

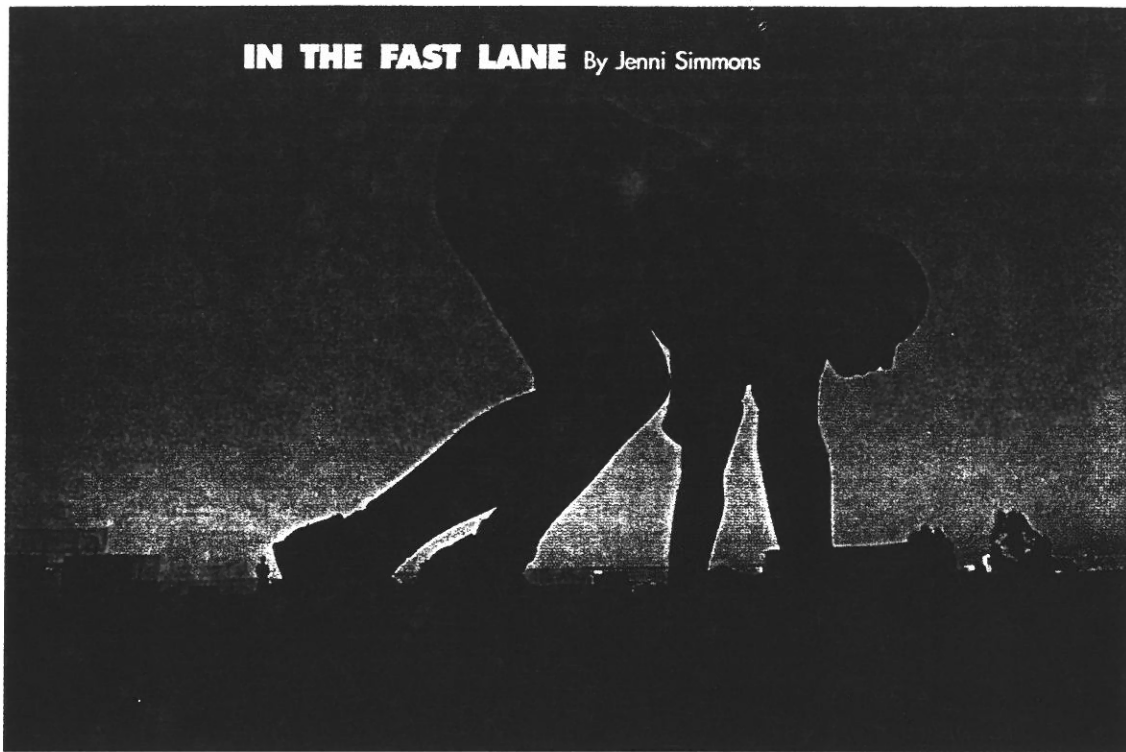
FRANKLIN



1994 GIRLS TRACK

FINISH LINE

IN THE FAST LANE By Jenni Simmons



TIM DE FISCO

Ten minutes before my race, I slip my track shoes onto my bare feet and test them to make sure I've chosen the correct spikes. As they pierce the rubber track, my blood begins to race through my veins. My black spandex shorts and matching top fit snugly around my muscles.

The official calls "176." That's my number. My hands shake. My stomach tingles with an electrical energy. I look down and grab my starting blocks. I stand in a row with seven other girls who are just as determined to win the 400 as I am. My palms sweat.

I hear lane one called. I am in lane three. My chest feels as though it's being compressed by something very heavy that's not allowing me to breathe. Finally my lane is called.

I run with pride to the starting line, set my blocks and look around. I see my friends and family on the sidelines; they're giving me encouragement. I feel unbeatable now. Nothing can stop me.

"Runners! Take your blocks," yells the official. I take a deep breath. The crisp air fills my lungs. I set my blocks to where they feel the most comfortable. I focus on the red track ahead. The sun is beating down on my head, and sweat rolls down my face. I hear the crowd yelling cheers of excitement.

