Southfield finishes 3rd in track regional

Troy High School literally showed its strength in winning the 15-team boys' Class A regional track meet over the weekend at West Bloomfield High School.

The Colts, a perennial Oakland County track power, swept the top three places in the discus and took the first two places in the shot put. Troy also won the mile relay to finish with 94 total points.

Birmingham Brother Rice, the Catholic League Central Division champion, was second with 89 points and Southfield was third with 81½ points.

"Going into the meet those (Troy, Southfield and Rice) were the three favorites to win," said Troy coach John Bancroft. "We just happened to come out on top that day.

"And it was nice because Southfield beat us in a dual meet, and it's always nice to beat Brother Rice," he said.

The first- and second-place finishers in each event automatically qualified for the Class A state meet, which will be June 6 at Flint Northwestern High School. An individual who made a predetermined state cutoff mark in a particular event also qualified.

The Colts had five individual qualifiers and one relay team that qualified.

Bradd Morse won the discus and finished second in the shot put, and Al Meacham was second in the discus. Derrick Perry won the shot put.

• In the 400-meter run, Jack Johansson was second.

Troy's winning 1,600-meter relay team included Rob McAdow, Johansson, Darrin Deese and Daryl Strecker.

SOUTHFIELD, which won the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) dual-meet title, won both the 800- and 400-meter relays. In addition, the Blue Jays also won three individual events.

Terrence Robinson and Cornelius Edwards won the 100-meter dash and 110-yard hurdles, respectively. Glenn Williams took the 300-meter low hurdles.

Southfield's second-place finishers included Edwards in the low hurdles and Robinson in the 200-meter dash.

The Blue Jay 800-meter relay team included Darryl Sailor, Mark Harris, Edwards and Robinson. The 400-meter relay team was Robinson, Edwards, Harris and Mike McCaskill.

Rice's state qualifiers included Ward Bobitz in the 800-meter run, Joe Davey in the 3,200-meter run, Matthew Sennett in the pole vault and John McCleary in the long jump. The Warriors were second in both the 800- and mile-relays.

The only other individual state qualifier from the meet was David Krafsur of Southfield-Lathrup. Although he finished third in the 3,200-meter run, he made the state cutoff time in that event to advance to the state meet.

GIRLS' TRACK

West Bloomfield had an easy time winning the girls' state Class A regional track title over the weekend on its own course.

The Laker girls swept the top three places in the 800-meter run and took the first two 200-meter low hurdle spots in mustering 113 total points. Royal Oak Kimball was a distant second with 62.8 points, followed by Bloomfield Hills Lahser with 54.

Troy Athens was fourth with 50 points, and Troy was sixth with 44 points. Other area teams that participated were Seaholm (seventh), Southfield (eighth), Groves (10th), Marian (11th), Andover (12th) and Southfield-Lathrup (13th).

The top two placers in each event qualified for the state meet June 6.

The Laker 800-meter sweep was led by Kelly Geiger with a time of 2:19.09. Lisa Doyle was second and Barb Allen third.

Mary Mickley won the 200-meter hurdles, and Trish Palmer was second in that event. Nici Low was a double winner for the Lakers (discus and shot put), while Geiger also won the 1,600-meter run.

West Bloomfield's mile relay team of Geger, Allen, Karen Kocher and Doyle won, finishing one second ahead of Southfield.

Other area first-place winners were Athens' Molly Acton (100- and 200-meter dashes), Troy's Sue Nash (400 meters) and Kim Davis (long jump) and Seaholm's Karyn Finucan (high jump).

Lahser's winning 400-meter relay team included Karen Blechinger, Carrie Osborne, Vicki Matz and Kecia Green.

Green was second in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and Knight teammate Mini Baker was second in the 1,600-meter distance run.

Seaholm's Mary Ballantyne (400-meters), Groves' Nancy Allen (shot put) and Athens' Terri Smith (high jump) also qualified for the state meet with second-place finishes.

POTTERVILLE REGIONAL

Southfield Christian finished third among 13 teams at the Potterville girls' track Class D regional meet over the weekend.

Fowler won with 84 points, followed by Battle Creek St. Phillip's (69) and Southfield Christian (59).

The Eagles will have six runners represented at the Class D meet.

Colleen Weber was second in the 110-yard hurdles (16.7), and Michelle Paul was second in the 100-yard dash. Shelly Spratt was third in the 880-yard run and qualified for the state meet with a cutoff time of 2:27.6.

Southfield Christian's mile relay team of Inger Lundin, Spratt, Diana Fernando and Kim Raymond placed second with a time of 4:17.6.

The Eagles hiked their dual-meet record to 20-1 with an 89-33 victory Monday over Ann Arbor Greenhills.

Paul, Spratt, Weber and Lauri Attard were individual winners.

Southfield Christian also won all three relays. The winning 440 team included Paul, Sandy Conrad, Attard and Weber.

Top bowler

And the good news just kept on coming — or so it seemed to John Watkins, a 32-year-old Southfield resident.

In the space of seven days in May, three momentous events occurred in Watkins' life. First, Watkins and his wife Karen became parents of twin daughters, Melissa and Jessica. Then, Watkins was promoted to "head mechanic" at Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington Hills. Then, on May 17, he bowled a perfect 300 game in a summer trio league at at Bel-Aire Lanes, also in Farmington Hills.

Watkins, who grew up in Livonia, finished his four-game series with a score of 894. He carries a 202 average.

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