

# Cross Country Season Races Toward November Finish

by Joe Henderson

With the cross country season racing toward a November-end finish, invitationals and conference championships replaced duals as the dominant form of activity the last few weeks. The major winners: Keith Colburn and his Harvard teammates in the Heptagonals, Howell Michael (Wm & Mary) and Florida's team in the NCAA southern regional, Charles Shrader and his Maryland mates in the Atlantic Coast championships, Sid Sink and Bowling Green State with a Mid-American upset, Jerome Howe (Kans St) and Kansas in the Big Eight, El Paso in the Western Athletic Conference with Kerry Pearce and John Bednarski tying for first, and Steve Prefontaine and Oregon in highly significant Northern Division wins. Several meets rate separate stories in this issue. Details on others come here in area-by-area form.

**Northeast:** Harvard half-miler Keith Colburn, sporting a red mustache and beard and full health after recovering from a September spell of mononucleosis and anemia, plowed through the Van Cortlandt Park rain and mud to win the Heptagonal championship. His 24:52 was the fastest this year on the classic 5.0-mile route in the Bronx, and it brought him home just ahead of teammate Dave Pottetti (24:53)--well ahead of favored and once-beaten soph Julio Piazza of Penn (25:03). It was a Harvard-Penn team race, too, though not a very close one. Three more Harvard runners (Mike Koerner, 4th in 25:08; Royce Shaw, 6th, and John Heyburn, 8th) gave the team 21 points to Penn's 66. Princeton was third at 70. "I guess I don't have 'tired blood' anymore," Colburn commented. (from Bob Hersh)

A few days earlier on the same course, Manhattan's Ed Walsh repeated what his father had done 23 years ago. He won the Metropolitan intercollegiate title. Ed III ran 25:17.4, beating St. John's all-American Don Rowe by 4.6 seconds. Byron Dyce (NYU) had the fastest time going into the race but ran into trouble in the hot, muggy weather and collapsed after finishing eighth. Still, his team won with 45 points to St. John's 50. Western Michigan came east to try out the NCAA 6.0-mile course against St. John's. Western's Mike Hazilla beat Rowe, 30:14.2 to 30:16.6.

Last year's NCAA third placer, Art Dulong of Holy Cross, came through with an easy win in the New England Intercollegiate race at Boston. Art navigated the muddy 5.0-miles in 24:15. Three Connecticut runners streamed across behind a half-minute later: John Vitale 24:41, Craig McColl 24:45 and Rick Spurling 24:48, leading a 46-point team victory.

A series of injuries bothered Villanova, but the NCAA defending champs kept winning. Donal Walsh set a course record (25:23.4) as the team swept St. Joseph's, and he tied with Chris Mason in a win over Penn as Penn's Julio Piazza lost his first race this year. Villanova frosh Phil Banning ripped off a 13:56.6 3.0-mile race. (from Dave Sheridan)

**South:** The biggest, most talent-filled gathering of southerners came in

the NCAA regional at Lexington, Ky. Five runners got in under 30-minutes for the 6.0-miles. William & Mary's Howell Michael made it under 29--with eight seconds to spare. He had a comfortable margin over Ken Silvious (29:06) of Eastern Kentucky, who also had plenty of open ground between him and third-placing Ken Misner (29:23) of Florida State. Bob Gray (Ark St), 29:53, and John Parker (Fla), 29:55, completed the sub-30:00 group. Mark Bir's sixth and Jack Nason's seventh points also helped Florida to the team title with 56. William & Mary scored 91, and Tennessee (without two of its leaders, ill Ken Rowlett and Owen Self) 102. (Improving Tennessee, incidentally, didn't lose to Cincinnati, 28-31, as mentioned last month but won by that score.)

Michael won his eighth and ninth races of the unbeaten season in the Virginia Intercollegiate and the Southern Conference. His time on the 5-mile 60-yard conference course was 25:36.6. Second-placing Doug Nelson of Furman ran 25:53. William & Mary's aptly named Randy Fields and Ted Wood finished third and fourth as their team totaled 21 points, winning easily. (Randy Hawthorne)

