

SJ-O's Wright wins Spartan girls' race

By LOU ENGEL

News-Gazette Sportswriter

ST. JOSEPH — Streator Woodland's Scott Maddux and St. Joseph-Ogden's Ashley Wright ran away with the individual honors in the 16th annual Spartan Classic high school cross-country meet Saturday.

Delavan and Chrisman claimed the team championships.

Maddux, a senior, matched the third-fastest time ever in the meet with a 14-minute, 42-second clocking over the 3-mile course through the streets of St. Joseph. Runner-up Doug Light of Cumberland was 24 seconds behind in the boys' race.

Wright, a freshman, had the same margin of victory in the 2-mile girls' race. Wright covered the distance in 11:38, while Chrisman's Karen Morris was second in 12:02.

Delavan placed two runners in the top 10, three in the top 15 and five in the top 31 to win the 28-team boys' title with 88 points. Chrisman was second with 107 and Mahomet-Seymour third with 150.

Others in the top 10 were Shelbyville 155, Normal University High 174, Oakwood 178, Cumberland 236, Clinton 285, Tuscola 308 and

Georgetown-Ridge Farm 312.

Chrisman had two runners in the top five and four among the first 11 to edge Unity by 11 points for the girls' team title. Chrisman totaled 42 points. Hoopston-East Lynn was third with 91 points, Mahomet-Seymour fourth with 97 and Catlin fifth with 127 as eight teams entered the girls' competition.

"I was pretty pleased with my time," Maddux said of a performance that matched the 14:42 Mahomet-Seymour's Mark Johnson posted while finishing second to Gilman's Reo Rorem in 1974. The only faster times ever run in this meet were Rorem's 14:36 clocking in 1974 and his meet-record 14:27.5 in 1975.

"This is the first time I've competed in this race," continued Maddux. "It's different. It's faster running on pavement than on grass.

"This is the first year I've had to participate as an individual. It's a lot harder to keep yourself motivated. I only run competitively about every other week.

"I try to pick out some of the better meets and then go all out in those meets. That's why I took the

lead from the very beginning. If there had been someone here to take the lead, I would have gone out with them."

Wright also was pleased with her performance.

"This is my best time ever," the Spartan freshman said. "I try to improve my time every outing. I had an 11:22 at Bismarck, but that was on a shorter course. I was hoping to get under 12 minutes today.

"I always like to get out fast and get the lead early like I did today. I always try to stay within striking distance if I'm behind or make the gap bigger if I'm ahead. It was a beautiful day to run."

Ron Zimmer finished second and Dan Willard 10th to pace Delavan to the boys' team championship. Brent Jenness, Andy Mills and Lee Waltz were 14, 15 and 18, respectively, to lead Chrisman to its second-place finish.

Dan Neilsen was the first Mahomet-Seymour runner into the chute as he posted a 16:19 for the meet's best time by a freshman and the 21st best overall. Shelbyville's Jeremy Skinner's 15:24 clocking was the best among the sophomore run-

ners. He finished fourth overall. Willard's time of 15:55 was the best by a junior.

Kathy Morris was fifth, Amy Malaise 10th and Michelle Kindred 11th for Chrisman. Jamey Meneley's eighth-place finish was the best among the Unity runners. Delina Kolakowski, Teresa Calvin and Kara Jordon placed 17th, 18th and 19th, respectively, for the Rockets.

Mahomet-Seymour's Laura Batsie was third in the overall standings and first among junior runners with a 12:04 clocking. Shiloh's Courtney Porter was fourth overall in 12:07. Karen Morris led all sophomores, while Hoopston-East Lynn's Aly-Jo Haggerty finished in 12:27, best among the seniors and sixth overall.

"I thought we did pretty good considering they were out until 3 in the morning," said Roger Beals, who coaches both the Chrisman boys' and girls' teams.

"They wanted to go to the senior dance Friday night. I told them to go ahead. It still worked out pretty good. I understand Unity had homecoming Friday night so that probably affected them too."