Bill Murray 12th, Mike Edmonds 13th, Dan Schaller 21st, Dave Kierstead 22nd and Jim Goodman 23rd.

"It was awful good bunching," winning coach Tom Jensen said. "Our seventh man finished in front of every

other team's fourth man except Fond du Lac and he finished ahead of their fifth man."

"I'm at a point where I believe anything of these kids. We're going down with the right attitude. There is no question that we've got one of the deepest teams," Jensen added.

"Our strength is our depth and now Menning is giving us a class runner. We're developing strength in that area, which we didn't have earlier in the year," the coach said.

He sees Monroe, West Allis Hale and Madison West as the teams to beat in the state meet at Milwaukee Saturday.

The Rockets have qualified for the state meet every year since 1971.