

Devils Tie for First In State Championships

Before the 1962 track season, Grosse Pointe Coach Jim Curlett set five goals for his team to meet. The Devils were supposed to win the mile relay at the Huron Relays, win the BCL title, win the Monroe Relays, beat tough Pontiac Central, and win their regional meet. All these goals were met.

Last Saturday, however, Grosse Pointe won a title nobody even thought of mentioning at the start of the year. The Devils tied for the Michigan State Championship — the first time a Grosse Pointe team has ever won this award.

In what was probably the understatement of the year, Coach Curlett said, "We are very proud of these boys."

About 2,000 fans sat through the cold wind and rain to see the exciting finish of the 83-team meet. With one event to go, the mile relay, favored Flint Northern was winning the meet, Grosse Pointe was second, and Muskegon Heights third.

Detroit Thurston won the relay with a time of 3:28.1. Muskegon Heights was second, and Grosse Pointe's foursome of Bill Wernet, Tom Raven, Bob Sherwood and George Thomas was third at 3:29.7.

This made the final meet standings: Grosse Pointe and Muskegon Heights first with 30 points each; Flint Northern, the defending champion, third with 27; and then Detroit Eastern 20; Muskegon, 17; Detroit Thurston, 15-6-11; Flint Central, 15; Wyandotte, 14; Pontiac 13-1-11; and Detroit Mumford, 13.

Before the meet, Coach Curlett said, "I thought we had a chance to win." He thought the Devils would score between 25 and 35 points. He realized he did not have the individual stars to take many first places, but hoped to place in several events. His prediction came through when George Thomas took the only first place for the Devils, tying the 880 with Mumford's Theodosius McBurrows at

1:57.9. This was 3.1 seconds faster than his tremendous previous record time of 2:01.

Breaks Own Record

Coach Curlett classified Thomas' run and Tom Spiewak's shotput as the two most outstanding performances for the Devils. Tom threw the steel ball 54'2" to break his own varsity record by a foot and to take second place behind Eastern's Bill Yearby.

"For a boy of Tom's size that's a fantastic throw," said Coach Curlett.

"Probably the most outstanding performance of the meet," said Coach Curlett, "was that mile run."

Eastern's Louis Scott ran the four laps in an amazing 4:17.4 to break the 4-year-old state record of 4:21.8 set by former Grosse Pointe Rem Purdy.

Other Winners

Other Devil winners included Steve Schreiber, who was fourth in the 220-yard dash and sixth in the 100; Tom Raven, fourth in the 440; and the 880 or speed relay team of Schreiber, Terry, Tom Raven and Bob Sherwood which tied for fourth with Mumford.

Muskegon Heights got its points on a second in a speed relay, first in the 100-yard dash, second in the 440-yard run, and a second place tie for the pole vault.

At the spring sports roundup last week, in his first year as head track coach, Coach Curlett said "I'd like to do in track what Coach Wheeler has done in swimming."

The State Championship seems to be a step in the right direction.