

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

REGION V JUNIOR OLYMPICS
TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS
July 8-11 at Plymouth Cactus HS

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Mission accomplished

Krafchak earns kudos for organizing effort

BY C.J. RIAK

STAFF WRITER

For years, Salem and Canton high schools have taken great pride in their talents in track. Last weekend, the combined Plymouth and Canton communities proved those abilities, displayed year after year after year, were built on a sturdy foundation.

In April, Mike Krafchak was given what many would consider a no-win-win task: Take over the organization and planning for the Region V USA Track and Field Junior Olympics, a four-state affair that would affect more than 1,200 athletes.

This is the only time Michigan will host this event, a five-year event. When the Jackson community ran into difficulties, Plymouth and Canton were asked. Krafchak, a longtime track/cross country supporter, could not allow so many young people to be disappointed.

He accepted the challenge. And last weekend, he pulled it off.

The total number of partici-

pants, according to the Canton resident, was approximately 1,250. "It was a lot of work," he said Tuesday, nearly two days after the final event had concluded, "and we still haven't recovered, sleepwise."

"But it's also the kind of thing that's very gratifying when it works well. And this went pretty well."

It certainly demanded mass amounts of organization. On Thursday and Friday, events like the heptathlon, decathlon, pentathlon, triathlon and steeplechase were competed; indeed, the steeplechase, which requires pools of water for runners to ford — something neither Canton nor Salem could furnish — created an immediate problem. Krafchak solved it by taking that particular race to the University of Michigan's track at 6 p.m. last Friday.

On Saturday and Sunday, the bulk of the track and field events got going at the Canton track at 9 a.m. The stakes were considerable: The top three finishers in

each event would qualify for the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics July 27-Aug. 1 in Nebraska.

Which made last weekend's affair the biggest age-group track and field event of the year in the state.

Fortunately, it all went smoothly. "I know people got out of there Saturday and Sunday a whole lot earlier than they thought they would," said Krafchak, noting the ending times were before 6 p.m.

There were all sorts of budding track stars on the loose, such as: In the Midget girls division (11-12-year-olds), Amirah Carpenter, from the Ohio Association, won the 100-meters (13.68) and the 200-meters (27.13), and teammate Chelsea Sexton was first in both the 800-meters (2:30.93) and 1,600-meters (6:08.14).

In the Midget boys, Eddie Gore of the Lake Erie Association captured top honors in the 100-meters (12.99) and 200-meters (26.90), while Michael Thomas of New World Track Club was a

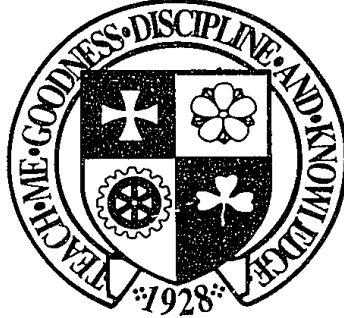
winner in the 400-meters (58.21) and shot put (39-feet, 7.75-inches), and Michael Quick of the Michigan Association won the 1,600-meters (6:03.91) and the 3,000-meters (10:38.97).

In the Youth girls division (13-14 years-old), Carla Grace of the Ohio Association was a double-winner, taking the 200-meters (25.64) and the 200-meter hurdles (29.73), and Jessica Ordway, also of the Ohio Association, got wins in the 800-meters (2:25.34) and 1,600-meters (4:55.58).

Tough competition made doubling in the Youth boys division even more difficult. Only one athlete managed it: Matthew Knippen of the Ohio Association, who won the shot put (43-9) and discus (149-7).

There were plenty of other winners, but none bigger than the meet's organizers and supporters. Asked if he'd tackle such a difficult task again, Krafchak replied without hesitation: "Oh, yes, I'd do it again. It was worth it, for the kids."

CONGRATULATIONS



Catholic Central High School on another outstanding school year in 1998-1999!

In addition to being named among the "100 Outstanding High Schools in the United States" by *U.S. News and World Report* (January 18, 1999), Catholic Central students have achieved excellence in the following areas of academics, athletics and community service.

In Academics:

- Quiz Bowl...1st Place in the NAQT National High School Championship at the University of Oklahoma (June 5-6, 1999)
- Math Team...1st Place in the Michigan Math Contest
- Symphonic Band...No. 1 Rating in the State
- National Merit Recognition...10 students
- National Honor Society...81 students
- Scholarships...over three million dollars in scholarships awarded to over thirty percent of the 1999 graduating seniors

In Athletics:

- Three State Championships:
Class AA Football...ranked no. 15 in the Nation
Class A Hockey...ranked no. 1 in the Nation
Class A Baseball...ranked no. 12 in the Nation
- Three CC students received distinction of "Best High School Player in 1999" in hockey, wrestling and baseball
- One student honored as the "Best High School Athlete in Michigan"

While accomplishing these remarkable goals, CC students have never forgotten their commitment to the community. This is evidenced by the tremendous success in raising funds to aid those who are less fortunate.

- \$20,000...for missions in poverty-stricken areas of South America
- \$7,000...for Make-A-Wish Foundation
- \$251,000...for the Student Fund Drive

Congratulations Catholic Central Students... on all of your accomplishments!

From the Catholic Central High School Alumni Association, Mothers' Club and Dads' Club
Catholic Central High School • 14200 Breakfast Drive • Redford 48239 • 313-534-0660

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