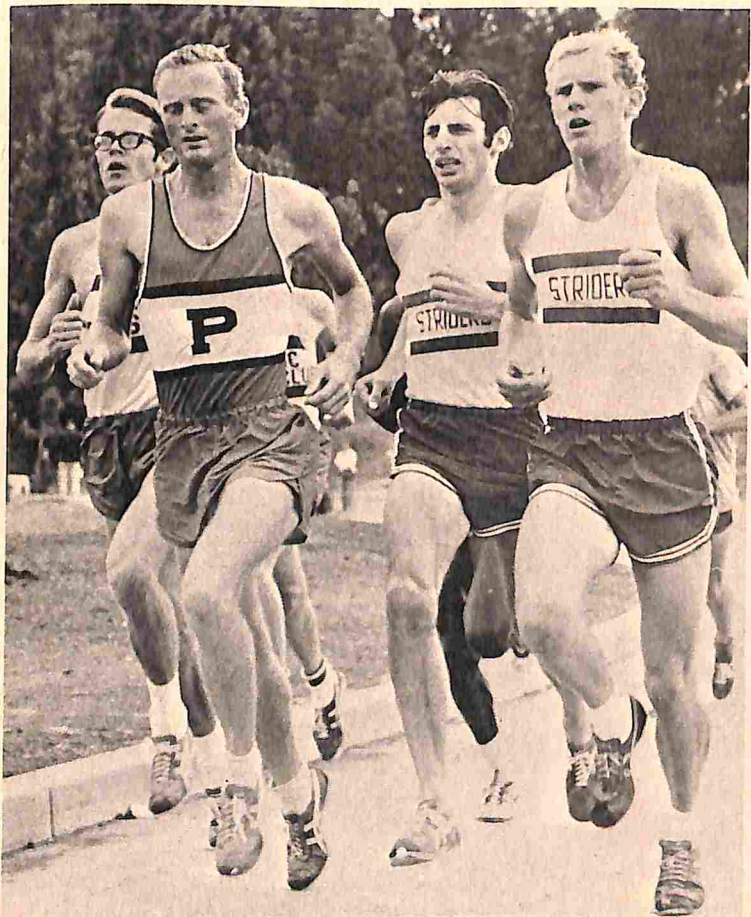
Charles Shrader of Maryland, 12th finisher in last year's NCAA, opened a 27-second gap on his nearest rival in the Atlantic Coast Conference title race, doing 26:38 for about five-miles. Maryland, which had Russ Taintor finishing fourth in 27:18, won the team title with 49 points from Duke, 65, and North Carolina, 80. Other individual leaders: 2. Gareth Hayes (N Car St) 27:04; 3. Larry Widgeon (N Car) 27:12... 5. Dave Peddie (S Car) 27:26.

In the deep south, Tom Hopkins and his Southwestern Louisiana teammates won the Gulf States Conference race. Hopkins went 4.0-miles in 19:11, leaving Art Botterill--also of Southwestern--22 seconds back. The team compiled just 25 points. (from Paul Adams)

**Midwest:** Steeplechaser Sid Sink had a multi-satisfying day in the Mid-American Conference race. He won the individual championship, going 6.0-miles in 30:22. He provided Bowling Green State with the vital edge it needed to clip favored Western Michigan by a point, 44-45, for team honors. And it all happened on his home course. Sink broke away from sub-29:00 track six-miler Bob Bertelsen of Ohio U for a 12-second victory. Then came Western's first two, Jerry Liebenberg, 30:41, and Gary Harris, 30:43, with Sink's teammate Dave Wottle fifth in 30:51. Mike Hazilla, potentially Western Michigan's best man, slipped to ninth on the wet, heavy course. Miami's team was third with 55 points, Ohio U fourth with 68.

There were two Michigan meets of note. Tom Hoffman, now graduated from Whitewater State, outran Canadian Olympian Dave Ellis of Eastern Michigan in the state Federation race, 24:34.2 to 24:47.2 over 5.0-miles at Ann Arbor. Hazilla grabbed third at 24:55 as Western Michigan jammed five finishers in the top nine. Wisconsin's Glenn Herold and Fred Lands went four-five. Dave Campbell of Eastern won the Michigan State Invitational, 5.0-miles taking

(Continued on page 4)



Cross country seems to make for togetherness among distance runners as these two photos show. Here, Jim Backus, Jr., son of the actor, leads in the Southern Pacific AAU championship 10,000 race, from (l-r) Doug Wiebe, Mike Manley and Tracy Smith. Winner Jerry Jobski is obscured behind Backus. (Photo by Dick O'Connor)



This group stuck together for all but 150-yards of the Big-8 Championship four-mile contest before Kansas State's Jerome Howe (r) sprinted past Iowa State's Dennis McGuire (l) for a 19:29.6 victory. Colorado's Rick Trujillo (second from left) ran fifth and Nebraska's Pete Brang (second from right) third. (Photo by Bob Anderson)



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