

CROSS-COUNTRY

Harriers Win Five North Trophies

Inverness Harriers won five of the seven team awards at the North District Cross Country championships, sponsored by the North of Scotland Milk Marketing Board, at Kinloss on Saturday. Their most convincing win was in the youths' race, which produced their only individual winner in Ian Dunn, and the other team counters were Simon Garland (4th) and Alan Bone (5th). In the junior boys' race Roy McKinnon ran very well to take second place with Duncan Hards 7th, and Billy Reynolds 8th. The top **Inverness** places in the senior boys' event went to Culloden Academy, which had Chris Buchanan in second place and Stuart Jarvie 3rd, but the **Harriers** with Andy Chalmers 4th, Scott Fraser 5th and David Bell 6th took yet another team title.

In the girls' championship, Roma Davidson was 2nd and Marianne Sinclair 3rd, and Kerry Donaldson's 10th place was enough to secure this team title. The **Harriers** fifth success was in the women's race, where Julie Wilson had yet another good run to take 3rd place with Catriona Bell 4th and Ann Walder 6th. The **Inverness** junior women's team did not quite manage to hold on to its title, but finished a close second, the counters being Jenny Rankine 2nd, Jenny Hall 6th and Hazel Hendry 8th. The **Harriers** men's team also lost its title, finishing a fairly distant 4th, but the team was led home by Dougie MacDonald, who had an excellent run to take 8th place. The other counters were David Rae 20th, Andrew Gordon 26th, Ross MacDonald 29th, Graham Whyte 30th and A. McKenzie 31st.

The top two finishers for the Northern Constabulary team, which was making its first appearance in the championships, were Callum Martin 14th and Ian Gollan 18th.

INVERNESS HARRIERS **ROSS CONTINGENT**

INVERNESS HARRIERS enjoyed a very successful North District Cross Country Championship at Kinloss on Saturday. On a bitterly cold day, with snow and ice underfoot, five out of seven team awards went to the Inverness Club, with six **Harriers** lifting individual prizes.

Ross-shire-based Club members figured prominently, with "new girl" Jenny Rankine, Alness, taking a fine second place for Junior Women. Marianne Sinclair, Dingwall, was third in the Girls' race behind team-mate Roma Davidson, with a brave run by Kerry Donaldson, Dingwall, for tenth place, being enough to secure the team prize ahead of Orkney AAC. This trio is unbeaten on three appearances this season and thoroughly deserved their success.

For the Senior Boys, Scott Fraser, Dingwall, finished fifth to help claim another team championship. Craig Stewart, Dingwall, ran well for seventh place.

MIKE PROVES HIS POINT

MIKE McCulloch has proved what many have believed for some time — that he is the best prospect to emerge in north athletics in a very long time.

The 20-year-old **currier** runner made his point on Saturday when he ran with great poise and style to win the North of Scotland Senior Men's Cross Country Championship at Kinross.

Only **James** McCulloch (Forres Harriers) presented a challenge on the tricky, snow-covered seven-and-a-half mile course, which included a large section of woodland.

McCulloch increased his lead over the last two miles to win by 150 yards in 39.18 to McCulloch's 39.49 with Scott MacMillan (Lochaber AC) having a fine run to take third place.

A fine turn-out of some 70 took part in this year's championships, which were brought forward in the seasonal calendar to accommodate Orkney competitors, who often experience difficulty in travelling when ferries have to cope with adverse weather.

The team competition, in which six runners count, was won by Forres Harriers, with Lochaber AC runners-up and **Scott** **James** third.

I. Moncur was the Harriers' second man home while a strong run by back-to-form I. Mackenzie enhanced his team's position.

James apart, **Elgin's** contingent never rose to the occasion, with only T. Jones finishing in a respectable position.

Local placings: 1 M. **James** (Elgin **James**), 2 M. McCulloch (FH), 3 I. Moncur (FH), 4 I. Mackenzie (FH), 12 T. Jones **James** **James**, 13 M. Francis (FH), 15 M. Wright (EAAC), 16 D. Ritchie (FH), 18 R. Cowe (FH), 24 A. Dalziel (EAAC), 34 D. Gunn (EAAC), 35 A. Cook (EAAC), 46 M. Christie (EAAC), 52 A. Moffat (EAAC).

In the junior men's race another fine individual performance by **James** Chris Armstrong saw him race clear of favourite Alan Reid (Coasters) to take the title on the five mile course.

Armstrong waited until the four mile mark before making his move to finish well ahead of the field in a time of 26.49.

James made it a hat-trick of successes in the women's event. Marianne MacLeod fought a close battle with L. McHardy (Black Isle) but Marianne's experience paid off in the last quarter and she built up a small lead which she retained to the end. She was well backed up by the other team members, with Morag Palmer excelling.

Placings: 1 M. MacLeod, 7 C. MacLeod, 9 M. Palmer.

In the youths' race Colin Donald took seventh place, although not fully fit, while Pamela Anderson finished seventh in the junior women's event.

Steven Wright produced a good run to take fifth place in the junior boys' race while teammate Wayne Chisholm finished a minute and a half behind in 20th place.