"Set!" My heart feels like it's going to

pound out of my chest. One-one thousand, two-one thousand—**BANG!**

At that very second, I exert every burst of energy I possess. My legs reach for every extra inch I can get to take the lead. I come around the final corner, and I take a deep breath.

I hear the runner behind me, nipping at my heels. I drive my legs and pump my arms. I pull with everything I have.

I see the finish tape. My heart pounds faster and faster. The runner behind me is fading, and I push even harder.

I cross the tape first.

Gradually I slow down. The tape has wrapped itself around my legs. I reach down, pull it up and give it back to the official. I look to the sidelines and see my dad. His glowing smile is filled with pride. He's almost crying.

I go over to him, and he looks at my first-place medal. He looks up at me. "I love you," he says. "Great race."

My dreams come true because I choose to make them happen. **R**

Jenni Simmons competes in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, with respective best times of 13.0, 26.0 and 60.0. She is a senior at Bridgeport-Pateros High School in Pateros, Washington.

1. Andreas, Katrina
2. Ballard, Rene
3. Berry, Becky
4. Bonsett, Belinda
5. Burton, Jennifer
6. Clark, Krista
7. Clarkston, Brooke
8. Craciunoiu, Sarah
9. Gardiner, Karen
10. Garrett, Patsy
11. Golden, Terri
12. Goshorn, Kate
13. Graves, Lisa
14. Harry, Kelly
15. Hodge, Shari
16. Long, Erica
17. Mauch, Jennifer
18. Mobley, Jessica
19. Nally, April
20. Ooms, Kristi

21. Ramsey, Diana
22. Richardson, Nikki
23. Shaw, Emily
24. Spicer, Tina
25. Stenger, Amy
26. Wagers, Jennifer
27. Walters, Christy
28. Wilson, Heather

Managers

1. Scott, Noelle
2. Wesley, Deanna

Head Coach

Tim Leonard

Assistant Coaches

Matt Peterson

Stephanie Kramer

DUAL MEET RECORD

9-3

Franklin	73	Greenwood	45
Franklin	85	Whiteland	33
Franklin	80	Martinsville	38
Noblesville	86	Franklin	55

Greenfield 7

Franklin	63	Mooreville	55
Franklin	85	Plainfield	33
Franklin	62	Roncalli	50
	Beech Grove	36	
Franklin	71	Shelbyville	47
Columbus North	77	Seymour	45

Franklin 26

Johnson County Meet

1st	Center Grove	170
2nd	Franklin	78
3rd	Greenwood	54
4th	Edinburgh	46
5th	Whiteland	45
6th	Indian Creek	39

Mid-State Conference Meet

1st	Avon	111
2nd	Franklin	92
3rd	Speedway	57
4th	Beech Grove	52
5th	Mooreville	43
6th	Plainfield	29
7th	Greenwood	28
8th	Whiteland	22

SEASON'S BEST

100 m. Dash	Erica Long	:12.8
200 m. Dash	Erica Long	:26.9
400 m. Dash	Sarah Craciunoiu	1:00.5
800 m. Run	Amy Stenger	2:38.0
1600 m. Run	Amy Stenger	5:42.6
3200 m. Run	Amy Stenger	13:16.5
100 m. Hurdles	Jennifer Wagers	:16.56
300 m. Hurdles	Tina Spicer	: 51.9
Shot Put	Katrina Andreas	32' 10"
Discus	Katrina Andreas	108' 1"
Long Jump	Jennifer Wagers	15' 9 1/2"
High Jump	Lisa Graves	4' 8"
400 m. Relay	Berry, Golden, Clarkston, Long	:54.28
1600 m. Relay	Burton, Walters, Spicer, Craciunoiu	* 4:13.4

