

Area trackmen honored

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Four Wayne Memorial boys track stars secured places on the 1988 All-Observerland team.

And of the four, one has earned the status of Observerland Trackman of the Year.

The honor goes to Wayne's Steve Hearndon, who capped off a fine career a week ago Saturday, winning the 300-meter high hurdles at the state Class A meet at Eastern Michigan University.

This year, Hearndon competed in the 400-meter run, the 110 and 300 hurdles, and the 1,600 relay. In his career, the versatile Hearndon competed in every running event from the 100 dash to the 1,600 run, coach Joe Grasley said.

Hearndon also placed fourth in the 400 run at the state meet and led Observerland teams in both the 300 hurdles and 400 run.

Farmington Harrison's John Schumacher is Observerland's Coach of the Year. Schumacher led Harrison to its best season ever, winning the Western Lakes Athletic Association meet. The Hawks also placed second to Wayne in the Observerland Relays held last month.

Presenting the 1988 All-Area Boys Track Team.

FIELD EVENTS

Jeff Graham, Westland John Glenn, shot put. The senior, bound for Michigan State University on a football scholarship, didn't take long to adapt to a new sport.

This was Graham's first year with the Glenn track team, and he won every dual meet he competed in, and also captured the Monroe Relays shot put championship. He was the regional shot put champion and a state qualifier. His best toss of 53-feet 3 inches outdistanced everyone in the area.

Earlier this year, Graham was a champion at the Eastern Michigan Relays.

"It was a tremendous effort for a first-year performance," Glenn coach Rich Gordon said. "He would have broken the school record if he had come out earlier in his high school career."

Jay Biaylock, Plymouth Salem, discus. The co-winner of Scholastic Athlete of the Year at Salem, Biaylock also won a regional and WAAA meet championship in the discus. His conference toss of 167-1/2 was a new WAAA record. It also was the area's best throw.

He was 17th at the Class A state meet, with a throw of 141-6. The senior co-captain will attend either the University of Michigan or Georgia Tech with the intention of continuing his track career.

Jay Biaylock, Plymouth Salem, long jump. Trice, a senior, was one of the area's better athletes, also excelling in football and basketball for the Chiefs.

His jump of 12-7/8 was the best in the area. Trice finished seventh at the Class A meet. Trice also competed in the 100 and 300 dashes for the Chiefs, posting his best time of 11.0 in the 100, and 23.5 in the 200.

Jason Belaire, Livonia Churchill, high jump. Only a junior, Belaire cleared 6-7, giving him the area's best jump. He finished fifth at the Class A meet in the high jump.

A three-year letterman, Belaire as a high jumper won the Observerland Relays, the Eastern Michigan Relays, and the WAAA meet; he placed second at the regional.

The versatile Belaire also finished fifth in the state meet in the high hurdles at 14.4. His best time in the 300 intermediates was 39.3, and his best 400 time was 51.8.

"Jason possesses a tremendous amount of talent. He also has the desire to work hard to be successful," coach Fred Price said.

Lee Richards, Garden City, pole vault. Richards, a junior, improved over his spring to finish second at the Northwest Suburban League meet. He cleared 12-6 to establish a school record for juniors.

Five times this spring, the regional champion cleared 12 feet.

"Lee has done what every coach would like to see — a 24-foot improvement from the year before," said coach Rob Phillips. "Lee is a very hard worker and has spent a lot of extra time on trying to improve his performances."

RUNNING EVENTS

Cory Wilson, John Glenn, 110 hurdles. A seasonlong stress fracture in his foot slowed the speedy senior some, but he still led Wayne in scoring this year, with more than 130 points.

In the 110 hurdles, he was a regional and Wolverine A League champ and finished eighth in the Class A meet. Wilson's time of 1:4.3 in the 110 was the area's best. He also was a member of the shuttle hurdle relay team at Wayne that broke a school record and won the Mansfield Relay championship.

"His achievements were even more remarkable considering the fact that he participated all season with a stress fracture. Cory was very coachable and a tremendous asset to the team," Grasley said.

Steve Hearndon, Wayne, 300 hurdles. Hearndon established individual school records in both the low hurdles and 400 run and was a member of the 1,600 relay team that also broke a school standard.

