

Honors for 20 area trackmen

By TOM BAER

The 1975 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Track Team would be a coach's dream if the 20-man squad could be assembled to run in high school dual meets and relays.

That was the collective opinion of the area coaches who picked the Observer & Eccentric's best trackmen for the team. Considered were athletes from the following schools: Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Brother Rice, Birmingham Seaholm, Bloomfield Hills Andover, Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Country Day, Cranbrook, Farmington High, Farmington Harrison, North Farmington, Southfield High, Southfield-Lathrup and West Bloomfield.

"It's a good group," said Farm-

ington coach Gerald Young, who helped in the selection. "The team is really strong in the hurdles and the distances. And those two state champions—John Kreischner and Dave Merritt—really give the team some class."

Lahser junior John Kreischner was an easy choice for first team in the pole vault. He won the event at the Class A state finals with a 14-8 vault. Farmington High's Scott Bowyer was named to the second team.

Country Day senior Dave Merritt is a three-sport athlete, but he was especially prominent in track this spring, winning Class C titles in the 100 low hurdles and the long jump. He was picked for O & E team for his efforts in the 100 lows. Birmingham Groves'

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Dan Noakes was named to the second team.

In the two mile run, West Bloomfield's Jim Grabowski was picked for the first team. His 9:27.8 earned sixth place at the A finals. Rice's Paul Mazza landed second spot in the two mile.

Groves' Jim Klesner made the top spot in the 120 high hurdles. He fin-

ished seventh at state with a :14.6 clocking. Southfield High's Steve Trowbridge, who had an outstanding season, was second.

In the run, Rice's Jeff Paulsen took the honors. The Warrior senior consistently topped the half mile best track times listings. Groves' Marty Downs was second.

In the mile run, Andover's Wayne Kern was the first choice. His best time this season was 4:15.6. Rice's Dave Wurster was considered the next best miler.

The 100 dash champ was hard to pick because 10 area sprinters were tied at :10.1 in the final listings. Top spot went to Lathrup's Brian Gould and Andover's Sam Genovese was second.

The 440 run was also hard to pick, but Groves' Kent Anderson came in first with a :51.0 best time. Lathrup's Mike Driscoll was second at :51.8. Groves' Bob Fregolle topped the 220 dash. Lathrup's Brian Babin was second.

Cranbrook's Mark Smith was an easy choice in the shot put. His best put of 55-4 led the O&E listings for much of the season. He also helped his team win the shot put relay at the Observer & Eccentric Relays last week. Lathrup's Mitch Joseph was second.

Another Charger, Bill Breslin, was the choice in the high jump. Groves' Tim Paulsen was second.

In the long jump, Andover's Eric Fiesland was first with a 21-2 best leap. Lathrup's Jim Yee wasn't far behind at 21-1 1/2.

Groves topped the 800 relay with the team of Eric Miller, Klesner, Anderson and Bob Fregolle. Lahser's team of Rob Casalou, Paul Slatczynski, Jim Slatczynski and Tom Mahoney was second.

The same people on Lahser's 800 relay finished first in the 440 relay. North Farmington's team of Irv Locklear, Bob Miller, Bob Patck and Mike Soldan was second.

Groves' mile relay of Jim Carr, Tim Paulsen, Steve Schmidt and Fregolle finished first. Rice's team of Chris Nagel, Tom Gorman, Paulsen and Jim Withersling was second.



Bill Breslin was picked for the top spot in the high jump



Brian Gould—the choice for the 100 dash

Kearney: year's top coach

No question about it. Birmingham Groves' Tom Kearney is the Observer & Eccentric track coach of the year. A look at his track record this spring and over the past several seasons shows why he was the easy choice.