* New School Record *

FIRST PLACE FINISHES - INDIVIDUAL

1. Katrina Andreas -11
2. Erica Long -10
Jennifer Wagers -10
3. Sarah Craciunoiu - 9
4. Amy Stenger -8
1600 m. Relay -8
5. Belinda Bonsett - 5
Tina Spicer -5
6. 400 m. Relay - 4
7. Jennifer Burton - 3
8. Lisa Graves - 2
9. Shari Hodge - 1

FIRST PLACES - EVENTS

100 m. Hurdles	Jennifer Wagers -5
300 m. Hurdles	Tina Spicer -5
100 m. Dash	Sarah Craciunoiu -2 Erica Long -6
200 m. Dash	Sarah Craciunoiu -4 Erica Long - 4
400 m. Dash	Jennifer Burton -3 Sarah Craciunoiu -3
800 m. Run	Amy Stenger - 3 Belinda Bonsett - 2
1600 m. Run	Belinda Bonsett - 3 Amy Stenger - 1
3200 m. Run	Amy Stenger - 4
400 m. Relay	4
1600 m. Relay	8
Shot Put	Katrina Andreas - 4 Shari Hodge -1
Discus	Katrina Andreas - 7
Long Jump	Jennifer Wagers - 5
High Jump	Lisa Graves -2

TOTAL POINTS

1. Erica Long - 112 $\frac{1}{4}$
2. Sarah Craciunoiu - 109 $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Katrina Andreas - 92
4. Amy Stenger - 79
5. Jennifer Wagers - 78 $\frac{1}{4}$
6. Tina Spicer - 75
7. Belinda Bonsett - 61 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. Jennifer Burton - 42
9. Lisa Graves - 27
10. Becky Berry - 19 $\frac{1}{2}$
11. Terri Golden - 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
12. Shari Hodge - 15
13. Christy Walters - 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
14. Brooke Clarkston - 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
15. Heather Wilson - 10
16. Patsy Garrett - 9
17. Nikki Richardson - 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
18. Kristi Ohns - 5
19. Kate Goshorn - 4
20. Jennifer Mauch - 2 Diana Ramsey - 2
22. Jessica Mobley - 1 April Nally - 1 Emily Shaw - 1

AWARDS

Rotary Track Award - Sarah Craciunoiu

Most Improved - Becky Berry

Team Captains - Jennifer Burton

- Sarah Craciunoiu

- Tina Spicer

Leonard Pogue Mental Attitude Award - Rene Ballard

Most Valuable Track Runner - Sarah Craciunoiu

Girls

at Greenwood

Franklin 73, Greenwood 45
3200—14:10 Stenger F, 2. Dawson G, 3. Ramsey F. 100H—16.8 M. Owen G, 2. Wagers F, 3. H. Owen. HJ—4-6 Vandergriff G, 2. Glives F, 3. H. Owen G. 100—13.4 Craciunoiu F, 2. Long F, 3. Harkness. SP—30-5½ Andres F, 2. Rager G, 3. Wilson F. 1600—6:19.2 Bonsett F, 2. Stenger F, 3. Short G. 400 relay—57.1 Franklin. LJ—14-8½ M. Owen G, 2. Stoute G, 3. Wagers F. 400—1:08.1 Burton F, 2. Joros G, 3. Stoute G. 300H—51.8 M. Owen G, 2. Spicer F, 3. H. Owen. 800—2:51.8 Bonsett F, 2. Short G, 3. Gosborn F. D—105-¼ Andres F, 2. Pershing G, 3. Nilly F. 200—27.5 Craciunoiu F, 2. Long F, 3. Harkness G. 1600 relay—4:35.7 Franklin.

Records: Franklin 1-0, Greenwood 0-1.

