

# Class B Schools Set Fast Pace, River Rouge Wins Tea

# Class A Finals of Sparta

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If Friday's Class B results are any indication, outstanding performances will be the rule rather than the exception at the Class A section of The State Journal - Spartan High School Relays today.

The Class A portion opened in Michigan State's Jenison Fieldhouse this afternoon with finals in the two-mile relay, shot put and pole vault plus most preliminaries. The rest of the finals will be held tonight, starting at 6 p.m.

Admission at the gate is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for any student.

The meet opened Friday before a crowd of 2,000 and the Class B schools produced results that were not expected so early in the season. As a rule, most of the winning

marks were excellent and the Class A athletes will have to do some fast stepping to better them today.

As expected, River Rouge won the Class B title handily but unexpectedly, the Panthers' Willie Betts failed to win in the hurdles.

Betts was upset by Willow Run's Lamar Miller, who wound up as the meet's outstanding Class B athlete by

capturing both hurdles in addition to placing third in the broad jump.

Betts, however, did pick up a gold medal when he anchored River Rouge to a first place in the shuttle hurdle relay. The Panthers also won the 880-yard relay and the broad jump but picked up most of their points with five second places.



Sat., April 4, 1964

SECTION B



**LEAPING PANTHER**—Dave Shephard of Stockbridge clears 5 feet, 11 inches in Class B action at The State Journal-Spartan High School Relays Friday night. The Panther star later won the event at 6 feet, 1 inch to pick up all of his team's points in the meet. Another team nicknamed Panthers, River Rouge, won the team competition at Jenison Fieldhouse. (State Journal Photo)

While it appeared athletes from the east side of the state took the top honors, namely River Rouge and Willow Run, athletes from the west side of Michigan also did well.

Besides the victory by Grand Rapids Forest Hills, Gary Knapp in the 60, Ken Coats of Wyoming Park ran an impressive 4:29.4 in the one-mile run and Jim Stewart of Lakeview won the pole vault and placed fourth in the low hurdles. Battle Creek Springfield won the mile relay in a fast 3:38.6.

Stewart was competing in Jenison for the second time in two weeks, having been a member of Lakeview's basketball team that lost in the Class B finals to River Rouge.

## Relays Team Scoring

The team scoring in the Class B bracket of the Lansing State Journal - Michigan State High School Relays:

River Rouge 40½, Willow Run, 9, Wyoming Park 14, Detroit Theran West 13, Haslett 13, Lakeview, 10.

Lansing O'Rafferty 9, Fremont 8, Battle Creek Springfield 8, Grand Rapids Forest Hills 7½, Vassar 7, Oxford 6, Stockbridge 5, Battle Creek Pennfield 5, Grand Rapids Kelloggsville 4½, Reese 4, St. Louis 4, Battle Creek Harper Creek 4.

Holland West Ottawa 3, Ionia 3, Livonia Clarenceville 2, Dearborn St. Alphonsus 2, Fenton 2, Lowell 1, Jackson St. Johns ½.

Miller, accounted for 15 of the 18 points scored by running up Willow Run while Wyoming Park took third with 14 points, only one more than the 13 scored by Detroit Lakes West and Haslett.

From the start of competition in the afternoon to the final event at night, the Class B athletes showed that they were ready for a banner outdoor season.

Miller, whose father is the Willow Run coach, started the outstanding performance by clocking a fast :08.2 in his heat of the 70-yard low hurdles, a top high school mark. Betts equalled that performance in the semifinals but Miller repeated it in the final to win with Betts second.

Betts really showed that the Jenison track was fast when he posted an :08.7 in the 70-yard high hurdles in his semifinal heat, one of the fastest times ever run by a high school boy. He couldn't repeat it in the final, however, and lost to Miller, who also turned in an :08.7.

Gary Knapp of Grand Rapids Forest Hills and Boice Bowman of River Rouge clocked fast times of :06.4 in heats of

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the 60-yard dash. Neither repeated that time in the final as Knapp edged the Panther ace in :06.5.

For a time it appeared that River Rouge was going to win the team title without capturing an individual event, but the Panthers broke through for some gold medals with a 1:36.4 clocking for first place in the 880-yard relay.

Bowman, who led the Panthers to victory in the 880 relay, was the busiest Rouge athlete of the night, even though Betts ran a total of eight races in the afternoon and evening.

Besides running in the 880 relay and taking second in the 60-yard dash, Bowman also won the broad jump at 21 feet, 5½ inches and ran a leg on the winning shuttle hurdle relay team. Altogether he scored 12½ points for the second best individual performance of the meet.

In addition to the showings of Betts and Bowman, Rouge also got a second from Sam Campbell in the shotput and a second place from a two-mile relay team composed of two freshmen and two sophomores.