

Borgess junior paces area

By Brad Emone
staff writer

Gene Green is a modest, silent type of guy. The boys track coach at Redford Bishop Borgess did his job quietly and so did his team.

Loaded with speed, Borgess fulfilled its pre-season expectations by winning the Elks Relays, Observers Relays and Catholic League title. Borgess also scored more points in the Class A regional than any Observers team, finishing third at Highland Park.

Area coaches gathered recently to select the top performers in each event. As expected, Borgess took a large share of the spots — three relays and five individual events.

FIELD EVENTS

Jim Holdacrew, Redford Bishop Borgess, shot put: The senior led all area competitors with a toss of 55 feet, 1 inch in capturing the Catholic League title.

He also won titles at the Class A regional, Oxford and Elks relays.

Although he weighs just 175 pounds, Hanks was extremely strong and quick. He ran the 100-meter dash in 11.2.

Dave Mize, Livonia Churchill, discus: Mize, a junior, was seventh at the Class A state meet and led the area with a toss of 165-11.

Undeclared all season until the state meet, Mize won discus titles at Observersland, Livonia City, Hilderfield, regional and Western Lakes.

He was equally adept in the shot put and was called "one of the hardest workers on the team" by coach Fred Price.

Jeff Leato, Garden City, high jump (tie): Leato, also a junior, led the area with a best of 6-8 in the Class A regional.

He cleared 6-4 on six different occasions and was undefeated in dual meets.

The Garden City led was first at Observersland and Hilderfield, third in the regional and was Northwest Suburban League (NSL) champ.

Mike Meacham, Livonia Churchill, high jump (tie): Meacham finished eighth in the state meet with a toss of 6-4.

Also a junior, Meacham was the individual champ in the Western Lakes, regional and Hilderfield Relays.

Meacham was also versatile athlete, competing in the hurdles, long jump, 220-meter relay and 1,600 relay for the Chargers.

Tim Hanks, Redford Bishop Borgess, long jump: The senior standard recorded 15 jumps over 20 feet this season, including a 21-9 1/4 area best effort at the Oxford Relays.

He was second in the league, second at Spartan and second at Oxford.

Another versatile performer, Hanks also ran a 52.1 400 dash and was a member of Borgess' potent 1,600 relay team.

Jeff Lawton, Farmington, pole vault: Lawton, a senior, led the area with a season best of 13-6.

He was the Western Lakes champ, second in the regional, fifth at the Huron Relays and 10th in Class A.

"Jeff was a co-captain and spiritual leader of our team," said Farmington coach Dave Calhoun. "His performance was remarkable considering he only vaulted for two years."

RUNNING EVENTS

Chuck Gregory, Bishop Borgess, 110 hurdles: Gregory, who will attend Bowling College this fall on a football scholarship, came back to have a banner year in track after sitting out his junior year.

He was clocked in 14.6 at the Catholic League meet and was the Observersland champ at 18.2.

An exceptional all-around athlete, Gregory had the area's second best clocking in the 400 dash (1:01).

Marion Montgomery, Bishop Borgess, 300 hurdles: Montgomery, a junior, scored an area best of 5:13 in finishing second at the fast Highland Park regional.

He was second in the Catholic League and Oxford Relays. The school record holder was also a valuable relay performer along with Gregory.

Fred Owens, Bishop Borgess, 100 dash: Also a junior, Owens did it all for the Spartans. Area coaches agreed about his worth, vowing him Observersland Trackman of the Year.

Besides anchoring the Spartans' successful 400- and 800 relay teams, Owens led the area with best times in the 100 and 200 dashes.

His 10.6 clocking at the Observersland Relays was one of the best times recorded in the state this year. He was seventh in the 100 at the state meet.

The Catholic League champ in the 100 and 200, Owens is also an outstanding leader, according to his coach, carrying a B-plus average in the classroom.

"Fred is a very competitive athlete," said Owens. "He refuses to accept less than the best ever."

Owens was also a first-team All-Observers pick in football.

Brian Neuhardt, Plymouth Salem, 200 dash: The future appears bright for the talented freshman, whose best time was 23.1 on route to a Western Lakes title.

He also was member of three Salem relay teams, which were instrumental in giving the Rocks the Western Lakes title.

"Although Brian is a very young athlete," said Salem coach Gary Balconi, "he demonstrated a great deal of maturity, strength and willingness to work hard."



Ivan Colman Borgess
Doug Plichta Churchill

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Brian Looser, Farmington, 400 run: The junior, who was undefeated in dual meets and recorded the area's best time of 1:01.

He was also the fastest leg on the Farmington two speed relay team and was named the team's MVP.

Looser was a champion performer beyond his own goals in the first meet and finished seventh in the 1,600 dash.

Looser usually ran four events per meet.

Rick Williams, Clarenceville, 500: A senior, Williams was undefeated all season long.

He led the area with a best time of 1:28.8 on route to league and regional honors.

Williams was another versatile performer for the Trojans, running as many as four events in a dual meet.

Ken Dubois, Livonia Stevenson, 1,600: Dubois is an All-Observers pick for the second straight year. His value to the Spartans was enormous, often running three distance races per meet.

