

Thursday, May 25, 1967

League Meet

Battle Creek Speedsters Win Title

FINAL STANDINGS

Battle Creek 18, ANN ARBOR 16, Kalamazoo 14, Lansing Eastern 6, Lansing Sexton 6, Jackson 2.

TEAM POINT CHART

Battle Creek 105½, ANN ARBOR 78, Kalamazoo 61, Lansing Eastern 36, Jackson 28, Lansing Sexton 27½.

By Joe Broshear

BATTLE CREEK—There's an old saying that "records are made to be broken" and if the results of last night's Six-A League track meet are any indication the adage has plenty of high school believers.

Eight records were either improved or tied as 1,000 fans watched under ideal conditions at C. W. Post Field.

Three teams—Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, and Kalamazoo Central—entered the meet with a 4-1 Six-A League dual meet record and eight points earned toward the championship.

One team, Battle Creek Central, came out of the conference gathering with the title as the defending champion Pioneers finished in the runnerup spot with 78 points, 27½ behind the Bearcats.

That 105½-point total earned the Bearcats an additional 10 points toward the title while the league meet runnerup picked up eight points and third place was good for six points.

The most spectacular mark of all was entered by Pioneer Larry Robards who week by week seems on the way to becoming Ann Arbor High's first entry into outer space.

The soaring Robards cleared the bar at 14 feet one inch.

Only Saturday, Robards had set a regional, field, and Pioneer record of 13 feet 11 inches and when the slender senior last night looked up to see the wavering bar still holding he had accomplished the second-highest vault in Michigan high school history.

Only Farmington's Ron Shortt, with his 14-5 effort in the state meet at Ann Arbor last year, has gone higher.

Robards wasn't the only Pioneer to turn in an outstanding job.

Distanceman Joe Tyner set a blistering pace all the way to win the new two-mile in 9:39.7 and set automatic Ann Arbor High and Six-A League records.

Teammate Pat Doran had the distinction of lowering the second-oldest record on the books when he clipped three-tenth of a second off the 1:57.4 half-mile mark that Kalamazoo Central's Bob Lake set in 1956.

Battle Creek's Eugene Brown, a top threat for a state dash title, tied two Six-A bests when he won the century in :09.7 and followed with a first in the 220 in :21.7.

Bearcat Larry Evans also tied a record when he zipped through the 180-yard low hurdles in :19.2 while Battle Creek also entered new marks in the relays.

Andy Johnson, Larry Evans, Jessie Wright and Brown teamed for a 1:28 clocking in the 880 events to lower Ann Arbor High's year-old standard by four-tenths of a second.

In the mile relay, Wright was back again, as anchorman, to combine with Jerry Miller, John McDonald and Dave Patton and snatch almost certain victory from Kalamazoo in the final 25 yards on a time of 3:24.1, nine-tenths of a second quicker than the Kalamazoo quartet managed the 1760 yards a year ago.

The relays, which in the conference finale counted twice as much as individual first, really hurt the Pioneer cause with a total of 24 points in the Bearcat column. Ann Arbor earned 14.

That 10-point deficit coupled with Evans hurdles wins and Brown's sweep of the dashes was just too much.

As Coach Jim Love was later to remark, the Pioneers "really performed."

In addition to records by Doran, Robards and Tyner, several members of the Ann Arbor contingent turned in their best efforts of the season including John Thornton, Pat Shipstead, Chris Portman and Pat Doran in the mile relay who stopped the watches at 3:26.2, only a second behind the old record.

Steve Gates turned in a total of eight points with his thirds in both hurdles despite having fractured an ankle only a few weeks ago.

John Stone, two-mile pacesetter most of the regular season, was hampered by a recent respiratory disorder which likely cost the Pioneers a placing in the meet's opening event.

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