As mentioned earlier, Hearndon won the 300 hurdles at the state meet and finished fourth in the 400 run. He was a member of the 800 relay team that finished sixth at the state meet, and he competed in the 1,600 relay race that place fourth.

He was one of 40 track stars last weekend that represented Michigan in a tri-state meet with Ohio and Indiana, held in Bloomington, Ind.

"Steve has the most raw talent of anyone I've ever coached. Most coaches are lucky to have just one runner like him in their lifetime," Grasley said.

Tony Robertson, Wayne, 100 dash. Another versatile performer for Wayne, Robertson ran both the 100 and 200 dashes, as well as the sprint relays. He was a regional champ in the long jump.

Robertson, a senior, had a season-best time of 10.8 in the 100, ranking him second in the area. Robertson, however, was unable to compete in the state meet because of an injury.

"Tony was not only talented, but was a tremendous captain and leader. Tony was like having another coach for the team," Grasley said.

Cory Ivey, Redford Bishop Borgess, 200 dash. Ivey will attend the University of Toledo next fall on a football scholarship, but before then he wanted to leave his mark on Borgess' track team.

Ivey led the area with a time of 10.7 in the 100. He was first at the Observerland Relays in the 100 and also claimed a regional championship. He was third in the Catholic League in the 100.

Ivey's time of 22.8 in the 200 dash was Observerland's best, and he finished second at the regional in the 200. Ivey qualified for the Class B state tournament in both the 100 and 200 dashes.

Carlos Horne, Wayne, 400 run. Although not joining the team until midseason, Horne's time of 49.8 in the 400 was the area's second best. He also was strong in the 200, recording a 22.7 for the area's sixth best time.

Only a sophomore, Horne was a member of the school-record 1,600 relay, which finished fourth at the Class A meet. He also was a member of the Observerland Relays long jump champion relay team.

"(Because) Carlos was not able to come out for track until almost mid-season, he never really got into top condition. Carlos has the ability to really excel in track," Grasley said.

Brandon London, Farmington, 800 run. London's 800 time of 1:55.94 gave him a fourth-place finish at the Class A meet. His best 800 time of 1:53.7 came at the Oakland County Meet, where he took home the title.

A senior, London won the 800 run in the WAAA meet and figured in two relay wins at the same meet. He also cleared 5-



Ivan Blacksmith

Matt Blount

Tom Faison



Dave Rodriguez

Jerry Allen

David Ryan



Carl Lowe

Larry Zimba

4 in the high jump.

London joined Hearndon last weekend as one of 40 Michigan representatives in a tri-state meet with Ohio and Indiana, held in Bloomington, Ind.

"Brandon is a hard worker with a lot of natural ability. He is a great college prospect who hasn't come close to reaching his potential," coach Dave Catherman said.

Jay Swicki, Plymouth Canton, 1,600 run. Swicki's time of 4:34.4 was a school record, and it won the Observerland Relays. The senior also placed second in the 1,600 in the WAAA meet.

Swicki anchored the 4,400 and 3,200 relay teams at Canton that claimed school records. Swicki's time of 1:58.0 was third best in the area for the 800 run.

"Jay is a very talented young man. He is a 2.9 student, outstanding athlete and scholastic athlete at Canton," coach Rob Neu said.

Derrick Allen, Wayne, 3,200 run. Allen, a senior, had the area's best time in the 3,200, crossing the line at 9:37.3. He also broke a school record in the 1,600, clocking a 4:18.7. He was a state qualifier in four events (800, 1,600, 3,200 and 3,200 relay).

"Derrick has a very quick recovery power. He has been a real work horse for us. He's not the type of person you can replace easily," Grasley said.

RELAYS

Bishop Borgess, 400 relay: Steve Johnson, Ivan Blacksmith, Matt Blount and Corey Ivey were first at

the regional and also claimed first place in the Observerland Relays at 44.02.

The quartet was runner-up in the Catholic League meet.

Wayne, 800 relay: Tom Faison, Corey Wilson, Dave Rodriguez and Steve Hearndon were sixth at the state meet and won both the WAAA meet and Observerland Relays.

The team also finished second to eventual state-champion Southfield in the regional. Wayne's best time of 1:29.3 led the area.