Franklin 85, Whiteland 33

3200—13:29 Stinger F, 2. S. Carter W, 3. Mobley F. SP—30-5½ Stanifer W, 2. Andreas F, 3. Scott W. 100H—16.5 Wagers F, 2. Spicer F, 3. Dorani W. HJ—4-8 Shrum W, 2. Graves F, 3. Ohns F. 100—13.2 Long F, 2. Craciunoiu, 3. Shrum W. LJ—14-4 1/4 Wagers F, 2. Berry F, 3. Price W. 1600—6:09.9 V. Carter W, 2. Bonsett F, 3. Smith W. 400—1:08.1 Burton F, 2. Richardson F, 3. Price W. 300H—52.7 Spicer F, 2. Wagers F, 3. Dorani W. 800—2:45.5 Stinger F, S. Carter W, 3. Haun W. 200—27.7 Long F, 2. Craciunoiu F, 3. Shrum W. D—98-3 1/4 Andreas F, 2. Stanifer W, 3. Hodge W. 400 relay—57.1 Franklin (Berry, Golden, Clarkston, Long). 1600—4:37.0 Franklin (Craciunoiu, Bonsett, Spicer, Burton).

Records: Franklin 2-0, Whiteland 0-2.

at Martinsville

Franklin 80, Martinsville 38

100—14.1 Craciunoiu F. 200—29.6 Craciunoiu F. 400—1:05.6 Selberg M. 800—2:47.7 Stenger F, 3. Bonsett F. 1600—6:29.1 Bonsett F. 3200—14:36.8 Stenger F, 3. Ramsey F. 100H—17.6 Wagers F, 3. Spicer F. 300H—54.7 Spicer F, 2. Graves F, 3. Shaw F. LJ—14½ Wagers F, 2. Berry F. HJ—4½ Graves F, 2. Ohns F. SP—31½ Sighting M, 2. Andreas F, 3. Golden F. Discus—99½ Andreas F, 2. Wilson F. 400 relay—57.7 Franklin (Berry, Golden, Clarkston, Wagers). 1600 relay—4:43.1 Franklin (Burton, Richardson, Spicer, Craciunoiu).

Record: 3-0

Girls track

Friday's results at Greenfield

Noblesville 86, Franklin 55, Greenfield 7

100—13.4 Erman N, 3. Craciunoiu F. 200—27.6 Lippencott N, 2. Long F, 3. Craciunoiu F. 400—1:07 Terry N, 3. Burton F. 800—2:41.2 Kinnemen N, 4. Bonsett F. 1600—5:59 Kinnemen N, 2. Stenger F, 4. Bonsett F. 3200—13:37.9 Monks N, 2. Stenger F.

100H—18.8 Wagers F, 3. Spicer F. 300H—53.2 Spicer F, 4. Garrett F. LJ—15½ Erman N, 2. Wagers G. HJ—4½ Lauige N, 3. Graves F. SP—28½ Hodge F, 3. Andreas F. Discus—101½ Andreas F, 2. Wilson F. 400 relay—54.4 Noblesville, 2. Franklin. 1600 relay—4:35.9 Noblesville, 2. Franklin.

Record: 4-1

Girls track

Tuesday's results at Mooresville

Franklin 63, Mooresville 55
100H—16.48 Cohee M, 2. Wagers F, 3. Spicer F. 100—13.1 Long F, 3. Clarkston. SP—29-2½ Andreas F, 3. Golden F. 1600—5:58.4 Poehls M, 2. Stenger F, 3. Bonsett F. 400—1:04.4 Willis M, 2. Burton F, 3. Walters F. 300H—51.1 Cohee M, 2. Spicer F, 3. Garrett F. LJ—14-4 Wagers F. 800—2:39.6 Bonsett F, 3. Richardson F. HJ—4-10 Cohee M, 2. Graves F. D—103-8½ Andreas F. 200—27.5 Long F, 2. Burton F. 3200—13:13.2 Poehls M, 2. Stenger F. 400 relay—54.5 Mooresville. 1600—4:29.4 Franklin (Walters, Bonsett, Spicer, Burton).

