

Pioneers' Performance Improved

(Special to The News)

EAST LANSING — Pioneer High Coach Don Blanchard has said that the main concern in track is individual improvement and that's something his athletes showed at the East Lansing Relays yesterday.

"We did a pretty good job, I felt," said Blanchard. "Overall, we did much better than what we have been doing. I'm pleased with a number of individual performances."

No team title was awarded but the Ann Arborites carted off a couple of trophies nonetheless. The four-mile relay and sprint medley relay teams won their events.

Palmer Schoch, Paul Gibson, Bob Jones and Mickey Smith won the four-mile in a time of 19:01. The sprint medley aggregation, consisting of Ricky Mial, Jim Frazier, Bill Twining and Lincoln Schoch, was clocked in 3:34.

Mial turned in an excellent :50.6 quarter-mile for the team and Lincoln Schoch's 1:56.5 in the 880 leg was his fastest time of the year over that distance. Both Frazier and Twining were in the 23-second range for their 220 legs.

The Pioneers were one-two in the two-mile run. Skip Burck won the event in 9:54.2 and Dan Johnson was second in 9:59.2.

The two-mile, 440, shuttle hurdle and shot put relay teams all took fourths. Jay Lodwick, Mark Curby, Dave McDowell and Fred Crawford were on the shuttle team. The two-mile squad included Greg Chase, Steve Thiry, Mike Smith and Steve Adams. Members of the shot put team were Maurice Reese, Dave Curby and Don Johnson, while Reese, Twining, Mial and Frazier were on the 440 group.

Crawford finished fifth in the high hurdles but his time, :15.4, was the fastest of the year. "He did a real fine job," Blanchard said.

Aside from the individual achievements, the Pioneers' performance raises their hopes a bit with regard to the Six-A League championship.

"If we can get past Lansing Sexton Tuesday, it will be a four-team race for the title," said Blanchard. The Six-A championship is based half on dual meet performance and half on performance in the league meet.

Sexton, with three dual meet losses, is out of the picture but a tough team anyway. The Pioneers can't afford another loss in dual meets. The other contenders are Battle Creek Central, Kalamazoo Central and Lansing Eastern.