

1978 All-area Track Team



DON PIETROWSKI
Brother Rice



BOB HAHN
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



ROGER PICKENS
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



TOM FINN
Brother Rice



MIKE MILLER
North Farmington



COURTNEY VANCE
Country Day



AARON KOONCE
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



GARY KLEZAK
Brother Rice



JEFF COHEN
North Farmington



CHRIS MORGAN
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



CHRIS PROWSE
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



ROD LAREES
Brother Rice



RUSS PARKS
Birmingham Groves



KEVIN SPENCER
Troy High



JOHN PALMER
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



MIKE FINN
Brother Rice



DAVE WALMOTH
Southfield High



ANDY LYTLE
Birmingham Groves



MIKE STAMPS
Bloomfield Hills Lahser



RON HOLLAND
North Farmington



HAROLD RUTILA
Farmington High

State champ leads list of talented trackmen

By MARTY BUDNER

Led by a contingent of ten league champions, five regional champions and one state champion, the 1978 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Track Team is a collection of cinder stars.

There was one tie in the voting, which resulted in Lahser senior Chris Morgan and Rice junior Tom Finn sharing the 440-run honors.

Following is a brief profile of each all-area selection, beginning with field event performers and concluding with the coach-of-the-year winner.

LONG JUMP: Kevin Spencer, Troy: A senior, Spencer was the Oakland Athletic League long-jump champion and finished fifth in the state with a leap of 21-5. Spencer helped lead his Troy team to an undefeated dual-meet record (12-0), a league championship and a third-place finish at the regionals. He was considered by Colt coach John Bancroft as one of the county's best.

HIGH JUMP: Jon English, Birmingham Brother Rice: Only a junior, English tied for third in the regional meet, but failed to place at the state meet. He was an all-Catholic selection, was first in the Public School League-Catholic School League playoff and was Rice's top jumper all season.

POLE VAULT: Mike Finn, Birmingham Brother Rice: Finn was one of two Warrior vaulters (Larry Varley was the other) who jumped at least 13 feet. A senior, Finn won his region and placed fifth at the state meet.

SHOT PUT: Dave Walmoth, Southfield: For two straight years Walmoth was the Southeastern Michigan Association champ. The senior putter owns the school record of 56-8 and finished fourth in the state. "He's been a consistent performer for us the past two years, and he's scored in all of our major meets," said Southfield coach Chuck Balog.

DISCUS: Andy Lytle, Birmingham Groves: A senior, Lytle was fifth in the state, and also fifth in the Midwest in his event. Groves is a member of the Metro-Suburban Activities Association.

TWO MILE: Bob Church, Southfield: A senior, Church owns the Blue Jay school record of 9:20.8, and ran anything from the half-mile on up. He was his league distance champion and, according to his coach, had an "outstanding" two-years with the varsity.

LOW HURDLES: Mike Miller, North Farmington: Miller set a school (:38.0), league (:38.1) and regional (:38.0) records and was third in the Oakland County meet. The junior hurdler has never lost in dual-meet competition and accumulated almost 145 points this spring. Miller was fifth at the state with a time of :38.42.

880 RELAY: Bloomfield Hills Lahser: The four members of Lahser's 880-relay crew were: Bob Hahn, Chris Morgan, Roger Pickens and Mike

Stamps—all seniors. The foursome combined to win their regional, the Ambrose Relays, Rice Relays and the Metro-Suburban Activities Association title.

880 RUN: Don Pietrowski, Birmingham Brother Rice: A junior, Pietrowski was second in the regionals and fourth in the state with a time of 1:56.8. He was an all-Catholic League selection.

100-YARD DASH: Jeff Cohen, North Farmington: Cohen was first in the regionals and first in the Northwest Suburban League with identical times of :10.3. Cohen, who tied the school record of :10.0, was first or second all year, losing only to teammate Mike Miller.

HIGH HURDLES: Courtney Vance, Detroit Country Day: Vance, who will be attending Harvard next year, was the state class D hurdle champion with a time of :14.5. He was the Metro Conference League champion and placed in the state three of his four years with the Country Day track team. He has also leaped 21-4½ in the long jump.

440 RUN: (tie) Chris Morgan, Bloomfield Hills Lahser-Tom Finn, Birmingham Brother Rice: Finn, a junior, was the fastest area runner at the Oakland County meet. A senior, Morgan tied with Finn at the regionals as each logged a time of :50.6.

MILE RUN: Harold Rutila, Farmington: Rutila was Inter Lakes League champion in both the mile and two mile runs. He was second in the county with a time of 4:21.6, and fifth in the two mile at the Mansfield Relays with a time of 9:25.2.

440 RELAY: Bloomfield Hills Lahser: The 440-relay team consisted of Knights Aaron Koonce (sophomore), John Palmer (sophomore), Chris Prowse (junior) and Roger Pickens (senior). They won the MSAA league title, and finished second at the regionals with a time of :44.0.

220 DASH: Russ Parks, Birmingham Groves: A junior, Parks was one of the leaders on the O&E's best track times list all season. His time of :22.8 tied him with Mike Stamps of Lahser on the final listing.

MILE RELAY: Birmingham Brother Rice: The Rice relay team consisted of juniors Tom Finn, Rod Larees, and Don Pietrowski, and senior Gary Klezak. They were second in Oakland County and set a school record time of 3:23.5.

COACH OF THE YEAR: Ron Holland, North Farmington: Holland, who just completed his 17th year of coaching at North Farmington, guided his team to a 9-3 overall record. The team was second in the Northwest Suburban League to Livonia Franklin, and second in the regionals to Livonia Churchill. "This year is the closest we've ever come to a championship—and with a team of mostly juniors," said Holland. "We think that next year we should have a real fine team providing everyone comes back."

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