



Players on the Soviet Union bench anxiously watch the action unfold on the court even though they hold a secure lead. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Churchill trackmen repeat as Observerland champions

By DOUG FUNKE

It was a storybook finish. Just before the final event, the mile relay, the lights were turned on the Hilbert Jr. High track, like stage lights before a drama's final act.

Only two teams had a chance to win the meet.

Defending Observerland Relays champion Livonia Churchill led the 14-team field at that point with 29 points. Plymouth Salem, making its first serious challenge ever for the title, had 28.

Churchill finished fourth in the mile relay with its best time of the season, 3:34.1. Salem, in spite of a courageous effort, failed to place.

The Chargers, with 31 points, took home the Observerland Relays championship trophy last weekend for an unprecedented third year in succession.

Redford Bishop Borgess, which won the mile relay, tied Salem (with 28 points) for second place. Livonia Stevenson finished fourth and Livonia Franklin fifth.

As usual, the eighth annual Observerland festival featured individual heroics, new records and even a controversy.

Borgess, which had finished third in the shot put, was later disqualified because one of its entrants in that event was not wearing the exact same uniform as his teammates.

John Mackenzie, the meet director

and coach at Redford Union, said that national federation rules state all individuals on a relay team must wear identical uniforms and that the regulation does not distinguish between track events and field events.

Borgess lost three points with the disqualification, and as things turned out, a share of the championship.

New meet records were set in three of the five field events.

Dennis Ogden, Mark Choma and Scott Kappeler, from Plymouth Salem, combined to total 40 feet in the pole vault.

Redford Union's Andy Mikols, Tom Henry and Mike Petch tossed the shot put a combined distance of 150 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

The trio of North Natick, Issa Khoury and Dave Kietly, from Churchill, teamed for a distance of 417 feet, five inches in the discus.

Two individual Observerland records were shattered and another was equaled in the field events.

Petch, who threw the discus 158 feet, five inches, and Kappeler, who pole vaulted 14 feet, six inches, established new individual standards.

Rich McKibben, from Farmington, tied the high jump record with a leap of six feet, four inches.

However, it was Churchill, which few track people gave much more than an outside chance to repeat as champion, that stood alone in center stage at the end of the competition.

"Total team depth really paid off,"

said Fred Price, coach of the Chargers. "We had only two firsts, but one second, a third, six fourth-places—which some people feel isn't worth the effort—and two fifths."

"I told the kids at the beginning of the year that there are a lot of ways to contribute and Saturday was a prime example."

Price mentioned several key performers—Dennis Sears, Al Stefan, Jamil Mansour and Jeff Churchill in the two mile relay and Chuck Watkins, Bob Monahan, Joe Sturur and Doran Mason in the sprint relays.

"You can't forget the people who have been at the top all year," said Price, who cited Tobin Jones, Dave Kietly, Austin Ryan and Khoury.

"I don't think we were the most talented team there, but we had the most heart," added Price, who also credited assistant coaches Dave Westover and Bob Armstrong for much of the Chargers' success.

Salem, which finished first in the 800-yard relay in addition to the pole vault, surprised quite a few spectators with its unexpectedly strong showing.

Rocks' coach Gary Balconi was ecstatic with his team's effort.

Borgess, in spite of its disappointment in the field events, had an incredible evening during the running portion of the meet. Of the eight track events, the Spartans won three and finished second in three.

Borgess set the pace in the sprint medley relay, the 440-yard relay and the mile relay.

Stevenson and Franklin, each with a key person sidelined with injury, battled for fourth place with the Spartans eventually landing there by a half point.

Stevenson placed first in the two mile and shuttle hurdle relays while Franklin did not win a single event.

OBSERVERLAND RELAYS

Team Relay—1) Livonia Churchill, 31 points; 2) (TIE) Plymouth Salem and Redford Bishop Borgess, 28; 4) Livonia Stevenson, 24; 5) Livonia Franklin, 20; 6) Redford Union, 16; 7) Northville, 12; 8) North Farmington, 10; 9) Garden City East, 6; 10) Farmington, 5; 11) Redford Thornton, 3; 12) Livonia Bentley, 1; 13) (TIE) Plymouth Canton and Farmington Harrison, 0.

