

Haslett 10th in Huron Relays

River Rouge Back in Winning Stride

By HAL BATEMAN
Journal Sports Writer

YPSILANTI — Whether it is in basketball or track, River Rouge just keeps rolling along.

Fresh from a fifth straight Class B state basketball title at Michigan State's Jenison Fieldhouse last Saturday, the Panthers track team claimed another championship here Friday night by winning the Class B team crown at the Huron Relays.

The Class A athletes take over today with Eastern, East Lansing, Everett and Sexton among the 57 schools taking part.

River Rouge doesn't have the brilliant stars of past

years, such as Willie Betts and Boice Bowman, but the Panthers of coach Roy Krueger do have depth and that was enough to easily win the team title at Bowen Fieldhouse on the Eastern Michigan University campus.

It's also depth that makes the Panthers the strong early favorite to repeat as Class B team champion in The State Journal-Spartan Relays Friday at Jenison.

River Rouge scored 41 points to win its first Huron Relays title since 1963. The Panthers were far down in the standings last year but there was a simple reason for it. The state basketball finals were held the same day as the Huron Relays

last season and basketball players form the nucleus of most Panther track teams.

Several of the basketball players who helped Rouge to victory last Saturday also were prominent here as Sam Campbell, Rolando Shorey and Al Taliaferro contributed key points.

A Canadian school, Kennedy Collegiate of Windsor, was second with 32 points while the best area showing was turned in by Haslett, which took 10th with 11 points. Howell was right behind by tying for 12th with 8 points.

Rouge won two events, the broad jump relay and the shuttle hurdles relay, and also took two seconds and two

fourths. The best Panther showing was in the shuttle hurdles where they tied the meet record with a :29.8.

Although neither Haslett nor Howell took any firsts, each placed high in several events. Haslett came up with the best area showing when Bill Fine-out was second in the 60-yard dash with a :06.6 effort, the same time as the winner, Haslett also took third in the sprint medley relay with the quartet of Randy Goodman, Steve Groom, Don Richards and Jack Bamford.

Gary Kowalske paced the Highlanders showing. He was third in the 60 with a :06.7 and also helped Howell take

third in the broad jump relay with a 20 foot, one inch effort, second best jump of the day. Teaming with him in the broad jump relay was Mike Yost, who jumped 19 feet, three-quarters of an inch.

Two of the top performers of the meet were made by athletes who will compete in The State Journal-Spartan Relays next week.

Mike McDonough of Detroit Lutheran West won the pole vault at 13 feet, 6 inches, one of the best marks ever posted by a Michigan high school athlete, while Bob Johnson helped Vassar win the shot relay with a heave of 57 feet, 5 inches, an effort that ranks among the best in the state prep history.



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jeffhollobaugh

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