Groves' old cinder track—sometimes called Kearney Country by the team's admirers—has been the home of winners this season. Kearney guided Groves to an 8-0 dual-meet record this spring, and the Falcons had little trouble winning the Metro Suburban Association track championship. Groves also has an impressive spring of first places in those multi-school meets which occupied most spring weekends. This season Groves won: the Brother Rice Relays, the Waldo Ashley Relays, the Observer & Eccentric Relays, and the Metro Suburban Association league meet. The Falcons also took second in the Bloomfield Hills Lahser Relays and finished third in the all-Oakland County meet.

Kearney's squad has compiled a fantastic 20-1 dual-meet mark over the past three seasons. That one loss came last season when North Farmington surprised the Falcons in a non-league meet.

"We have a group of seniors who are used to winning," said Kearney, a 28-year-old social studies teacher at

Birmingham's Derby Junior High School. "They've lost just one meet in the last three years."



TOM KEARNEY
Observer & Eccentric
Coach of the Year

KEARNEY CALLED this year's team his best since he took over as head track coach five years ago. "We have a very dedicated group," Kearney said. "They were a very quiet group compared to those I've had in the past, but I guess it was a quiet determination. They've done everything I've ever asked them to do, and more."

Being prominent in local track circles is nothing new for Kearney. He was an outstanding miler during his high school days at Bloomfield Hills Andover. He then attended the University of Michigan on a track scholarship and set a school record in the mile with a 4:06.0 clocking.

His mile record at Andover (4:13.8) still stands, although it was threatened this season by Baron senior Wayne Kern, who came close with a 4:15.6 effort. Kern landed a top spot on the Observer & Eccentric All-Area Track Team.

Groves dominated the All-Area Team, landing seven runners on the first squad. All the more reason to pick Kearney as coach of the year.

O & E All-Area Trackmen

800 Relay: Birmingham Groves (Eric Miller, Jim Klesner, Kent Anderson, Bob Fregolle) 1:30.7; Bloomfield Hills Lahser (Rob Casalou, Paul Slatczynski, John Slatczynski, Tom Mahoney) 1:32.2.

800 Run: Jeff Paulsen (Birmingham Brother Rice) 1:56.9; Marty Downs (Birmingham Groves) 1:58.1.

120 High Hurdles: Jim Klesner (Birmingham Groves) :14.8; Steve Trowbridge (Southfield High) :14.8.

Mile Run: Wayne Kern (Bloomfield Hills Andover) 4:15.6; Dave Wurster (Birmingham Brother Rice) 4:19.8.

100 Dash: Brian Gould (Southfield-Lathrup) :10.1; Sam Genovese (Bloomfield Hills Andover) 4:19.8.

440 Run: Kent Anderson (Birmingham Groves) :51.9; Mike Driscoll (Southfield-Lathrup) :51.2.

100 Low Hurdles: Dave Merritt (Country Day) :19.4; Dan Noakes (Birmingham Groves) :20.4.

Two Mile Run: Jim Grabowski (West Bloomfield) 9:27.8; Paul Mazza (Brother Rice) 9:33.8.

220 Dash: Bob Fregolle (Birmingham Groves) :32.8; Brian Babin (Southfield-Lathrup) :33.8.

Mile Relay: Groves (Jim Carr, Tim Paulsen, Steve Schmidt, Bob Fregolle) 8:27.2; Brother Rice (Chris Nagel, Tom Gorman, Jeff Paulsen, Jim Withersling) 8:37.8.

400 Relay: Lahser (Rob Casalou, Paul Slatczynski, Jim Slatczynski, Tom Mahoney) :43.7; North Farmington (Irv Locklear, Bob Miller, Bob Patck, Mike Soldan) :44.4.

Shot Put: Mark Smith (Cranbrook) 55-4; Mitch Joseph (Southfield-Lathrup) 52-2 1/2.

Long Jump: Eric Fiesland (Andover) 21-2; Jim Yee (Southfield-Lathrup) 21-1 1/2.

High Jump: Bill Breslin (Southfield-Lathrup) 6-4; Tim Paulsen (Birmingham Groves) 6-4.

Pole Vault: John Kreischner (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) 14-7; Scott Bowyer (Farmington High) 13-3.

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