Record: 5-1

Girls track

Thursday results at Franklin

Franklin 85, Plainfield 33
3200—13:39.8 Stenger F. HJ—4-8 Graves F, 3. Ohns F. 100H—17.2 Wagers F, 2. Spicer F, 3. Garrett F. 100—13.6 Long F, 3. Craciunoiu F. SP—30-8½ Andreas F, 2. Golden F. LJ—15-1½ Mills P, 3. Wagers F. 1600—6:11.3 Bonsett F, 2. Goshorn F. 400—1:06.7 Burton F, 3. Walters F. D—94.7 Andreas F, 3. Wilson F. 800—2:38.0 Stenger F, 2. Bonsett F, 3. Richardson. 300H—53.2 Spicer F, 2. Garrett F. 200—27.5 Craciunoiu F, 2. Long F. 400 relay—55.8 Plainfield. 1600 relay—4:26.8 Franklin (Burton, Walters, Spicer, Craciunoiu).

Record: 6-1

Girls track

COUNTY MEET

Wednesday at Edinburgh

Team scores: Center Grove 170, Franklin 78, Greenwood 54, Edinburgh 46, Whiteland 45, Indian Creek 39.

100—1. :12.85 Marlin, CG; 2. :13.25 Long, F; 3. :13.26 Newburn, CG.

200—1. :26 Marlin, CG; 2. :27.21 Craciunoiu, F; 3. :27.22 Long, F.

400—1. 1:03.07 Harris, CG; 2. 1:05.29 Lopehire, W; 3. 1:05.85 Hobson, CG.

800—1. 2:33.17 Reed, CG; 2. 2:38.61 Bonsett, F; 3. 2:34.32 Coumbe, W.

1,600—1. 5:42.85 Stenger, F; 2. 5:42.85 Weigle, CG; 3. 5:47.85 Watson, CG.

3,200—1. 12:47.81 Weigle, CG; 2. 12:55.9 Courtnigh, CG; 3. 13:01 S. Carter, W.

*400 relay—1. :50.87 Center Grove (Hoopes, Martin, Marlin, Newburn).

1,600 relay—1. 4:19.6 Center Grove (runners n/a).

100 hurdles—1. :16.08 M. Owen, G; 2. :16.84 McLaughlin, CG; 3. :17.25 Dean, CG.

300 hurdles—1. :45.54 McLaughlin, CG; 2. :50.20 M. Owen,

G; 3. :51.39 Farmer, IC.

Discus—1. 114.7" Hammond, E; 2. 108.4" B. Knue, E; 3. 108.1" Andreas, F.

*Shot put—1. 39.3" Hammond, E; 2. 39.1½" B. Knue, E; 3. 38.10" Atkerson, CG.

Long jump—1. 16.7" Martin, CG; 2. 14.11½" Robbins, CG; 3. 14.10½" Stoute, G.

High jump—1. 5' Perry, E; 2. 4'10" Shrum, W; 3. 4'10" Girdley, IC.

Big producers in conference

Daily Journal staff report

Leave it to the biggest point producers to put up the points in the biggest track meets.

That's exactly what Brad Epperson and Sarah Craciuniou did Tuesday night at the Mid-State Conference Meet at Avon, where the Franklin boys and girls teams both raced to second-place finishes.

Epperson, a senior, won the shot put and discus events in helping the Grizzly Cub boys earn 102 points, just behind Avon's 119. Craciuniou, also a senior, won the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes and ran the last leg of the Cubs' winning 1,600-meter relay team in helping the Franklin girls team post 92 points behind Avon's 111.

Epperson, a state-meet qualifier last year, set a new conference record in the discus with a throw of 173 feet, 8 inches. He was one of five Cubs who won events, including Mike Sever in the 110-meter high hurdles; Scott White in the long jump; Ben Thompson in the 3,200-meter run; and Patrick Tisdale in the 1,600-meter run.