Flashes by Event
High Jump—1) North Farmington (Mike Miller, Mike Woyler and Robert Henderson), 48 feet; 2) Stevenson, 48 feet; 3) Farmington, 47; 4) Churchill, 47; 5) RU, 47.

Long Jump—1) Northville (Brian Puum, Myles Lowmyer and Ray Gorn), 37 feet 7 1/2 inches; 2) Salem, 37; 3) Stevenson, 36 1/2; 4) Farmington, 36 1/2; 5) North Farmington, 34 1/2.

Pole Vault—1) Salem (Dennis Ogden, Mark Choma and Scott Kappeler), 40 feet; 2) RU, 38 1/2; 3) Franklin, 36; 4) Churchill, 32; 5) Bishop.

Shot Put—1) RU (Andy Mikols, Tom Henry and Mike Petch), 158 feet 5 1/2 inches; 2) Churchill, 146 1/2; 3) Salem, 139 1/2; 4) Franklin, 129 1/2; 5) Stevenson, 128 1/2.

Discus—1) Churchill (Rich McKibben, Issa Khoury and Dave Kietly), 417 feet five inches; 2) Franklin, 384; 3) Salem, 364 1/2; 4) RU, 344 1/2; 5) Stevenson, 302.

Four mile Relay—1) Churchill (Dennis Pannone, Ken Chasoli, Kevin Paul and Tobin Jones), 18:29; 2) Borgess, 18:35; 3) Northville, 18:36; 4) GC East, 18:41; 5) Salem, 18:43.

800-yard Relay—1) Salem (Dave Booker, Greg Lewis, Curt Lewis and Chris Hildner), 1:32; 2) Borgess, 1:32 1/2; 3) Franklin, 1:34; 4) Churchill, 1:34 1/2; 5) Stevenson, 1:34 1/2.

Two mile Relay—1) Stevenson (Jaine Galardo, Lyle Kellman, Richard Debra and Scott Bauer), 9:18; 2) RU, 9:18 1/2; 3) Franklin, 9:19 1/2; 4) Churchill, 9:20; 5) Salem, 9:20.

Shuttle Hurdle Relay—1) Northville (John Nagle, Ken Weber, Brian Turnbull and Harry Lowmyer), 10:08; 2) GC East, 10:30; 3) Thurston, 10:32; 4) Churchill, 11:02; 5) North Farmington, 11:14.

Sprint Medley Relay—1) Borgess (Don Johnson, Kevin Nelan, Steve Kruglicki and Mark Taylor), 3:26; 2) Franklin, 3:23; 3) Salem, 3:24; 4) Stevenson, 3:25; 5) Churchill, 3:25 1/2.

Shuttle Hurdle Relay—1) Stevenson (Bill Baker, David, Jim Spala and Brian Bowley), 5:47 seconds; 2) Borgess, 5:52; 3) Churchill, 5:52; 4) (TIE) Livonia Franklin and North Farmington, 6:00 1/2.

440-yard Relay—1) Borgess (Tim Turner, Matt Harmon, Matt Kruglicki and Steve Kruglicki), 4:44 seconds; 2) North Farmington, 4:45; 3) Salem, 4:46; 4) Franklin, 4:52; 5) Churchill, 4:57.

One mile Relay—1) Borgess (Kevin Nelan, Mark Taylor, Tom Yelton and Don Johnson), 3:30; 2) Stevenson, 3:31; 3) Franklin, 3:32; 4) Churchill, 3:34; 5) Bentley, 3:35 1/2.

Tall Russians thrash AAU all stars, 84-62

By KEN VOYLES

Picture a coin and you get the idea. On one side was the stoic, disciplined style of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic Junior team. On the other, the Michigan AAU Youth squad.

It promised to be a contrast in basketball-patterned play against individual, free flowing play.

