

BIG WIN FOR HASKETT

CHRISTINE HASKETT (18) scored a runaway win in the Scottish women's cross-country championship on her home course at Dundee last Saturday. She won the 3½ miles race by over a minute from Margaret MacSherry, returning to competition after illness. Anne Barrass, who finished 70 sec behind Rita Ridley in the English "National", was third 73 sec down on Christine. The first six were selected for San Sebastian.

Seniors: 1, C. Haskett (Dundee Hawkhill) 22.26; 2, M. MacSherry (Camb. H) 23.31; 3, A. Barrass (AFD) 23.39; 4, S. Sutherland (ESH) 23.51; 5, B. Grinney (Thurr) 23.57; 6, R. Murphy (Bathgate) 24.32; 7, P. Lindsay (Dundee) 24.33; 8, M. Speedman (M'hill) 24.44; 9, L. Watson (M'hill) 25.28; 10, D. Greig (Tannahill) 25.31; 11, M. Munro (ESH) 25.46; 12, E. McCullouch (B'houston) 25.52; 13, M. Chambers (Durham U) 26.22; 14, J. Will (Dundee) 26.33; 15, K. Mackie (B'gate) 26.40. **Teams:** 1, Dundee Hawkhill 22 pts; 2, Maryhill 36; 3, Bathgate 37; 4, Edinburgh AC 67; 5, Greenock Rankin Park 75.

Intermediates: 1, E. Radka (B'gate) 17.41; 2, J. Higgins (VPAAC) 18.05; 3, M. Dewar (Fauldhouse) 18.21. **Teams:** 1, VPAAC 30; 2, Bathgate 33; 3, Bellahouston 43.

Juniors: 1, A. Cherry (Fauld) 8.29; 2, C. McMeekin (M'hill) 8.45; 3, R. Aitken (C of Glasgow) 8.47. **Teams:** 1, Bathgate 27; 2, Lesmahagow 32; 3, C of Glasgow 36.

Girls: 1, P. Thomas (Fauld) 6.33; 2, J. Eaglesham (ESH) 6.39; 3, K. Robinson (Pitreavie) 6.40. **Teams:** 1, Pitreavie 17; 2, ESH 19; 3, Fauldhouse 51.

Ian Steedman

• ATHLETICS

TEAM VICTORY FOR V.P. GIRLS

It was a champion debut for Victoria Park in the Scottish Women's Cross Country Championships last Saturday at Caird Park, Dundee, with Janet Higgins (2nd), Eileen Brown (6th) and Agnes Kearney (12th), bringing home the new trophy presented by Dundee Corporation to the winners of the Intermediate team title.

Evelyn Kearney in 16th position provided an "insurance" against the possibility of her sister Agnes or Eileen Brown faltering, for had either dropped back V.P. would still have taken the honours. Janet Higgins' second place to the outstanding Eileen Radka, of Bathgate, was a tremendous personal achievement in her first championship and the decisive factor in bringing the team title to the club.

After a great first season in which she had installed herself in the top three of Scotland's junior ladies, Ann McKenna had the cruel experience of finishing fourth in the championship to the same time as the third-placed girl and a

tantalising two seconds behind the second girl, Evelyn McMeekin, sister of V.P.'s David.

These are outstanding achievements by girls in their first season and reflect great credit on Dougie Campbell, who has been the motivating force behind the ladies cross country group and who has travelled to every event with them.

Other V.P. finishers in the Junior Championship race were Angela Merrick (17th), Erica Christie (20th), Nancy McGuffie (30th) and Mairi Logue (63rd).

Until last Saturday, Victoria Park were the only club outside England to have won the English Cross Country team championship but now share the distinction with **Shuttlestone Harriers** great current team. Victoria Park's history-making team in 1952 was Andy and Chick Forbes, Jimmy Ellis, Ian Binnie, Ronnie Kane and Johnny Stirling, and all but one are still active to some degree in the sport.

After the climactic competitive events of the cross-country season, there is a period when runners may wind-down in relaxed runs over the country, and Victoria Park will run from Milngavie Community Centre on March 20 and 27, and April 3 and 10.