# Sports Connection

## Teams Place Third and Fifth at Conference

**Amanda Harris sets the pace at the conference meet last week. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)**

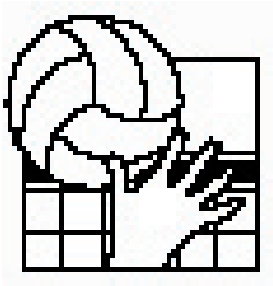
**by Abby McDonald**

"Both teams placed about where I had anticipated," Coach Sara Mensen stated. "Since we had run this course earlier in the season, I was expecting the kids to run faster than that meet in September," she explained, commenting on the Tri-Rivers Conference Meet at Cascade last Thursday.The Varsity girls placed third as team, scoring 98 points, following North Linn at 72 and Monticello with 28 points. The first runner in was Amanda Harris, who placed 11th out of 45 runners. She ran a time of 17:26. In 12th place was Amy Conrad, whose time was 17:41. Next, at 18:05, was Jennifer Nurre, who came in at 18th place. Kelli Dabroski was next, running a time of 18:30, earning 23rd place. Michelle Tumey followed, placed 34th and running a clock of 20:15. With a time of 20:43, Laura Orcutt finished 37th, with Bonny Jaeger close behind in 39th. Bonny's time was 21:16."If each member of the girls' team can run up to her ability, the team has a definite shot as the third place team that would qualify for state," Sara Mensen said.The JV girls ran with two runners: Beth Harris and Kelsey Melchert. Beth placed 19th out of 23 runners with a time of 21:50. Kelsey Melchert came in at 22nd place, running a time of 24:04.

The Varsity boys ran with a full team of seven runners, forsaking a JV team. Mark Beatty was the first boy in, placing 14th out of 59 runners. His time was 19:54. At 20:03 was Tyler Willey, placing 16th. Adam Ries came in at 23rd place, running a time of 20:50. Next in was Jordan Keith, whose time was 21:27. He earned 31st place. In 40th place was Kyle Fangman, running a time of 22:28. At 24:19, Josh Cummings ran in at 55th place, with Jeff Nurre following in 57th. His time was 25:03. The boys' team earned fifth place at Conference, scoring 124 points total, coming in behind Monticello, Cascade, Anamosa, and Starmont."This was perhaps the best performance for our boys' team this season," said Mensen. "All but one of the boys improved their times from when we had run at the Cascade meet last month," she continued. "Looking ahead to districts, I am hoping for the boys to place in the top half at the meet."Districts were last night at Monticello. Results will be in next week's Echo.

## MV goes 1-2 at Conference Tournament

The Wildcats finished up the regular part of the season by going 1-2 in pool play. The Wildcats started play with Ed-Co and got off to a solid start winning game one 21-18 but fell in the next two 15-21 and 5-15. We played really well in the first game but had too may mental errors in the rest of the match and it cost us. Their next match was against regular season River Division Champion, Starmont. The Cats fell in two 21-10, 21-6. We were totally out of sync and played as poorly as we have all year. I was really disappointed in our defensive play and lack of communication. In their final match the Cats defeated North Linn in two 22-20 and 21-10. I was pleased with how we came back and played much better all around. We cut down on our mental errors and we communicated better with several girls stepping up and making plays. The Cats finished their regular season with a 9-17 record.



Leading the Cats in the number of kills was Lisa Jesenovec with 21. Assists was led by Krystal Johnson with 18. Johnson and Jesenovec also led in the number of aces with 2 apiece. Leading in the number of digs was Jesenovec with 17 and Sara Glanz with 13. Jesenovec also led in the number of blocks with 7.

They opened District play Thursday night vs. North Linn at Jesup. The girls lost in three games. Results will be in next week's Echo.