

Stevenson sweeps Observaland Relays title

By DOUG FUNKE

Livonia Stevenson, which never before had won an outright Observaland Relays boys' track championship, left no doubt about who was the best team during the ninth running of the competition last weekend at Hilbert Jr. High.

The Spartans, scoring in nine of the 13 events — including four first-place finishes — totaled 37 points, the most ever in the history of the meet.

Stevenson had tied with Livonia Churchill for the title in 1973 and finished second on three other occasions before winning all the marbles on a blustery Saturday evening.

"We didn't do anything outstanding. We did just what we've been doing all year long," said Tom Bills, coach of the Spartans. "If you win the Observers Relays, people say you have a great track team."

Stevenson's four field-besting performances came in the high jump, the 880-yard relay, the sprint medley relay and the mile relay.

Dave Hall, Pat Greis and Matt Boettcher combined to clear 17 feet, 8 inches in the high jump. Hall, a junior, also set a new individual meet record in that event by leaping 6-6.

As things turned out, that was the only record — either individual or team — that was set during the day.

Charlie Beane, a senior, figured in all three of Stevenson's running victories. He teamed with Ted Ford, Jim Recker



Finishing the sprint relay for Harrison is Don Gully, during the Observaland Relays. (Staff photo)

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er and Rick Arnold to record a time of 1:32.26 in the 880 relay, combined with Dennis Lanius, Rich Dubois and Ford to clock a 2:32.20 in the sprint medley, and hooked up with Arnold, Recker and Lebo to post a time of 3:30.35 in the mile relay.

"I started to feel real good when we won the high jump, placed second in the long jump and fourth in the discus," said Bills. "I figured us for third in all of those. Everyone knows we have a good track team. Nobody knows we have a good field team."

Bills said that he started worrying when his four-mile relay team didn't place, but when his 880 crew won the next race, he figured they were back in the driver's seat.

"We've got a lot of depth," the Stevenson's first-year coach continued. "We have a lot of kids who are not going to earn letters but who would score points for a lot of other teams."

"Everyone performed just like they have been all season long."

Redford Bishop Borgess, which placed second for the second year in succession in the team standings, won the shuttle hurdle relay.

The quartet of Tim O'Hare, Paul Bialowicz, Dave Zecchin and Matt Krogulecki, as expected, set the pace. Their time was 59.5.

Borgess also finished second in the 880 relay, sprint medley relay and the mile relay.

Livonia Churchill, which had won the championship the last three years, just

didn't have enough seasoned people to make it four in a row. The Chargers placed third with 23 points.

"I thought the kids ran as best as they could run. I'm as proud of these kids as those who have won championships," said Churchill coach Fred Price. "I told them true champions die hard and I think they gave up the championship hard."

The Chargers accumulated first-place points in the shot put as Dave Luch, Darrell Copley and Issa Khoury combined for a distance of 139.9%.

North Farmington, competing without a couple of its key sprinters, landed fourth with 18% points. The Raiders led the competition after the five field events with 14% points.

George Houttkier, Tom Deighton and Mark Biehl won the discus for North with an aggregate distance of 285-10.

Plymouth Salem won two events and tied Northville for fifth place in the team standings.

Rob New, Rich Hansch and Greg Stevens totaled 58-1 in the long jump for the Rocks and Dave Skore, Jack Wellman and Dennis Ogden pole vaulted for a combined height 36-6.

Livonia Franklin won the two mile relay in 8:24.70 with the team of Jeff Bristol, Ross Cheadle, Mark Oleski and Jeff Reich. Detroit Catholic Central triumphed in the 440-yard relay (45.63) with the foursome of Pete Williams, Frank Ioli, Mark Makela and Aaron Roberts.

The Shamrocks, surprisingly, won that event while competing in the second of three heats.

OBSERVAND RELAYS

Team Scoring

1) Livonia Stevenson, 37 points; 2) Redford Bishop Borgess, 27; 3) Livonia Churchill, 23; 4) North Farmington, 18%; 5) (T12) Plymouth Salem and Northville, 14; 7) Southfield-Lathrup, 13; 8) (T12) Livonia Franklin and Detroit Catholic Central, 11; 10) Livonia Bentley, 9; 11) Farmington, 4%; 12) Garden City East, 6; 13) Farmington Harrison, 2; 14) (T12) Redford Vicks and Redford Thurston, 1; 15) Plymouth Canton, 0.

Fielders by Event

Shot Put — 1) Churchill (Dave Luch, Darrell Copley and Issa Khoury), 139.9%; 2) North Farmington, 134-14; 3) Bishop Borgess, 132-4; 4) Franklin, 128-2; 5) Thurston, 124-7.

