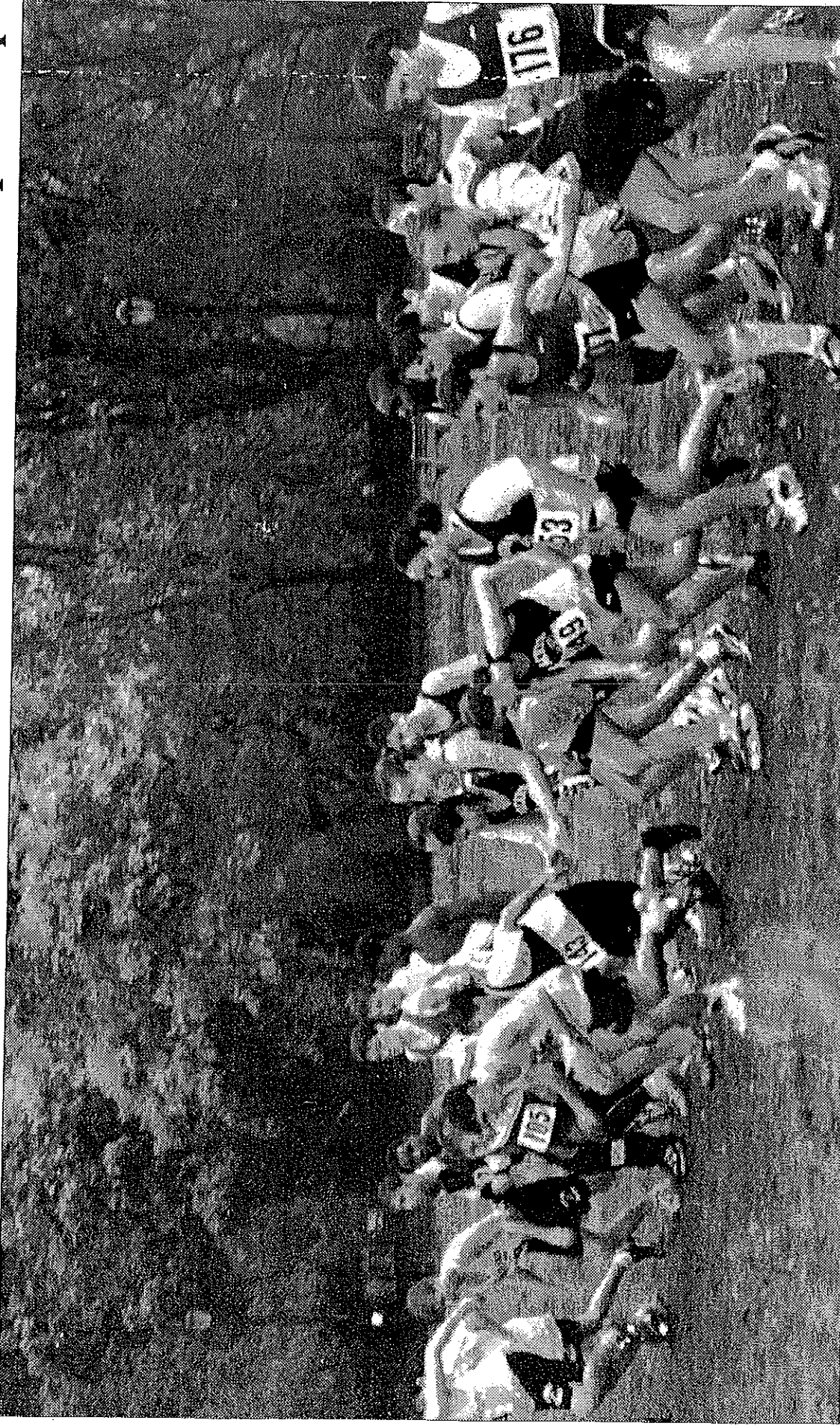


## Packer Cross-Country Sparkles in Independent School Championships



On your marks, get set, go! Packer's girls cross-country team placed first in this year's New York State Association of Independent Schools Championships, placing another feather in the cap of Coach Joe Wood.

By *Josh Simons*  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

**YONKERS**—The Packer Collegiate Institute's Cross-Country team recently completed a very successful season as the Pelicans' top male runner and girls varsity team captured the New York State Association of Independent Schools Championships.

Junior George Weiner won the NYS AIS title with an eye-popping time of 16:27 over the 3.1-mile course at Tibbetts Park two weekends ago, capping off a record-breaking year for the first-year runner. Weiner's time propelled him into last weekend's state championships in Poughkeepsie, where he finished 35th with a time of 17:01.5.

"I was proud but I would have liked to do better," Weiner said of his most recent performance while adding that the severity of the course and large hoard of people lining it were both difficult obstacles to overcome.

Senior Alexa Steinberg and Junior Hae

Na Wachter led the girls team to its second straight NYS AIS title after helping the Pelicans to victories in several meets during the regular season. Although their performance at the state finals did not match the success they had earlier in the year, Wachter and Steinberg indicated that the girls were not disappointed in their finish and took great pride in how far they had come.

"It was an honor to go to the states," Wachter said.

"We grew as a team and as individuals we worked hard and I'm proud of our accomplishments," Steinberg added.

Coach Joe Wood was extremely proud of his team's success over this past year. He pointed to the outstanding effort put forth by all his talented runners, including sophomore Kai Kleinbard, whom he touted as one of the hardest working and dedicated members of the team.

Wood noted that Packer continues to achieve new goals with each coming season and hopes to see that trend continue next year.

### Pelicans sophomore Kai Kleinbard prepares for a cross-country meet.