Whiteland's Alfie Mulinaro won the 800-meter dash, rounding out Johnson County's blue ribbon winners.

"We beat the seeds in a couple of areas," said Franklin coach Mike Hall, whose Cubs have finished as runner-up for four straight seasons. "Our distance kids were super, as they have been all year.

In the girls competition, the Cubs were happy with their performances — particularly those by Craciuniou, which were among the most spectacular of the meet.

Franklin's Erica Long also was a

LOCAL SPORTS

blue ribbon winner, taking first place in the 100-meter dash. Christy Walters, Tina Spicer and Jennifer Burton also were awarded blue ribbons as members of the 1,600-meter relay.

Girls track

Thursday's results
at Beech Grove

Franklin 62, Roncalli 50, Beech Grove 36

100- :13.5 Long F, 4. Garrett F. 200- :27.4 Long F, 2. Craciuniou F. 400- :1:01.9 Craciuniou F, 3. Burton F. 800- :2:36.4 Stulz BG, 2. Bonsett F. 1600- :5:44.0 Cruse R, 3. Stenger F, 4. Bonsett F. 3200- :12:50 Stulz BG, 3. Stenger F.

100H- :16.3 Lawrie R, 2. Wagers F, 3. Spicer F. 300H- :50.5 Lawrie R, 2. Spicer F, 4. Garrett F. LJ- 15'3" Wagers F. HJ- 5'5" Lawrie R, 3. Mauch F. SP- 31'7½" Smith R, 2. Andreas F. Hodge F. Discus- 111'6" Lawrie R, 2. Andreas F, 4. Wilson F. 400 relay- :54.6 Beech Grove, 2. Franklin. 1600 relay- 4:28.0 Franklin (Burton, Walters, Spicer, Craciuniou).

Record: 8-1.

Girls track

Thursday's results

at Franklin

Columbus North 77, Seymour 45, Franklin 26

100H- :15.7 Griffin CN, 4. Spicer F. 100- :12.6 Bollinger S, 2. Long F. 1600- 5:34 Eckerty CN, 4. Stenger F. 400- :59.4 Weiskirk CN, 2. Craciuniou F. LJ- 15-4 3/4 Taylor CN, 2. Wagers F, 4. Berry F. 300H- :49.1 Hulle S, 4. Spicer F. 800- :2:27 McGovern CN. 200- :26.8 Bollinger S, 2. Long F, 4. Craciuniou F. HJ- 5-0 Lavett CN. SP- 34-8 Phillips CN, 3. Hodge, 4. Andreas F. Discus- 100-7½ Acton S, 2. Andreas F. 3200- :12:01 Harden CN. 400 relay- :52.73 Seymour, 2. Columbus North. 1600 relay- 4:20.4 Columbus North, 2. Franklin.

Record: 9-3.

Girls track

Monday night

at Shelbyville

Franklin 71, Shelbyville 47

LJ- 14-8½ Wagers F, 3. Golden F. SP- 32-10 Andreas F, 2. Hodge F. 100H- :17.3 Wagers F, 3. Spicer F. 100- :13.4 Long F, 3. Berry F. 1600- 5:41.8 Kuhn S, 3. Stenger F. 400- :1:03.0 Craciuniou F. 300H- :52.8 Spicer F, 3. Garrett F. Discus- 104-1 Andreas F, 3. Wilson F. 800- :2:29.3 Kuhn S, 2. Stenger F. 200- :28.0 Long F, 2. Craciuniou F. 3200- :12:25.2 Meyerhott S, 2. Stenger F. HJ- 4-8 Letzler S, 2. Graves F. 400 relay- :59.9 Franklin (Berry, Golden, Clarkston, Long). 1600 relay- 4:27.1 Franklin (Burton, Walters, Spicer, Craciuniou).

Record: 9-1.