He was first in the regional and 10th in the Class A meet in Jackson. His best time in the 1,600 was 4:14.9. His best clocking in the 3,200 was 9:32.6, second best in the area.

Dubois won the Brinks Award as Stevenson's most outstanding athlete. He will attend the University of Detroit this fall on a scholarship.

Dave Homann, Garden City, 3,200: A junior, Homann finished fourth in the state meet with an area best clocking of 9:31.2.

He won a number of big events including 1,600 and the 3,200 at the NSL meet, first in the 3,200 at the regional and first in the 1,600 at Observersland (4:21.3).

Homann is the school record holder in the 3,200 and 1,600.

"Dave works hard," said GC coach Clayton Kelley. "He asks for more than I demand. He's very coachable, a super person and a privilege to coach."

RELAY EVENTS

Bishop Borgess, 400 relay: Chuck Gregory, Marion Pittman, Marion Montgomery and Fred Owens were virtually unmatched.

They combined for a best clocking of 4:13, which gave them first seed in the Class A state meet. They ended up taking third.

The speedy quartet won titles at the Elks and Observersland relays. They finished first in the regional, second in the league and second in the Operations-Friendship meet.

Bishop Borgess, 800 relay: The same quartet formed a formidable 800 relay squad.

Gregory, Pittman, Montgomery and Owens finished first at Observersland and second in the Catholic League. Borgess was eighth in Class A with an area best clocking of 1:59.8.

Bishop Borgess, 1,600 relay: Ivan Colman joined

Hanks, Gregory and Montgomery to give Borgess a vaunted relay quartet.

The results speak for themselves: first in the Catholic League and first in Observersland, second at Elks.

The Spartans finished second in the area's best relay team with a clocking of 3:29.2.

Livonia Churchill, 400 relay: The Chargers loaded up for the regional at West Bloomfield and the result was a second place finish with an area best time of 5:06.4. The team of Doug Plichta, Doug Miller, Scott Sinclair and Paul Schwartz clocked 5:06.4 at Observersland and the Hilderfield relays.

"This team carried us in all of the distance events," Price said. "They were steady times they were not put together as one relay team."

"When they were all together, they were outstanding."

SECOND TEAM

Shot put: Brian Bond, North Farmington.

Discus: Tim Wallon, Bishop Borgess.

Long jump: Chuck Albert, Bishop Borgess.

Pole vault: Matt Jacoby, Westland John Glenn.

110 hurdles: Jim Kim, Plymouth Canton.

300 hurdles: Greg Copal, Farmington.

100 dash: Elijah Rogers, Plymouth Canton.

200 dash: Rich Eder, Livonia Stevenson.

400 run: Scott Marshack, Westland John Glenn.

800 run: Paul Schwartz, Livonia Churchill.

1,600 run: Steve Shaver, Redford Catholic Central.

3,200 run: Doug Plichta, Livonia Churchill.

400 relay: Plymouth Salem — Brian Neuhardt, Jeff Arnold, Marc Tindall and Craig Morton.

800 relay: Plymouth Salem — Brian Neuhardt, Karl Gander, Marc Tindall and Craig Morton.

1,600 relay: Plymouth Salem — Brian Neuhardt, Bryan Waldron, Jerry Smith and Mike White.

3,200 relay: Livonia Stevenson — Chuck Donaldson, Dave Montgomery, Eric French and Ken Dubois.

THIRD TEAM

Shot put: Brian Bopple, Plymouth Canton.

Discus: Doug Spencer, Plymouth Salem.

High jump: Dave Younger, Farmington Harrison.

Long jump: Mike White, Plymouth Salem.

Pole vault: Matt Jacoby, Plymouth Canton.

110 hurdles: Charles Key, Bishop Borgess.

300 hurdles: Gordon Babcock, Livonia Churchill.

100 dash: Marion Pittman, Bishop Borgess.

200 dash: Mike Rogers, Farmington Harrison.

400 run: Jerry Smith, Plymouth Salem.

800 run: Kyle Smakula, Westland John Glenn.

1,600 run: Don Miller, Livonia Churchill.

3,200 run: Eric Buchanan, Redford Union.

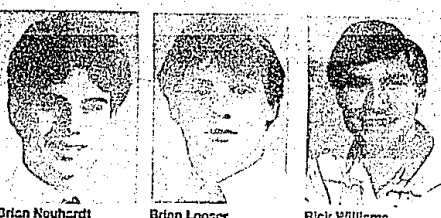
400 relay: Plymouth Canton — Matt Flower, Pat McGow, Jim Kim and Elijah Rogers.

800 relay: Catholic Central — Dave Green, Tom Bridenstine, Dave Nagy and Jeff Moore.

1,600 relay: Plymouth Canton — Pat McGow, Tom Wyck, Jim Kim and Elijah Rogers.

3,200 relay: Bishop Borgess — Chris Stubbs, Marion Gates, Paul Slavick and DeVaughn Elledge.

all-area boys' track



Brian Neuhardt Salem
Brian Looser Farmington
Rick Williams Clarenceville



Ken Dubois Stevenson
Dave Homann Garden City
Marion Pittman Borgess



Paul Schwartz Churchill
Don Miller Churchill
Scott Sinclair Churchill

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