Long Jump — 1) Salem (Rob New, Rich Hansch and Greg Stevens), 37-4; 2) Stevenson, 37-0; 3) Bishop Borgess, 37-4; 4) Northville, 36-11; 5) Catholic Central, 35-4; 6) Churchill, 34-9.

High Jump — 1) Stevenson (Dave Hall, Pat Greis and Matt Boettcher), 17-8; 2) Churchill, 17-6; 3) Southfield-Lathrup, 17-2; 4) North Farmington, 17-2; 5) Redford Union, 17-0; 6) Farmington, 16-10.

Pole Vault — 1) Salem (Dave Skore, Jack Wellman and Dennis Ogden), 28-4; 2) (T12) North Farmington and Farmington, 28-4; 4) Churchill, 26; 5) Bentley, 26; 6) Garden City East, 24.

Discus — 1) North Farmington (George Houttkier, Tim Deighton and Mark Biehl), 285-10; 2) Bentley, 284-2; 3) Churchill, 281-10; 4) Stevenson, 281-4; 5) Thurston, 267-10; 6) Franklin, 267-10.

Four mile Relay — 1) Northville (The Marlin, Harry Coopersmith, Jim Bedford and Brian Turnbull), 8:24.72; 2) Southfield-Lathrup, 18:34.35; 3) Harrison, 18:49.86; 4) Churchill, 18:49.86; 5) Catholic Central, 18:52.56; 6) Stevenson, 18:59.68.

880-yard Relay — 1) Stevenson (Ted Ford, Jim Recker, Rick Arnold and Charlie Beane), 3:30.35; 2) Bishop Borgess, 3:32.09; 3) Garden City East, 3:34.50; 4) Salem, 3:34.86; 5) Churchill, 3:35.06; 6) Farmington, 3:37.55.

Two mile Relay — 1) Franklin (Jeff Bristol, Ross Cheadle, Mark Oleski and Jeff Reich), 8:24.70; 2) Stevenson, 8:24.12; 3) North Farmington, 8:24.9; 4) Bentley, 8:41.00; 5) Churchill, 8:52.63; 6) Bishop Borgess, 8:54.44.

Distance medley Relay — 1) Northville (Doug Wright, Kevin Swager, Harry Coopersmith and Brian Turnbull), 11:01.03; 2) Southfield-Lathrup, 11:08.02; 3) Bishop Borgess, 11:09.92; 4) Catholic Central, 11:10.43; 5) Churchill, 11:14.82; 6) Franklin, 11:18.17.

Sprint medley Relay — 1) Stevenson (Charlie Beane,

Dennis Lanius, Ted Ford and Rich Dubois), 2:32.20; 2) Bishop Borgess, 2:33.35; 3) Garden City East, 2:34.16; 4) Southfield-Lathrup, 2:34.21; 5) Franklin, 2:36.03; 6) Catholic Central, 2:37.68.

Shuttle Hurdle Relay — 1) Bishop Borgess (Tim O'Hare, Paul Bialowicz, Dave Zecchin and Matt Krogulecki), 59.50; 2) Stevenson, 1:00.10; 3) Farmington, 1:01.48; 4) Bentley, 1:02.24; 5) Catholic Central, 1:02.57; 6) Churchill, 1:03.37.

440-yard Relay — 1) Catholic Central (Pete Williams, Frank Ioli, Mark Makela and Aaron Roberts), 45.63; 2) Churchill, 45.87; 3) Stevenson, 45.79; 4) Salem, 45.50; 5) Bishop Borgess, 45.34; 6) Bentley, 44.9.

Mile Relay — 1) Stevenson (Rick Arnold, Jim Recker, Charlie Beane and Rich Dubois), 3:30.35; 2) Bishop Borgess, 3:32.09; 3) Franklin, 3:34.00; 4) Northville, 3:37.04; 5) North Farmington, 3:39.88.

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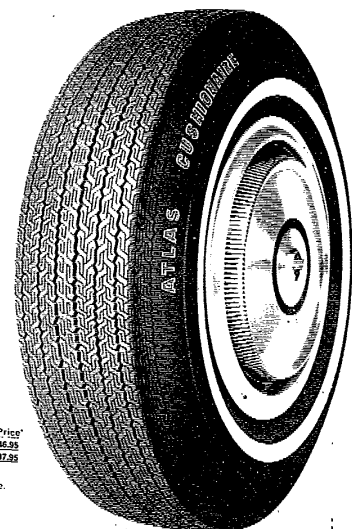


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