In other track action, senior Katrina Andreas and sophomore Jennifer Wagers each won two events as the Franklin girls team beat Shelbyville 71-47 to go to 9-1 on the season.

Andreas won the shot put in 32-10 and the discus in 104-1. Wagers won the long jump in 14-6½ and the 100-meter hurdles in :17.3.

County girls show strong at track sectional

Daily Journal staff report

Edinburgh doesn't have one of Johnson County's biggest girls track teams.

But the Lancers had two of the county's biggest winners Tuesday evening in the sectional meet at Columbus East.

Senior Beth Knue won the shot put event with a sectional-record throw of 41-feet, 2-inches. Junior Torrie Perry won a blue ribbon in the high jump with a leap of 5-feet, 1-inch in helping the Lancers earn a fifth place team finish with 36 points.

Knue also took third place in the discus.

Perry and Knue are among 16 county individuals who qualified for next Wednesday's regional meet at Shelbyville. Three county relay teams also advanced.

The top four placers in each event qualify for the regional.

Center Grove, which finished third in the team standings, leads the regional parade with six individual qualifiers and one relay team.

Franklin, which finished sixth in the team standings, had a big night with two individual qualifiers and two relay teams. Senior Sarah Craciunoiu advanced in the 400-meter run along with freshman Erica Long in the 200-meter dash.

The Cubs' 400-meter and 1,600-meter relay teams also made it to the regional.

"That's the most we've ever had go on to the regional," Franklin coach

GIRLS TRACK

Sectional qualifiers

The following athletes qualified for the girls regional track meet May 25 at Shelbyville.

Center Grove: Jamie Newburn — 100M and 200M; Nicole Marlin — 100M and 200M; Christy Reed — 800M; Hilary Weigle — 3200M; Amanda McLaughlin — 300 hurdles; Jennifer Martin — long jump; Gina Robbins — high jump; Marga Atkerson — shot put; Kristin Hoopes, Marlin, Martin and Newburn — 400M relay.

Edinburgh: Torrie Perry — high jump; Beth Knue — shot put and discus; Vicki Hammond — shot put.

Franklin: Erica Long — 100M; Sarah Craciunoiu — 400M; Becky Berry, Brooke Clarkston, Teri Golden and Long — 400M relay; Jennifer Burton, Craciunoiu, Tina Spicer and Christy Walters — 1600M relay.

Greenwood: Mariah Owen — 100 hurdles.

Indian Creek: Kindy Girdley — high jump; April Radford — shot put.

Whiteland: Tammy Lopshire — 400M; Becky Shrum — high jump.

Tim Leonard said. "It's just a tough sectional. Overall, it was a very positive night.

"It was a positive way to end the season."

Knue also advanced in the discus, where she finished third.

Columbus East won the team competition with a score of 118. Columbus North was second with 96.

Girls track

Tuesday's results Sectional at Columbus East

Top four placers advance to regional next Wednesday at Shelbyville

Team scores: Columbus East 118, Columbus North 96, Center Grove 78, Greensburg 49, Edinburgh 36, Franklin 25, Whiteland 7, Greenwood 7, Indian Creek 6½, Hauser 5½, South Decatur 4, Southwestern 0.

100- :12.6 McNeil CE, 3. Marlin CG, 4. Newburn CG, 5. Long F. **200-** :26.0 McNeil CE, 2. Marlin CG, 3. Long F, 4. Newburn CG. **400-** :59.7 Wisekirk CN, 2. Craciunoiu

