

'It's Fabulous,' Says Blanchard

Looking like as smooth a team to come along since lettuce and tomato, Pioneer High's two-mile relay team brought back the bacon with a first place finish in the Mansfield (Ohio) Relays over the weekend.

Don Newman, Dan Johnson, and the Schoch twins — Palmer and Lincoln — sped to a 8:04.4 finish, :00.8 better than second place Hill Park of Hamilton, Canada.

The Pioneers actually weren't the first team to cross the wire, but the squad that finished first committed two fouls and was disqualified.

It was an especially sweet victory for coach Don Blanchard and his assistant Don Sleeman. "This is the first time an Ann Arbor team has placed in three years," Blanchard said, "and to do it with a win is really great. It was just fabulous."

The 8:04.4 finish, which earned the Pioneers a 24-inch trophy, was the third fastest time recorded in the history of the Relays.

All four squad members put together superb efforts. Newman ran his leg in 2:02.8, Johnson finished in 2:02.4, Palmer

Schoch ran 2:00.8, and Lincoln anchored with a 1:58.4 performance.

The Pioneer mile relay team also turned in a creditable performance, finishing eighth. Newman and the Schoch brothers competed, as did hard-working Rick Mial. The milers ran a 3:29.8 race.

The relay squad turned out to be the only Ann Arbor team or individual good enough to place, but numerous Michigan prepsters turned in notable performances.

The frigid weather — 32 degrees and light snow — prevented the competitors from setting the usual eight or nine new records. Of the three marks that were shattered, however, Michigan performers were responsible for two.

Kevin Reabe, Kettering Waterford, traversed the half mile in 1:53.6 to chop a tenth of a second off last year's record performance.

Gerrade Pettus of Belleville, added a quarter-inch to the high jump record by leaping 6-8 1/4.

Les Nagy of Niles McKinley ran the mile in 4:13.8 topping a 4:16.5 mark set last year.

Cleveland Glenville took the team win with 40 points, 25 of which came in three events. Glenville got 10 points for its first in the 880-yard relay. Fred Lane contributed 15 points, eight for his second place in the high hurdles and seven for a third in the 180-yard low hurdles.

Pontiac Northern was second with 28 points. Melvin Reeves was the only winner to take double victories. He won the high hurdles and 180-yard low hurdles events. Pontiac took second, behind Dayton Roosevelt, in the 480-yard shuttle hurdle relay.

Indianapolis Crispus Attucks finished third with 24, followed by Cleveland Heights 23 and Grosse Pointe North 20.

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