MIFFLIN COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY

Winning ways should continue for Husky harriers

By **GREG WILLIAMS**
Sentinel correspondent

Sentinel photos by BUFFIE BOYER

Members of the Mifflin County boys cross country team are, from left, front, Shane Sennett, Trenton Yoder, Chris Barger, Brandon Wilson, Timmy Pearce, Noah Stewart, Jay Ciccolini and Joey Bender; middle, Jon Norris, Jake Kerstetter, Ethan Kibe, Anthony Schifano, Darien Knudsen, Jon Colwell, Andrew Kline, Evan Becker, Josh Aultz and Zach Stauffer; back, manager Michael Kline, Chirs Falkner, Lucas Baumgardner, Nathan Strausburg, Patrick Parker, Addison Monroe, Cullen Russler, Seth Barger, Shawn Reese, Joe Knarr, managers Jonah Kyle and Jared Ughetto.

LEWISTOWN – The name on the front of the jersey might have changed, but the dominance of cross country runners from Mifflin County remains the same.

That was the case last season with the merger of storied programs at Indian Valley and Lewistown. Competing as independents, the Mifflin County Huskies blazed their way to an undefeated 9-0 mark on the girls side, while the boys suffered only one setback at 8-1.

The Huskies remain locked and loaded in 2012 as they set their sights on conquering the rugged Mid-Penn Conference's Commonwealth Division.

"Both teams would have won the Mountain League, but because of the school combination, we didn't count so we couldn't win," Mifflin County coach Ruth Yoder said, referring to her team's status a year ago.

"The Mid-Penn Conference Commonwealth Division is very strong," she went on. "The boys should do very well and certainly they have a shot at winning the division and the conference, if they stay focused and injury free."

The Mifflin County boys lost only one varsity runner from last season, but it was two-time state qualifier Zach Moon.

Still, Yoder said, "The boys will be very competitive this year and the deepest team I have ever worked with."

Seniors Addison Monroe and Jon Colwell are coming off tremendous seasons, which saw them qualify for state meets in both cross country and track. Monroe finished 16th at the Foundation Meet on the very difficult Hershey Parkview course, which is used for the state meet, while Colwell placed 31st in the Class AAA field.

Other returning varsity runners include senior Patrick Parker, junior Chris Falkner and sophomore Darien Knudsen.

Senior Seth Barger, sophomores Evan Becker, Josh Aultz, Shane Sennett and Zach Stauffer could also contend for varsity positions, Yoder said.

"The boys team is very strong and deep," the Huskies coach said. "Many are extremely hard workers and need to learn the value of rest in distance running."

Cullen Russler, Jared Ughetto, Joseph Knarr and Shawn Reese are the other seniors on this year's Mifflin County roster. The remaining juniors are Lucas Baumgardner, Jacob Kerstetter, Jonathan Norris, Nathan Strasburg and Timothy Pearce.

Andrew Kline and Anthony Schifano are the sophomores on the Huskies' roster, while freshmen Brandon Wilson, Christopher Barger, Ethan Kibe, Hayden Hidlay, Jay Ciccolini, Joseph Bender, Noah Stewart and

See **Huskies** / *Page 38*

AT A GLANCE

MIFFLIN COUNTY HUSKIES
District 6, Class AAA
Coach: Ruth Yoder, assisted by Emily McConnell, Greg Loht and Seth Yearick
2011: Boys, 8-1; Girls, 9-0

Members of the Mifflin County girls cross country team are, from left, front, Analee Gentzel, Courtney Page, Makenna Pollock and Katie Hassinger; middle, Jessica Miller, Kristen Neavling, Amber Reed, Kaitlyn Yearick and Amanda Hassinger; back, Latasha Yoder, Megan Becker, Taylor Boyer, Makayla Pearce and Cameron Hassinger. Anna Taptich also is a member.