

Charley Morse Leads Clarenceville To State Prep Gymnastics Crown



Three years ago, Charles Thompson introduced gymnastics as a varsity sport at Clarenceville High School.

Today, Clarenceville boasts the state champs in gymnastics—the first time any Trojan team has ruled the roost in state competition.

In a repeat of the duel before in the Southeastern League, Clarenceville barely beat out North Farmington, 144 1/2-139, in Saturday's state meet in Hillsdale.

Far back came Taylor Kennedy with 65 points. Still farther back trailed Ionia, Ann Arbor and the 25 other schools which battled for honors.

The brilliance of Charles Morse, Jim McCannan and Barry Frechette made it possible for Clarenceville to enjoy its greatest sports hour in the school's history.

Morse entered five events and won all, giving him nine state titles in two years of action. He accounted for 55 points on his own.

McCannan entered seven events and placed in all for 45 points. Frechette picked up 23 more points for the Trojans.

now to more fame in college. Morse's victories at Hillsdale came in the Still Rings, the Horizontal Bar, the Parallel Bar, the Side Horse and All Events.



JIM RYON, the world's greatest miler and two-miler from the University of Kansas, coasts home an easy winner in the two-mile event at the NCAA indoor championships last weekend in Cobo Arena.

"He was simply tremendous," said Coach Thompson, who also couldn't hold back his raves about McCannan and Frechette and the other members of the Clarenceville team.

Only Clarenceville and North Farmington among Observer-Weekend high schools fielded varsity teams in gymnastics, several other area schools have indicated they may sponsor teams in the near future.

EIGHT EVENTS make up the field of competition in gymnastics. Here's how the Clarenceville and North Farmington

entries placed and won points in the state meet:

HORIZONTAL BAR: Champion—Charles Morse (C), 4—Jim McCannan (C), 6—Wally Peterson (NF), 5—Tom Stanton (C), 10—Dave Purdy (NF).

PARALLEL BAR: Champion—Morse (C), 3—Terry Boys (NF), 4—J. McCannan (C), 5—Barry Frechette (C), 6—Tom McArt (NF), 7—Randy Strachan (C).

TUMBLING: 3—Dennis Spencer (NF), 4—T. McArt (NF), 5—Ted Ortwine (NF), 10—J. McCannan (C).

TRAMPOLINE: 5—Dan Erickson (NF), 6—Tom Werthe (NF), 8—Dan Paulson (C), 9—Rick Fredrick (C).

STILL RINGS: Champion—Morse (C), 2—J. McCannan (C), 3—Neil Boff (NF), 4—Frechette (C), 5—Mike McCannan (C), 6—Dave General (NF).

FREE EXERCISE: Champion—McArt (NF), 2—Dwayne Ortwine (NF), 6—J. McCannan (C), 8—Boys (NF), 10—Mike Cannon (C).

LONG HORSE: Co-Champions—Terry Boys (NF) and John Peoples (NF), 3—J. McCannan (C), 5—Fredrick (C), 6—Frechette (C), 8—Dennis Spencer (NF).

SIDE HORSE: Champion—Morse (C), 2—Tom Paulson (C), 4—Tom Huber (NF), 6—Bill Page (NF), 7—Mark Kujawa (NF), 8—Frechette (C).

ALL EVENTS: Champion—Morse (C) 2—J. McCannan (C), 3—Tom McArt (NF).

Lions Like What They See In Star Rookie

A side issue marked the 1968 NCAA indoor track championships at Cobo Arena last weekend—a side issue, that is, for the Detroit Lions and their loyal supporters.

Included in the throng of stars performing was Earl McCullough, the Lions' first draft pick from Southern California.

McCullough, a brilliant running back on the gridiron, also ranks among the premier hurdlers in the college ranks.

He barely failed in the defense of his 60-yard high hurdle title in the NCAA when Richmond Flowers of Tennessee, another football star, got the verdict in a photo finish in seven seconds flat to tie the meet record.

On hand at Cobo among the 10,000 fans each night were General Manager Russ Thomas and other Lions officials. They're like to sign up McCullough post haste.

But McCullough has indicated he may delay his joining the Lions. This is an Olympic year and the 1968 games aren't scheduled until October in Mexico City.

SHOULD McCULLOUGH elect to run for the U.S., he'd miss at least five or six Lions' regular-season games, plus all the pre-season work.

"I want to shoot for a world record first," he told reporters at Cobo Arena.

Conceivably, if he attains the mark during the outdoor season he could be wirtless the Lions when they assemble at Cranbrook in July.

His gain to the Lions, of course, would be a loss to the U.S.

The 1968 meet at Cobo produced two double winners—Jim Ryon, the No. 1 distance runner in the country, and Bob Beamon.

Ryon of Kansas sprinted on the final two laps to dethrone Gerry Lindgren of Washington as the two-mile champ in 8:38.0 and then he came back to win the mile in the relatively slow time of 4:05.8.

Beamon of the University of Texas at El Paso set a world record of 67 feet 2 3/4 inches to win the broad jump and then he came back to win the triple jump, which is better known as the hop, step and jump.

CHARLEY'S FIRST FIRST—Clarenceville High's state champion gymnast Charley Morse (top of pyramid) went to the winner's stand five times to receive first place honors Saturday in the state prep finals at Hillsdale. Here he received his parallel bars medal. Others, reading left to right: down the scale, are Roger Toldorf (second of Alpina), Terry Boys (third of North Farmington), Jim McCannan (fourth) and Barry Frechette (fifth), both of Clarenceville.

Plymouth's McCord Wins State Swimming Title

It was a fitting away to end a perfect season for Pat McCord of Plymouth High.

Unbeaten in regular-season competition and in the league meet, McCord climaxed his 1968 swimming campaign Saturday by capturing the 100-yard butterfly final in the state-class A meet at the University of Michigan.

Thus, for the second year in a row McCord had figured in a state title.

In 1967 he was a member of the Plymouth state champs in the medley relay.

But this time, the medley on which he performed was able to finish only tenth.

In capturing the butterfly, McCord outdistanced the field in the excellent time of 53.4 seconds.

Pat, who'll be 18 in July, has vied for three years on the varsity at Plymouth. Now he's looking ahead to college and at the moment it would appear that Michigan State will be his choice.



In the scoring, picking up just a single point when Dave Key swam 12th in the 200-yard free style.

McCord teamed with Craig Nelsaert, Mike Smith and John Norman on the Plymouth medley relay. The school's free style relay of Chick Porter, Mark Whitaker, Wally Beglinger and Bob Ritzen also came in with a tenth-place finish as Southfield won the race with a state record of 3:22.8, compared to the old mark of 3:29.2.

Plymouth also picked up points when Chick Porter placed eighth in the 50-yard free style and Bob Ritzen was clocked in tenth spot in the individual medley.

The six-year-old record of ex-Redford Union Highstar Bill Truesdell went by the boards in the 100-yard breaststroke when Larry Price of Birmingham Groves triumphed in 1:02.5. Truesdell's record was 1:03.

NICE GOING, PAT—That's Coach Dick Grezinger's comment to Pat McCord after the unbeaten butterfly stroke artist had won the Michigan State championship in his specialty. Pat gave Plymouth High's its lone triumph in the annual state meet.

PLYMOUTH GARNERED 34 points in the team race in which Grosse Pointe squeezed out the title by outscoring St. Joseph in a thrilling finish, 81-78.

Bentley was the only other Observerland team to figure

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