In the end, the Russian style won and won big, 84-62, last weekend at Schoolcraft College. The Michigan team was out-sized, out-classed, out-shot and just plain demolished by the Russian Junior squad, which keyed on size and team work.

The Russian contingent centered on three players—Nikolai Deryugin, Alexander Belostenni and Aleksandr Lyndin. Deryugin stands at six feet 10 inches, while Belostenni is an even seven feet. The two completely dominated the boards, keeping the Michigan team from getting second and third shots. Lyndin, the six-foot captain, is the floor leader of his team.

The Russian squad played an aggressive game. The Michigan team was intimidated early by the Soviets' size and strength. After the first eight minutes of play, the Soviets led 18-4.

Another factor in the Soviet win was the pattern offense they used so effectively. It stunned the Michigan team which had to roll with each changing pattern.

Every time the Soviets came down the court, Lyndin would set up a pattern and then lead his teammates through it.

The Michigan team, on the other hand, was a loosely banded group of individuals, and they played like it. There was no real cohesion in their effort.

By the intermission, the Soviets were up by 10 points, 42-32.

As the second half got underway, it looked like the Michigan team might

fight back. They flashed and danced all over the court attempting to intimidate the Russians with their speed. But the speed the Michigan squad possessed was all show. They didn't use it to any advantage.

Every time they broke down the court the result would be the same—a low percentage shot that usually missed. They lacked good passing.

The Soviets stayed cool and determined in the second half, at times holding a 24 point lead. With eight minutes left the score was 61-44. Time was running out for the Michigan squad.

"It wasn't a very good game for us. We played under our level," said Soviet coach Vladimir Obukhov through an interpreter. "The Michigan team was faster than us, but we dominated the boards and won it there."

Deryugin led all scorers with 25 points, while Belostenni added 20.

Lyndin, 19 years old, sat out much of the game in foul trouble but still managed to score six points. "You see, the two teams styles were very different. Theirs (the Michigan team) was more free lance. We played a pattern offense and stayed with it. They are better individuals but we are better as a team."

"All of our attacks were patterned. We made a few fast breaks but basically stayed in our pattern," Lyndin continued. "It was very nice playing for a crowd that knows basketball so well. We do our best to please the crowd."

Lyndin was on the Russian Junior team last year and visited the United States then. He said that he likes America and the people but that "I still am amazed at times at some things about the country and people."

He added in broken English, "Before the main event, 2,800 basketball fans watched as the Wayne County AAU team completely overran

the Oakland County contingent in a preliminary contest, 104-88.

In the first half, both teams took advantage of the fast break and quick inside shots to score. The Wayne team had a much higher shooting percentage in the half and pumped home 48 points, while holding Oakland to just 29.

The second half proved to be much the same. The Wayne team ripped up the court at both ends, commanding the boards with efficiency.

The Oakland squad tried every trick in the book to catch up from fast break to full-court press. But nothing worked and the Wayne team came away on top. In that second half, Oakland scored 59 points, while Wayne netted 56.

John Garwood, from Detroit De Porres, and Robert McLaurin, from Detroit Mackenzie, led the winning team with 19 and 16 points respectively. Dave Decoster, from Redford Bishop Borgess, and Dave Stone, from Livonia Bentley, put in one bucket apiece, while Plymouth Salem's Tom Ellinghausen went scoreless.

Leading the Oakland scorers were Ray Bell and Andrew Ewing, Bell from Pontiac Central, collected 18 points, while Ewing, a Pontiac Northern player, scored 10, all from the charity line.

Scott Russell, Southfield, had eight points; Ronnie Washington, Birmingham Brother Rice, six; Harold Beardsley, North Farmington, four; and Dave Milburn, Ferndale, two.

"It was a hard type of game to play. Every player on the floor was great and you had to fit in," said Decoster.

"It was a lot of game than when regular season game centered on special breaks. Our big guys just were them apart."

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Jim Nuttall lugs the baton for Farmington during the sprint medley at the Observerland Relays. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)