

Sports

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(F1B)

Chiefs celebrate Observerland title

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

They were yelling "Hail to the Chiefs" Saturday night at the 10th annual Observerland Boys Track Relays.

Plymouth Canton first-year coach Rob Neu and former coach Mike Spitz each got a victory ride after the Chiefs clinched their first-ever title in the area's premier meet held at Livonia Churchill High School.

Canton scored in 12 of 16 events for a team-high 84 points. The high-spirited Chiefs were followed closely by last year's champion, Churchill, which scored 74½. Redford Catholic Central and Bishop Borgess tallied 74 apiece, making it one of the closest meets ever run at Observerland. (See statistical summary).

"When you have that kind of support behind you, it's good for a couple of seconds on the track," said Neu of his enthusiastic team. "This was nothing shy of a team effort."

Canton's firsts came in the long jump relay (Tyronne Reeves, Roger Trice and Geoff Estevez) and the shuttle hurdle relay (Bryan Whiteley, Jake Michaelson, Larry Allman and Dan Houdek).

The Chiefs added second place finishes in the high jump relay, 6,400-meter relay, distance medley relay and sprint medley relay.

"THE KEY EVENTS were the sprint events," Neu said. "Our sprinters rose to the occasion. We knew we would score in the distance and jumping events. Our sprinters had to come through and they did."

But Neu was not only happy for his kids, he was equally happy for Spitz and former Canton assistant John Tarr, who helped bring the Canton program to respectability.

"Mike Spitz was deserving of that shoulder ride," Neu said. "This one belongs to Mike Spitz, John Tarr and the Canton program."

boys track

As usual, host Churchill scored well in the field events, racking up 28 points. Catholic Central was right behind with 26.

Churchill captured the high jump relay (Jim Rintilla, Steve Galindo and Jason Belaire) and pole vault relay (Eric Brandemil, Eric Gudeman and Brian Keri).

The Chargers were hurt somewhat when their sprint medley relay squad took a surprising fourth, but then was disqualified for making a baton exchange in an illegal zone.

CHURCHILL COACH Fred Price, however, refused to alibi.

"The kids ran very well even though we made a mistake here and there," said Price. "Going into the meet we figured we had to place in the 800 relay, but we didn't, and that's where we had to score."

"I don't want to make excuses. Maybe Canton is more alive than people think."

CC's firsts came in the shot put and discus relays (Dan Nash, Tom Elfrid and Matt Fraz), as well as the 3,200 relay (Mike Ciesla, Kevin Krasko, John Regan and Jim Fedewa) and 6,400 relay (Jim Kolodziej, Mike Bodner, Regan and Fedewa).

CC coach Kavanaugh left somewhat disappointed after being edged out by Churchill by one-half point for second place.

"It was one of our best efforts of the season, but I'm not satisfied with fourth place," he said. "We could have gotten a trophy, but we did best with what we had."

BORGESS, WHICH captured the title in 1984, was on the brink of winning the meet until disaster struck in the shuttle hurdle relay when Sean Darkins went down with a hip pointer. The Spartans, who dominated the sprints, lost a possible eight points in the event.

"Our guys don't feel bad," said assistant coach Marion Pittman Sr. "They did one heck of a job. We're proud after only getting one point in the field events."

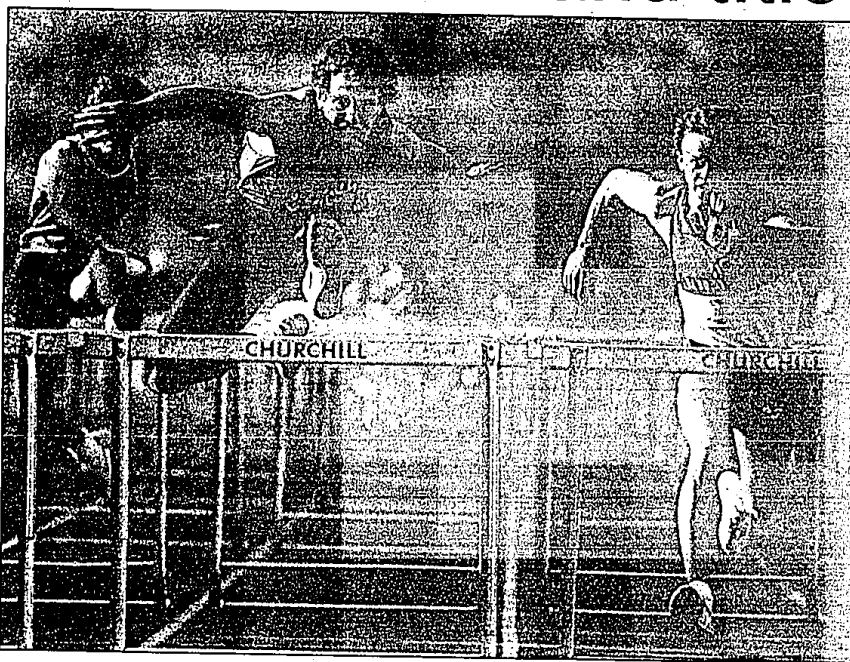
The Spartans were hurt by the absence of Tom Slawski, one of the area's top discus and shot putters. He sat out the meet with a bad back. Borgess was impressive nonetheless, especially Marion Pittman Jr. and Ivan Cotman.

