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THE NEWS - PALLADIUM, BENTON HARBOR, MICH.

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'A' FINALS RECORD-SHATTERING Bears' Norris State Mile Champ



WINNING SMILE: Steve Norris of St. Joseph flashes big smile as he strides toward finish line and victory in mile run during Class A state finals Saturday at East Lansing. Running fifth is his teammate Tim Tobin (center). Norris was timed in 4:16.3—fastest in Michigan this year. (Staff photo)

By JIM DeLAND
Sports Editor

A marvelous championship performance by St. Joseph mile runner Steve Norris was southwestern Michigan's major contribution to a record-shattering set of state track finals this year.

Norris, whose name already was enshrined at the top of this area's all-time honor roll, added an exclamation point to that entry Saturday by coming from off the pace to score a smashing victory in the Class A finals at East Lansing.

His winning time of 4:16.3 knocked almost five seconds off his previous southwestern Michigan record and it stands as the fastest mile recorded by a Michigan runner this year.

Tim Tobin, his St. Joseph teammate, also surpassed the old area record by more than two seconds while finishing fifth in 4:18.8, but their efforts were just part of a sensational cluster show.

Led by awesome Marshall Dill and his Detroit Northern teammates, the Class A entrants established six new state records and equaled another and set near-perfect conditions at Michigan State University's track.

Dill himself had a hand in three of the records with a m.i.d.b. bowling performance that included a 96 in the 100-yard dash, a fantastic 28.6 in the 200 and anchor leg on the 880-yard relay team that was clocked in a scorching 1:27.0.

The 230 record is only one-tenth of a second off the

national high school record for that distance and bettered the previous state and track record of 21.2 he set in the semifinals, when he also ran a 9.7 in the 100 to break a record of 9.8 that had stood since 1925. The relay record matches the best in the nation by a high school team this year.

Other new Class A records include a 48.9 quarter mile by Stan Vinson of Detroit, Chadsey, a 9:13.4 two-mile by Dan Baker of Flint Kearsley and a 6:21 shot put by Ron Garthright of Mt. Clemens. Dean Osterhout of East Lansing also tied the high jump record of 6.4, in the process turning the tables on regional champion Lewis Garner of Niles, who went out at 6.7.

A total of five other records were set in the three lower classes, but the only individuals from southwestern Michigan to join Norris in the winners' circle were Covert hurdler Arthur Morris and Lawton two-miler Greg Sanderson, both in Class D.

Morris won the 100-yard low hurdles in 20.8 seconds while Sanderson took the two-mile in 19:17.7.

No area schools figured in the running for the team championships, which were captured by Detroit Northern in Class A, Holly in Class B, Detroit Country Day in Class C and Unionville in Class D.

The Class A mile triumph clinched an amazing spring for Norris, who was third man most of the time on St. Joseph's cross country team

last fall but emerged as the top distance runner with a 4:13.8 mile in the first dual meet of the track campaign.

He appeared to be boxed out dangerously far off the lead while running close to last in the classy field for almost the first half mile, but in the final lap he surged from fourth place into the lead and was going away at the finish.

"I knew they'd go out fast, so I just decided to run my own race," Norris explained of his strategy when caught near the back of the pack.

"Usually when that happens it bothers me, but I didn't worry about it today with runners like that. Nobody hassles you—they're all over so good."

St. Joseph coach Ron Waldvogel had Norris timed in 64 seconds for the first quarter mile, 2:07 at the half and 3:14 at the three-quarter mark, with a 62-second quarter on the final lap.

Tobin was a second faster at the half and two seconds faster at three-quarters while running second behind favored Jeff Eaves of East Grand Rapids and he missed third place at the finish by only four-tenths of a second.

"That 2:06 half mile was just a little too fast for Tim," Waldvogel explained of his top

ranking junior. "Next year he'll be able to handle it."

Waldvogel admitted some surprise at Norris' rapid progress this spring, but noted that in cross country he injured a thigh muscle running hills and that it definitely slowed his development during the fall.

St. Joe's Jim Lorch also posted a career best of 9:33.9 while finishing seventh in the two-mile and Harbor's Bill Fries cracked the two-minute barrier for the first time while running third in the Class C 880 with a clocking of 1:59.3.

Most other area qualifiers were somewhat less fortunate, including Colon a hurdler Dana Carlson, who ruptured his ailing heel and failed to place in either the high or the low.

Track Results On Page 17



NO CONTEST: Benton Harbor's Willie Lacy (right) is among runners left in the dust of Detroit Northern's Marshall Dill as he coasts to victory during preliminary heat in 200-yard dash at Saturday's Class A state finals. Dill, who stands 6-3 and 137 pounds, set two new state records and ran anchor on record-setting relay team while leading Northern to team title. (Staff photo)

Harbor Grabs LMAC Title Share

Benton Harbor's baseball team is assured of at least a share of the 1971 Lake Michigan Athletic Conference championship after accepting LMAC record to 8-0, giving the gift of two victories Saturday afternoon.

Coach Herb Quedt's Tigers turned eight Muskegon errors into seven unearned runs and swept a doubleheader at Riverfront Park, 6-5 and 4-2.

The two victories extended the Tigers' winning streak to eight games and boost their perfect conference record to 10-0.

Despite Muskegon's generosity Saturday, the Tigers still needed some timely hitting to maintain their unblemished conference record.

George Rowe did it in the first game, hitting a two-run homer in the fifth.

In the second game, both of the runners Rolfe drove home with his single had reached base on errors.

Benton Harbor came up with six errors of its own during the two-game set with two

ground rule double that bounced over the right field fence and drove in the winning run.

Leonard Rolfe tagged the fourth-inning single in the second game to drive in the tying and winning runs.

In the third inning of the first game the Big Reds fumbled away five felding chances and the Tigers scored four runs on only one base hit.

Benton Harbor scored another run on an error in the fifth.

In the second game, both of the runners Rolfe drove home with his single had reached base on errors.

Benton Harbor came up with six errors of its own during the two-game set with two

hits in seven trips and scoring three runs in the two games.

Three of his hits came in the first game, during which the Tigers totaled eight runs, including two more singles by Dyer and a pair of doubles by Rolfe.

Benton Harbor came up with five hits the second game with Jim Grannell adding a triple to Weaver's two hits that included an RBI single for the Tigers insurance run in the fifth.

Benton Harbor, now 15-7 for the season, travels to Niles Tuesday for a Class A district tournament qualifying round game at 4:30 p.m.

SJ's Kolberg Whiffs 22 In Lancer Split

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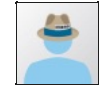
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