

Tobin Outstanding Performer

Bear 'Champions' Shine

KALAMAZOO — Southwestern Michigan's high school trackmen have closed the book on a marvelous season after writing one last exciting chapter in the Champion of Champions meet here Saturday afternoon.

Paced by St. Joseph distance stars Tim Tobin and Steve Norris, area runners encribed four new entries on the 1971 honor roll with the help of three performances that rank among the best in history for this corner of the state.

Tobin, the Class A regional mile champion who finished

fifth in the state finals, was named the outstanding performer of the entire meet after winning his specialty with a clocking of 4:16.8 that ranks second on the all-time honor roll only to the 4:16.3 posted by Norris while winning the state championship.

It was also the second straight year the outstanding individual award was given to a twin city athlete. Benton Harbor sprinter Rodney Rhodes earned the honor last year.

"Tobin ran the race the way he should have run it in the state meet last week," St. Joseph coach Ron Waldvogel

said of his prize junior. "That first half was a little slow, though, so he had to go out and get it."

Tobin hit the half mile in 2:10 and the three-quarters mark in 3:15 before surging into the lead on the backstretch and kicking home with a 61-second quarter.

Norris shifted to the two-mile Saturday and brought home southwestern Michigan's other victory with a clocking of 9:19.7 — more than 10 seconds faster than his previous best and just 1.2 seconds over the area record of 9:18.5 set by St. Joseph's Mike Parrett last year.

A third St. Joseph athlete — hurdler Dave Selmer — came up with the season's best low hurdles time of 20.3 seconds while finishing sixth in a power-packed field. Selmer also was seventh in the high hurdles in 14.9 seconds.

Coloma's Stan Zech moved onto the all-time honor roll while finishing second in the 440-yard dash with a time of 49.9 seconds that makes him the fourth athlete in the history of this area to crack the 50-second barrier.

Zech already led the 1971 honor roll with a 50.7 clocking and also ran the distance in 50 seconds flat last year.

Champions 5-29-1971

Clipped By:



jeffhollobaugh
Fri, Jun 19, 2020