Pittman won the open 100 dash in 10.9, beating Plymouth Salem's Brian Neuhardt, and anchored the winning 400 and 800 relay teams. He was also a member of the winning 1,600 relay squad, anchored by Brian Kelly, who also won the open 100 hurdles.

COTMAN, a lanky middle distance runner, was a member of the victorious 800 relay squad and turned in an impressive 48.28 400 split as Borgess won the sprint medley.

In the open 1,600 run, Westland John Glenn Junior Dan Liedel won comfortably in 4:29.9 over Churchill's Rob Annett.

On a cold and brisk night, no meet records were set.



Bryan Whiteley (left) wins his preliminary heat in the 110 high hurdles edging Garden City's Audie Wheeler. The Canton senior placed second in the event overall.

photos by STEVE FECHT/Staff photographer

boys track

10th ANNUAL
OBSERVERLAND BOYS
TRACK AND FIELD RELAYS
Saturday at Churchill

TEAM RESULTS: 1. Plymouth Canton, 84 points; 2. Livonia Churchill, 74½; 3. (tie) Bishop Borgess and Catholic Central, 74; 5. Plymouth Salem, 50; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 37½; 7. Garden City, 32; 8. Livonia Franklin, 23; 9. Redford Union, 22; 10. Northville, 13; 11. Westland John Glenn, 12; Southfield-Lathrup, 4.

FIELD EVENTS

Shot put relay: 1. Catholic Central (Matt Fraz, Tom Elfrid, Dan Nash), 394-1; 2. Churchill, 382-10; 3. Stevenson, 398-11; 4. Redford Union, 353-11; 5. Garden City, 348-9; 6. John Glenn, 345-4.

Discus relay: 1. Catholic Central (Matt Fraz, Tom Elfrid, Dan Nash), 150-8½; 2. Stevenson, 130-6; 3. Redford Union, 129-7; 4. Garden City, 129-4; 5. Catholic Central, 123-7½; 6. John Glenn, 120-9½.

Long jump relay: 1. Canton (Tyronne Reeves, Roger Trice, Geoff Estevez), 57-11¼; 2. Churchill, 65-2½; 3. Bishop Borgess, 54-10½; 4. Redford Union, 54-5½; 5. Stevenson, 54-5½; 6. Salem, 54-2.

On a cold and brisk night, no meet records were set.

High jump relay: 1. Churchill (Jim Rintilla, Steve Galindo, Jason Belaire), 18-2; 2. Canton, 17-8; 3. Catholic Central, 17-4; 4. Salem, 17-2; 5. Franklin, 16-10; 6. Bishop Borgess, 16-8.

Pole vault relay: 1. Churchill (Eric Brandemil, Eric Gudeman, Brian Keri), 35-0; 2. Stevenson, 33-0; 3. Salem, 31-6; 4. Southfield-Lathrup, 30-8; 5. Northville, 30-0; 6. Franklin, 29-8.

RELAYS

6,400-meter: 1. Catholic Central (Jim Kolodziej, Mike Bodner, John Regan, Jim Fedewa), 19:02.7; 2. Canton, 19:08.5; 3. Churchill, 19:08.3; 4. Stevenson, 19:37.6; 5. Salem, 19:49.0; 6. Redford Union, 20:12.0.

Distance medley: 1. Northville (Jeff Harp, John Gird, Kevin Heas, John Frisbie), 11:05; 2. Canton, 11:11.0; 3. Bishop Borgess, 11:13.8; 4. Franklin, 11:16.2; 5. Catholic Central, 11:24.0; 6. Stevenson, 11:30.45.