"Tom Faison was an excellent lead-off runner on all our relays. Rodriguez was an unsung hero, accepting the role as relay person instead of individual events. Wilson and Hearndon were both all-area runners," Grasley said.

Wayne, 1,600 relay: Faison, Wilson, Rodriguez and Hearndon had even better success in the mile relay, finishing fourth at the state meet, in 3:20.83.

They also were first in the WAAA meet and at the Observerland Relays, and second to Southfield at the regional. Their best time was 3:20.7.

John Glenn, 3,200 relay: Jerry Allen, David Ryan, Carl Lowe and Larry Zimba were undefeated in dual meet competition and were 11th at the state meet.

The crew also netted a new school record time of 7:55.4, and won the Eastern Michigan Relays, the WAAA meet and the regional.

all-area boys track

1988 ALL-AREA BOYS TRACK TEAM

FIELD EVENTS

Shot put: 1. Jeff Graham, Westland John Glenn; 2. Nick Peterson, Livonia Stevenson; 3. Don Gudekunst, Livonia Stevenson.
Discus: 1. Jay Biaylock, Plymouth Salem; 2. Doug Richardson, Livonia Churchill; 3. Eric Sheppard, Redford Union.
Long jump: 1. Roger Trice, Plymouth Canton; 2. Ivan Blacksmith, Redford Bishop Borgess; 3. Brian Sander, Farmington Harrison.
High jump: 1. Jason Belaire, Livonia Churchill; 2. Wendell Smith, Wayne Memorial; 3. Greg Anderson, Westland John Glenn.
Pole vault: 1. Lee Richards, Garden City; 2. Jim Edey, Livonia Churchill; 3. Chris Woodbeck, Redford Union.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

110-meter hurdles: 1. Corey Wilson, Wayne Memorial; 2. Bob Conlon, Farmington Harrison; 3. Peter Hixon, Wayne Memorial.
300 hurdles: 1. Steve Hearndon, Wayne Memorial; 2. Tom Faison, Wayne Memorial; 3. Marcus Lowe, Westland John Glenn.
100 dash: 1. Tony Robertson, Wayne Memorial; 2. Tom Faison, Wayne Memorial; 3. Jeff Zimicki, Livonia Churchill.
400: 1. Carlos Horne, Wayne Memorial; 2.

Ken Drake, Garden City; 3. Carl Lowe, Westland John Glenn.
800: 1. Brandon London, Farmington; 2. Chad Burgess, Farmington Harrison; 3. Larry Zimba, Westland John Glenn.
1,600: 1. Jay Swicki, Plymouth Canton; 2. Pete Stapleton, Garden City; 3. Matt Smith, Redford Bishop Borgess.
3,200: 1. Derrick Allen, Wayne Memorial; 2. Mike Shendani, Redford Catholic Central; 3. Greg Baker, Redford Catholic Central.

RELAY EVENTS

400: 1. Redford Bishop Borgess (Steve Johnson, Ivan Blacksmith, Matt Blount and Corey Ivey); 2. Westland John Glenn (Andrew Dobson, Gino Crenshaw, Steve Valenti and Marcus Lowe); 3. Wayne Memorial (Tom Faison, Tony Robertson, Steve Hearndon and Corey Wilson).
1,600: 1. Wayne Memorial (Tom Faison, Corey Wilson, Dave Rodriguez and Steve Hearndon); 2. Farmington Harrison (Bob Conlon, Wes Wood, Bob Sheehy and Aaron Yarevick); 3. Redford Bishop Borgess (Steve Johnson, Mike Jackson, Matt Blount and Corey Ivey).

1,600: 1. Wayne Memorial (Tom Faison, Corey Wilson, Dave Rodriguez and Steve Hearndon); 2. Westland John Glenn (Jerry Allen, David Ryan, Carl Lowe and Larry Zimba); 3. Farmington Harrison (Pat Runk, Chris Hart, Dave Foss and Chad Burgess); 4. Farmington (Matt Walter, Ron Smedley, Tom Hunt and Brandon London).

TRACKMAN OF THE YEAR

Steve Hearndon, Wayne Memorial.

COACH OF THE YEAR

John Schumacher, Farmington Harrison.

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