

### **By Craig Hoffman**

Reverting back to retro jerseys proved to be a wise game plan for the Kiel girls cross country team as they won back the Eastern Wisconsin Conference championship Saturday. Sheboygan Falls hosted this years event at the Sheboygan Lutheran/UW-Sheboygan course and the Raiders did away with their current uniforms in favor of the old white with purple lettering digs that had been part of numerous Kiel championships.

Kiel edged out defending champion Plymouth 44-47 to claim the crown.

The Raiders had four of their six runners earn all-conference status led by First Teamers Alexis Genke (3<sup>rd</sup>, 16:23), Abby Gilsdorf (4<sup>th</sup>, 16:31) and Rosemary Mueller (5<sup>th</sup>, 16:35). Making Second Team All-EWC was Samantha Platz (10<sup>th</sup>, 17:13). Melanie Westphalen (22<sup>nd</sup>, 17:55) and Kristin Mathes (24<sup>th</sup>, 18:03) played pivotal roles as well in giving the Kiel the conference championship. The boys team had three runners earn all-conference status.

Andrew Maile's fourth place finish in 17:40 put him on the First Team while David Helf (9<sup>th</sup>, 18:01) and Isaiah Grybush (10<sup>th</sup>, 18:11) both earned Second Team All-EWC.

Dustin Esswein's 18<sup>th</sup> place finish of 18:40 and Ben Behnke's 20<sup>th</sup> place time of 18:54 also counted towards Kiel scoring.

Anthony Meyer (19:12) and Josh Coleman (20:01) rounded out the Raider varsity as Kiel scored 61 points to place second behind Plymouths 41. Parker Kastelic of Plymouth was the individual boys champ at 17:00 and the Panthers' Haley Johnson claimed first in the girls race at 14:59.

### **State berths on the line**

Two Rivers is the next stop for Kiel. The WIAA Division 2 sectional takes place there Saturday morning beginning with the boys race at 11 a.m. The girls race at 11:45.

The top two teams, as well as the top five individuals from non-qualifying teams earn trips to the state tournament the following Saturday in Wisconsin Rapids.