800-meter: 1. Bishop Borgess (Corey Key, Eric Harp, Ivan Cotman, Marion Pittman), 3:31.8; 2. Salem, 3:34.4; 3. Garden City, 3:34.5; 4. Catholic Central, 3:34.8; 5. Franklin, 3:35.4; 6. Stevenson, 3:36.02.

3,200-meter: 1. Catholic Central (Mike Ciesla, Kevin Krasko, John Regan, Jim Fedewa), 8:24.8; 2. Churchill, 8:29.3; 3. Stevenson, 8:32.2; 4. Canton, 8:38.2; 5. Redford Union, 8:38.6; 6. Bishop Borgess, 8:41.8.

Sprint medley: 1. Bishop Borgess (John Badient, Jason Caszidias, Ivan Blacksmith, Ivan Cotman), 2:30.6; 2. Canton, 2:31.8; 3. Garden City, 2:32.0; 4. Catholic Central, 2:37.9; 5. Franklin, 2:40.2; 6. Northville, 2:42.2.

Shuttle hurdle: 1. Canton (Bryan Whiteley, Jake Michaelson, Larry Allman, Dan Houdek), 1:02.4; 2. Churchill, 1:04.9; 3. (tie) Salem and Franklin, 1:06.4; 5. Stevenson, 1:08.2; 6. Catholic Central, 1:10.2.

400-meter: 1. Bishop Borgess (Eric Harp, Corey Key, Jason Caszidias, Marion Pittman), 44.2; 2. Salem, 45.7; 3. Canton, 45.74; 4. Garden City, 45.78; 5. Franklin, 46.0; 6. (tie) Churchill and Stevenson, 46.3.

1,600-meter: 1. Bishop Borgess (Mark Pittman, Ivan Cotman, Marion Pittman, Brian Kelly), 3:27.0; 2. Catholic Central, 3:29.0; 3. Canton, 3:31.0; 4. Churchill, 3:35.2; 5. Salem, 3:37.4; 6. Redford Union, 3:40.7.

OPEN EVENTS

110 high hurdles: 1. Brian Kelly (Borgess), 14.9; 2. Bryan Whiteley (Canton), 15.7; 3. Audie Wheeler (Garden City), 16.1; 4. Chris Rango (Salem), 16.2; 5. Rob Day (Franklin), 16.2; 6. Mark Beebe (Churchill), 16.4.

1,600 run: 1. Dan Liedel (Glenn), 4:29.9; 2. Rob Annett (Churchill), 4:37.7; 3. Jay Swickel (Canton), 4:42.9; 4. Jim Kolodziej (Catholic Central), 4:48.6; 5. Bill Ansell (Salem), 4:53.0; 6. Gary Rapelle (Franklin), 4:58.0.

100 dash: 1. Marion Pittman (Borgess), 10.9; 2. Rob Annett (Churchill), 11.2; 3. Dave Nagy (Catholic Central), 11.3; 4. Dave Marshall (Redford Union), 11.4; 5. Tyronne Reeves (Canton), 11.7; 6. Brian Wildlak (Churchill), 11.7.

INDIVIDUAL MEDALISTS

Shot put: Dan Nash, Catholic Central, 50-10½.
Discus: Matt Putick, Stevenson, 142-0.
High jump: Jim Rintilla, Churchill, 6-2.
Long jump: Tyronne Reeves, Canton, 21-1.
Pole vault: Eric Gudeman, Churchill, 13-0.



Eric Gudeman leaps 13-0 to capture the pole vault medal for Churchill Saturday.

North girls outrun Farmington in dual

Farmington's girls track team had a chance to avenge its team loss to North Farmington Thursday, but the Raiders were unrelenting.

North won 12 of 16 events to defeat Farmington 92½-45½ in a Western Lakes dual meet. It was the first dual meet loss of the year for the Falcons.

Nancy Coltrane and Terry Spengler were double-event winners for North (3-0). Coltrane won both the shot put (31-7) and the discus (99-2). Spengler won the 100-meter dash (13.02) and the 200 (28.2).

Other Raider winners were Wendy Love (15-2¼ in the long jump), Suzi Butcher (18.03 in the 100 high hurdles), Julie Garczynski (1:04.5 in the 400) and Donna Chasz (5:58.0 in the 3,200).

North also captured all four relays: the 400 in 54.9, the 800 in 1:55.0, the 1,600 in 4:48.0 and the 3,200 in 10:48.0.