noiu F, 4. Lopshire W. **800-** :26.8 Norris CE, 3. Reed CG. **1600-** :5:21.5 McGovern CN, 6. Watson CG. **3200-** 11:45.0 Harden CN, 4. Weigle CG, 5. S. Carter W. **100H-** :15.5 Stier GB, 3. M. Owen GW, 5. McLaughlin CG. **300H-** :46.3 Stier CE, 3. McLaughlin CG. **LJ-** 16'10½" Witkemper CE, 2. Martin CG. **HJ-** 5'1" Perry E, 3. Robbins CG, 4. Girdley IC, Shrum W. **SP-** 41'2" B. Knue E, 2. Hammond E, 3. Atkerson CG, 4. Radford IC. **Discus-** 118'4" Lowe GB, 3. B. Knue E, 5. Hammond E, 6. Andreas F. **400 relay-** :50.5 Columbus East, 2. Center Grove (Hoopes, Martin, Martin, Newburn), 4. Franklin (Berry, Clarkston, Golden, Long), 6. Whiteland. **1600 relay-** 4:10.1 Columbus North, 4. Franklin (Burton, Craciunoiu, Spicer, Walters)

Craciunoiu finishing with flourish

By Rick Morwick
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Sarah Craciunoiu learned at an early age that she was faster than the average grade-schooler.

As a senior at Franklin Community High School, Craciunoiu is finding out she also is faster than the average varsity sprinter.

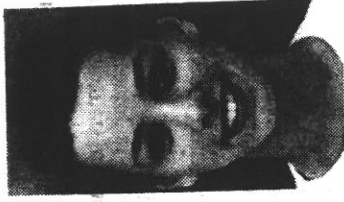
"In elementary school, I was always kind of fast compared to other people my age," said Craciunoiu, the leading point-getter for the Franklin girls track team. "I've just always liked running."

And she's always liked winning, which she regularly does for the 9-1 Grizzly Cubs. Franklin is having its best season since 1988, when it last won the Johnson County championship.

"This year has been the best year," said Craciunoiu, who helped the Cubs race to a second-place finish at this year's county meet. "We had a real good season last year and we had a lot of people coming back."

"It just seems like everybody is doing well. We're pretty good in everything."

Craciunoiu is the top producer on a team blessed with solid performers in almost every event. Her specialties are the 400- and 200-meter sprints, where she won blue ribbons at last



"The season's gone really fast. This has been the best year for me. Since I'm a senior, I guess that's the way it should be."

Sarah Craciunoiu
on her senior track season

have to brag about herself," Leonard said. "She's a good student and a super person."

"She's very unassuming. She is truly somebody who is a team player."

And a team leader.

"Sarah is somebody that, no matter how she feels, she's going to give you 100 percent," Leonard said. "She's going to give it her all, and I think that's contagious."

Seniors Jennifer Burton, Tina Spicer and Katrina Andreas also have had solid seasons for the Cubs. So have junior Christy Walters and sophomores Jennifer Wagers and BeLinda Bonsett.

Freshmen Amy Stenger and Erica Long also have been vital contributors, with Stenger earning a first-place finish at the county meet in the 1,600-meter run.

"The thing about us this year is, everybody is doing well," said Craciunoiu, an aspiring law student who plans to attend Indiana University this fall. "Everybody has had a good year."

And a fun year.

"The season's gone really fast," Craciunoiu said. "This has been the best year for me."

"Since I'm a senior, I guess that's the way it should be."

"She's a great competitor," Leonard said. "She races. She's the kind of person that would not accept losing if she didn't do her best. I think that's what makes her a good runner."

"She likes to win, she doesn't like to lose — but she handles losing gracefully."

She also handles winning gracefully.

When Craciunoiu talks about racing and winning, she never — unless pressed — talks about her own success. She declares the 1,600-meter relay her favorite event because "it brings everyone together."

"She's a great girl. She doesn't

week's Mid-State Conference meet. She also runs the last leg of the 1,600-meter relay, which took first at the conference meet.

"My (preliminary) times were all (indicative) that I could beat those people," said Craciunoiu, who had a career-best outing at the conference meet. "I just felt good that night."

"I had a lot of confidence. I was really pumped up."

Franklin coach Tim Leonard doesn't know of many times when Craciunoiu isn't pumped up. She has been the team's point leader the last two seasons and has served as one of its best role models.