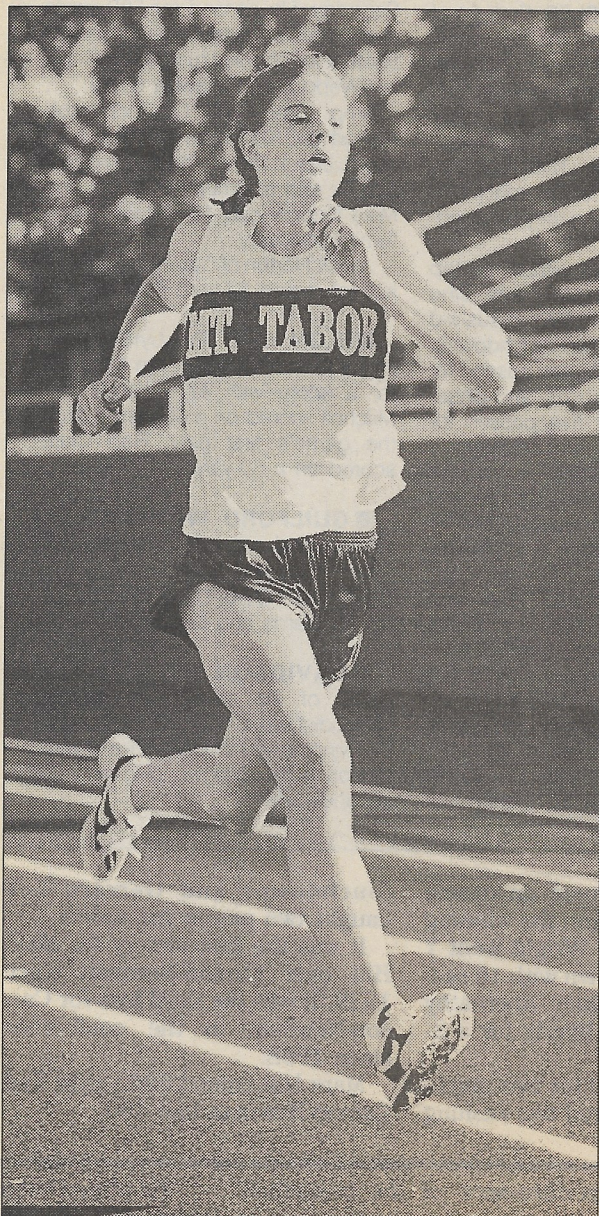


Pearson, Escott dominate races in city-county cross country

By Kristi Joiner
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Tu - Oct. 18, 94



JOURNAL PHOTO BY STEVEN MATTESON JR.

Lauren Escott set a course record and helped Mount Tabor to the team championship.

Andrew Pearson conquered the dust and pollen of a warm autumn day and won the City-County Cross Country Meet yesterday at West Forsyth.

Pearson, a senior at North Forsyth, won the 3.1-mile race in 16:37 and finished 43 seconds ahead of runner-up Chris Vaughan of Mount Tabor.

West Forsyth placed three runners in the top 10 and won the team competition for the third consecutive year.

Lauren Escott of Mount Tabor won the girls' race in 20:13, a course record. The Spartans beat the Titans by six points.

Pearson could not finish last year's city-county meet because of an asthma attack and had to be rushed to the hospital.

The conditions yesterday were about the same as for last year's race — clear skies, crisp autumn air and a lot of dust. Coach Louis Newton of West Forsyth said that the dust could have harmed runners such as Pearson, who suffer from allergies.

Pearson said he was determined not to let the conditions distract him.

"This year I'm a lot more confident about myself," Pearson said. "I don't think about having one (asthma attack) anymore."

Newton said his team's attitude contributed to its win. "(Several) of our runners fell back at times, but we turned it on at the end," he said.

Newton now wants his runners to focus on next week's Central Piedmont 4-A Conference meet. "We'll step it up a notch for the conference," he said.

In the girls' race, Escott finished ahead of the pack by more than a minute. Julie Smith of West Forsyth clocked in at 21:51 for second place.

After finishing, Escott quickly grabbed a drink of water before sprinting back out on the course to root on her teammates.

"A lot more important to me was our team winning. I'm really excited about that," Escott said.

Mount Tabor placed three other runners in the top 10 to win its fifth straight city-county championship. Megan Reiner finished third, Scottie Pate fourth and Elizabeth Pate sixth.

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X COUNTRY

High School

CITY-COUNTY MEET

at West Forsyth

BOYS

Team Scores — 1. West Forsyth 41, 2. Mount Tabor 50, 3. Glenn 100, 4. Reynolds 108, 5. East Forsyth 109, 6. North Forsyth 116, 7. Parkland 196, 8. Carver n/s

Top 15 Individuals — 1. Andrew Pearson (NF) 16:37; 2. Chris Vaughan (MT) 17:20; 3. Greg Vassar (WF) 17:34 4. Austin Pack (WF) 17:47; 5. Nick lauco (MT) 18:01; 6. (tie) Cory Sitzman (G) 18:10 and David Jordan (EF) 18:10; 8. Eric Strohl (WF) 18:15; 9. Justin McIntyre (MT) 18:19; 10. Gregg Lee (R) 18:25; 11. Bob Foote (EF) 18:28; 12. Dan Sowder (WF) 18:33; 13. Brian Potter (EF) 18:39; 14. Brian Flowel (WF) 18:45; 15. Doug Wessling (MT) 19:00

GIRLS

Team Scores — 1. Mount Tabor 25, 2. West Forsyth 31, 3. North Forsyth 77, 4. Reynolds 113, Carver, Glenn, Parkland, East Forsyth n/s

Top 15 Individuals — 1. Lauren Escott (MT) 20:13; 2. Julie Smith (WF) 21:51; 3. Megan Reiner (MT) 22:04; 4. Scottie Pate (MT) 22:07; 5. Jill Ochs (WF) 22:13; 6. Elizabeth Pate (MT) 22:19; 7. Emily Gibbs (WF) 22:26; 8. Lora Gibbs (WF) 22:35; 9. Katie Patrick (WF) 22:43; 10. Elizabeth Dyer (WF) 22:45; 11. Jill Griffenhagen (MT) 22:49; 12. Niki Bryan (NF) 22:52; 13. Kristin Cain (NF) 23:00; 14. Caroline Ballard (NF) 23:03; 15. Blair Eshultea (WF) 23:05

94 State Champs!