Farmington got firsts from Julie

Lawton (4-8 in the high jump), Lori Casaroli (53.7 in the 300 low hurdles), Anna Quenneville (2:38.0 in the 800) and Nicole Leyli (13:00.0 in the 3,200).

FARMINGTON HARRISON remained unbeaten in dual meets Thursday, knocking off a good Livonia Franklin squad, 71-57.

The Hawks (3-0) trailed early in the meet, but came on strong winning six of the final seven events.

Tracy Radke and Jenny Anderson were double winners for Harrison. Radke won the long jump (14-10½) and the 100-meter dash (13.7). Anderson took the 800 (2:38.9) and the 3,200 (10:45.1).

Other Hawk winners were Jamie Holcomb in the 300 low hurdles (53.5) and Roxanne Bennett in the 1,600 (5:11.8). Holcomb was nipped at the wire in 100 high hurdles by Franklin's Lisa Dominato. Dominato crossed in 16.5, Holcomb in 16.53.

Hawks cry foul in track loss

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

"Let's go to the videotape" was Farmington Harrison coach John Schumacher's cry after his team was nipped at the wire Thursday by Livonia Franklin in a Western Lakes boys track meet, 70-67.

The race and the meet came down to the mile relay, where Harrison's Roger Hancey, who trailed on the final leg, lunged at the wire to catch Franklin's Mike Piontek.

A discussion between the three judges, along with the two coaches, Schumacher and Franklin's Bob Holmes, ensued with Piontek being declared the winner.

Two judges could not make a call and termed the race "a dead heat," but a third judge (Franklin athletic director George Lovich) gave the edge to host Franklin.

Schumacher, using videotape footage provided by a Harrison parent, claimed Hancey had indeed nipped Piontek at the wire.

"I DON'T WANT to make a big issue of it, but it showed we won," said

the Harrison coach, whose team suffered its first dual meet loss.

Franklin coach Bob Holmes said he reluctantly viewed the tape.

"A yard from the finish line, we were ahead," Holmes said. "A yard after the finish line Harrison was ahead. But looking at it fairly — at the finish line — it was very inconclusive. It didn't prove we won or they won."

It was like the famous World Series photo of Lou Brock and Bill Freehan at home plate. Was he (Brock) out or safe? The people in St. Louis still insist he was safe, but the people in Detroit say he's out.

As for the rest of the meet, Franklin won five individual events and all four relays.

The Patriots were led by double winner Chris Porry, who took the shot put (47 feet, 2 inches) and discus (121-11). Other Franklin winners included Rob Day, 120-yard hurdles, 16:34; Mark Wilbert, 330 hurdles, 42:46; and Scott Butler, 880, 2:10.8.

HARRISON, meanwhile, was led by sprinter Aaron Yaverski who won the 100 dash (10.75), 220 (24.0) and

"I don't want to make a big issue of it, but it (the videotape) showed we won."

— John Schumacher
Harrison coach

440 (54.45). Teammate Chris Hart swept the mile and two mile runs with times of 4:57.0 and 10:45.5, respectively.

Other Harrison firsts were recorded by Wes Wood, high jump, 5-8; Eric Wise, pole vault, 11-0; and Brian Soeder, long jump, 18-7¼.

It was Harrison's second loss of the week.

The Hawks were also edged Tuesday by Farmington at the Farmington city meet when the event once again came down the final race — the mile relay.

FARMINGTON raised its dual meet record to 4-0 Thursday nipping North Farmington 75-62 at North.

Craig Petersmark had a big meet for the Falcons. He won the shot put (51-2) then set a school record in the discus with a 161-6. That bettered Pete Brown's 1983 mark of 159-8.

Ironically, Petersmark's discus toss didn't win the event Thursday. North's Wes Pringle threw 162-0 to top him.

Darrell Tharnish won the wind-blown pole vault event with a 9-0.

Farmington dominated on the track. Dave Barringer won the 300-meter low hurdles (42.4), Scott Wallis won the 400 (53.1), Ron Smedley the 800 (2:15.5), Al Stebbins the 1,600 (4:53.5) and Chris Inch the (5:50.3).

The Falcons won three relays: the 800 in 1:36.9, the 1,600 in 3:40.1, and the 3,200 in 9:58.5.

Scott Selzer won two events for North (3-1). He took the 100 dash (11.1) and the 200 dash (23.4).

Chad Henry won the high jump (5-8), while Marc Brown took the long jump (19-9). Chris Wolowycz won the 100 high hurdles (16.5) and the Raiders won the 400 relay (45.8).