

CROSS-COUNTRY

North Championships at Elgin

The was a fast and furious finish in the men's race at the North District Cross Country Championships in Elgin on Saturday, and the verdict, by a margin of only one second went to Ian Moncur of Forres **Harriers** from Dave Lang of Elgin, with Don Ritchie of Forres taking 3rd. It was the fact that Moncur's change of club had not been cleared that cost Forres last year's team championship, but this year there was no mistake, as in addition to his winning contribution he was supported by five other athletes in the first 15 places to secure a clear win from R.A.F. Moray, with **Inverness Harriers** 3rd. The **Inverness** counters were:—9. — Les Hunter, 11. — Brian Turnbull, 22. — Innes Mitchell, 23. — Ross MacDonald, 24. — Kevin MacKintosh, 27. — Peter Thompson.

However, as expected, the **Harriers** under 15's dominated their races, particularly the senior boys, where George MacLennan just beat Jamie Bell on the sprint for first place, followed by Stephen Pierce, and with as outstanding a team as that, it was unfortunate that Jaime Porte (7th), Stephen Willox (13th) and Ian Stewart (20th) were left out of the prizes when they would have counted for most other teams.

In the junior women's event, Lee Lobban won by a considerable margin, and with the support of Lorna Ross in 4th place and Julie Wilson in 9th, the expected team win was secured. Culloden Academy's Margaret Kean was 3rd in the girls' race, and led her team to second place, with the **Harriers** Linda Wilson 8th. The other prominent **Inverness** placing was Alan Bone, who was 6th in the junior boys' event. Also very prominent were the athletes from Portree High School, competing for the first time in these championships, and in addition to a consistent all-round performance, they did very well at under 13 level.

