

# 'B' Trackmen Good Company for Area's 'A' Stars

By LEN HOYES

A lot of things were emphasized to a lot of people Wednesday night in the first Greater Flint Track and Field Invitational at Houston Stadium.

Some were wondering if anyone from Class B could do well against Class A competition.

ROGER DOWNING, a slim senior hurdler from Holly, took care of that question by winning the highs in the excellent time of 14.5 seconds and the lows in 20.1.

He won the highs in a field which had five placers from last week's state meets and was only one-tenth of a second slower than the Class A state champ. His low hurdles time was five-tenths slower.

He had good company in eight other Class B participants who placed among the top five. One Class C entrant placed

and another from Class D showed he wasn't embarrassed by the so-called "big guns."

Of 26 Greater Flint schools who had at least one invitation, 19 had places among the top five. Of the seven who missed, two had only one invitee and they failed to show because of illness and another event.

ALTHOUGH cool temperatures and the threat of rain didn't enhance the atmosphere for spectators, an estimated 600 paid to watch and proved that high school track can pay its way in the proper setting.

One veteran city high school coach said, "That's the best crowd of paid spectators we've had here all season."

The trackmen made the spectators more comfortable with a series of good performances, most notably Rich Hahn's 1:55.2 victory in the half mile and Grand Blanc teammate Mike Pier-

ce's 4:17.9 mile. They were the fastest prep efforts in Houston Stadium's five-year history and joined Downing's high hurdles time as the meet's top performances.

Coming only four days after last Saturday's state meets, the Greater Flint show fueled some coaches' claims

that Michigan's prep track season ends too early. Just as the performances are getting good, school's out.

ANYONE WHO watched the Class A state meet had to cheer Kearsley's victory in the 880 relay Wednesday. The foursome of Joe Klobuchar, Jeff Dosh,

Stan Smith and Paul Turovich won in 1:30.4 to atone for a bad break last Saturday when they were ahead in the state meet but got wiped out by a poor baton exchange.

Klobuchar came back to chase Southwestern's Ralph Smith to exceptional times of 9.9 and 21.6 in the 100 and 220-yard dashes, respectively.

Smith's double again pointed up the possibility of having the No. 1 dashman in the Flint area next spring.

Also emphasized Wednesday was the lack of field event strength among the city schools. Take away the long jump where state champ Delma Williams of Northwestern won in 21-4½ and the city schools got only one place — a tie for fourth — in the shot put, pole vault and high jump.

CLIO'S BOB Siebecker won the high jump at 6-2, Beecher's Bryce Bewley

took the shot with a good toss of 54-2¾ and Kearsley's Smith won the vault at 12-8.

Three other events went as predicted.

Northern replayed its state mile relay victory with Don Forte, Joe Young, Brod Crump and Mel Kelly doing 3:23.4. Young replaced John Butler who chose not to run.

Northwestern's Les Clerkley copped the 440 in 50.0 and Southwestern's Sam Torres had the two-mile to himself in 9:27.2.

Among the Class B schools, Holly placed in seven of 14 events and Mt. Morris's Mike Wood placed in two. Bendle's Guy Hazzard was third in the high hurdles, the only Class C entry to place. Ed Robinson, state champ from Michigan School for the Deaf, was the only Class D entry to place. He was fifth in the 100 and 220.

## Central to Open Play in Midland Tournament

Central High's baseball team hits the tournament trail Friday in the Midland Invitational.

Jim Fuller's Tribe will oppose Midland Dow at 10:30 Friday morning at Dow High school. A victory will send it into quarterfinals' action against either Ferndale or Hoiland at 4 o'clock.

The tourney has attracted 16 teams throughout the state, including Mount

Pleasant, Saginaw MacArthur, Hamtramck, Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids East Christian, Grand Rapids Central, L'Anse Creuse, Bay City Handy, Inkster, Alpena and Wyandotte.

Semifinals are slated Saturday at 10:30 a.m., the finals at 1:30. Midland, Saginaw Valley Conference Eastern King, is defending champion.



END OF FINE YEAR — Delma Williams of Northwestern High lands in the pit with a 21-4½ long jump to win the Greater Flint Invitational Wednesday night. He won city, Saginaw Valley West and state crowns, too, during the year. (Journal Photos by Barry Edmonds)



Bryce Bewley of Beecher Flings Shot 54-2¾

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