



Junior Orienteering–Science Olympiad



□ MARK NOVITSKI, MVOC

The Fall 2000 Science Olympiad (Junior Orienteering) Warm-up for the 2001 Championship was a huge success. Held last November, 125 competitors from 7 High Schools competed on White, Yellow, Orange, and Green Courses. Eight volunteers ensured the event was a success.

The courses were designed in the summer of 2000 and vetted and field checked in October by Mark Novitski, Roger Blum, Sue Blum, and Noah. The last 2 controls and the water were placed Friday morning, still under darkness. Matt Bond overprinted the Germantown maps with the courses and the clue sheets were attached to the overprinted maps and the maps sealed in waterproof bags.

I requested a rough estimate of schools attending and number of competitors on each course by early November 2000. With a little history, and the rough estimate, the number of printed maps worked out okay. I also e-mailed the registration form and requested the schools complete the form before they arrived to enable registration to be easier. We succeeded!

Friday, 17 November 2000 dawned cold, and cloudy. Winds gusted to speeds up to 20 miles per hour. Temperatures were in the high 20's at 7am and in the 30's for the 1st start just after 9am.



The Miami Valley Orienteering Club (MVOC) holds two events a year - named the MVOC Junior Orienteering Championships - for Junior and senior high school students and Junior ROTC groups. The Fall event is a warm up and the Spring event is for Trophies. We go to the schools and present the trophies to the winners during school assemblies. The Fall event was Friday, 17 Nov 2000 at Germantown MetroPark East. The Spring Event is scheduled for Thursday, 15 Mar 2001. This is the Thursday before the OCIN Flying pig event.

This event, held during the school week on either a Thursday or Friday, requires JROTC leaders and teachers take the students out of school to compete in our event. We offer White, Yellow, Orange and Green courses. The schools compete in



two categories for each course - Individual and cooperative (2 - 3 people).

Over 100 students from 4 different schools competed in the Mar 2000 event. The seven schools that signed up for the 17 Nov 2000 event included Beaver Creek

High School, Greenville High School (Navy JROTC), Wayne High School (AF JROTC), Piqua High School (Navy JROTC), Lebanon High School (AF JROTC), Springboro High School (AF JROTC) and Dunbar High School (Navy JROTC). These schools were represented by 125 individuals and 65 groups.

The number of schools participating in

the fall event represents a significant increase. The first MVOC sponsored Science-O took place in March of 1997. There were 5 schools represented by 47 students and 32 groups.



Over the past few years the event planners have had to contend with temperatures in the 20's to 40's and occasionally snow up to 6 inches in depth. This has helped to keep participation levels down. The organizers have decided, therefore, to move the Junior Orienteering Championships away from the Science Olympiad. The rules and awards, which are presented during school assemblies, will remain the same. Schools will still include the event in their Science Olympiad activities, but the club has made the events more autonomous.



Mark Novitski

The Science Olympiad proved to be a great spring board for the development of orienteering among students and within the schools. Now the MVOC Junior Orienteering Championships are moving toward developing its own "legs". □

For results or more information on the MVOC Jr. Orienteering Championships, or the Science Olympiad check out the website at: <http://members.nbci.com/MVOCclub>.