

Ramsey runners rip region rivals

by Dave Black
Blueprint Staff Writer

Continuing to show steady improvement, the cross country team moved into the State Meet by winning the Region IV championship, October 23. The Rams totaled 31 points to trounce runner-up White Bear Lake by fourteen.

Veteran coach Paul Busch commented earlier, "This team has improved more than any other I've coached". The harriers didn't disappoint him, or anyone else, as they took another giant stride toward their goal of a second straight state title.

Granse, first
Ellevoid, third

Craig Granse again finished first, running 15:04 over the three-mile Goodrich course to add to his conference and district titles. Brad Ellevoid (15:20) took third, behind Mounds View's Jim Wilson, and barely ahead of John Weathers (North St. Paul), who was passed within 100 yards of the finish.

Tom Flaherty and Mark Nelson ran side-by-side for more than two miles, Tom finally beating Mark to even up their personal battle at five wins apiece. Flaherty had previously predicted, "I'll get him in the state".

Tom cut six seconds off his previous best, running 15:39. Guy Johnson (16:15) was again the invaluable fifth man, coming in 19th. Juniors Tom Henning and Len Sonterre also ran

well, and entered the state as team members.

How the race was run

Granse took a narrow lead after the first quarter-mile straightaway, but Gerald Pederson of Coon Rapids didn't allow Craig to open up his usual big lead. Pederson stayed within three seconds for more than a mile, but dropped back after about a mile and a quarter. Granse was never again challenged, coasting in nearly 100 yards in front, only two seconds off his course record time set in the district meet.

Ellevoid ran fifth for more than a mile, but finally overtook Hastings' Gordon Benfield, and later NSP's top runner. Flaherty and Nelson ran their usual race, starting relatively slow and gaining places as the other runners tired. Ramsey proved again that

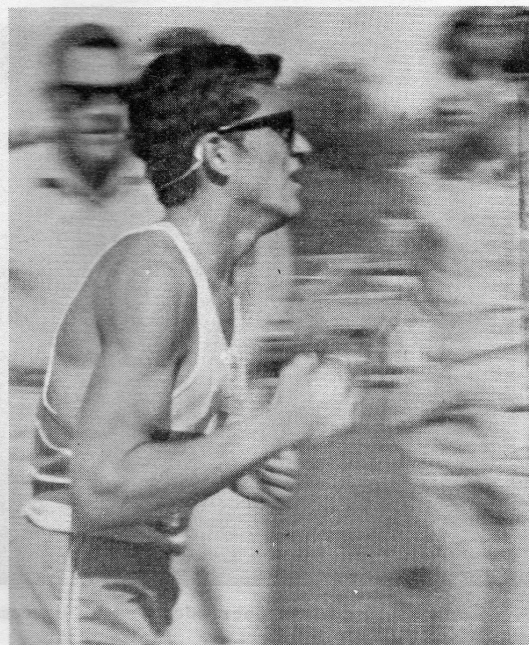
Goodrich was "our course," winning their tenth Region IV title in 15 years.

White Bear Lake joined the Rams in last Saturday's State Meet, which was too late for BLUEPRINT'S deadline. Wilson, Weathers, and Benfield entered as individuals.

Pre-state favorites

On the basis of previous best times, Minneapolis Southwest had to be considered the pre-meet favorite. Edina, St. Louis Park, Mankato and St. Cloud Tech were also rated highly. But the Rams had planned to step up workouts, hoping to go all the way.

Whatever the state results, this team can be commended on their desire throughout the long season, advancing them from the role of an also-ran to one of Minnesota's finest.



Harrier Tom Flaherty runs at a recent Cross Country meet.

PHOTO Bob Christensen

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