

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1973 THE NEWS-PALLADIUM, BENTON HARBOR, MICH. PAGE NINETEEN

## Sanderson, Keller Set Two-Mile Records

# Area Trackmen Win Four State Crowns

**BY JIM DELAND**  
Sports Editor

Four champions, two state records and some of the finest performances in southwestern Michigan history.

That's what area athletes produced in the four state championship track and field meets Saturday at East Lansing, Lansing, Flint, Mt. Pleasant and Caro.

Two-milers Greg Sanderson of Lawton and Frits Keller of Cassopolis led the way by winning the Class B and C titles — both in record time — while

Tim Ruff of Bridgman joined them in the winners' circle by successfully defending his Class D shot put championship with the best toss of the season by a southwestern Michigan weight man.

The other championship was shared by the Lawrence quartet of Dana Rowe, Jim McCree, Phil Johnson and Larry Whitman, who won the Class D 400-yard relay in 43.5 seconds.

Equally as impressive were some non-winning efforts in the higher classes.

Benton Harbor relay teams raced onto the all-time area honor roll in both the 400 and 800-yard events while placing eighth in each one at the Class A meet.

Pat O'Toole of Niles matched his all-time area record of 14.3 while taking third in the high hurdles and miler Mark Davis of Dowagiac matched the season's No. 1 area honor roll time of 4:26.6 while placing seventh in a blistering Class B record run.

All told, area trackmen made 17 changes on the 1973 honor roll in the shot put and he also placed fifth in the long jump at 19.7.

Teammate Greg Lousova hit the honor roll in two events as

for the second time in three years with a time of 9:38.0 — the fastest of the season by an area runner in any class and three full seconds faster than his previous best.

Keller was more than 10 seconds off that pace, but still set a new Class C record of 9:48.4 — third fastest in the area this year.

Ruff helped Bridgman to the highest finish by any area team with a winning toss of 55.11½ in the shot put and he also placed fifth in the long jump at 19.7.

Teammate Greg Lousova hit the honor roll in two events as

he placed second in the 400 (31.7) and third in the half mile (1:29.3) to help the Bees take fourth place in Class D with 30 points.

Benton Harbor runners pulled a real surprise in the 400-yard relay by coming up with the second-fastest time in area history.

The foursome of Pat Jones, Don Larry, Andrew Atterberry and Rodney Atkinson ripped off a clocking of 43.5 seconds that stands only twentieth ever the area record set by members of Benton Harbor's 1970 state championship team.

Jones, Larry, Atterberry and Jeff Hicks also posted the season's best 800 relay time of 1:31 flat, equaling the fourth best in area history.

Niles missed a golden opportunity to break its own all-time area mile relay record of 3:22.7 by fumbling the second baton exchange, but the Vikings still finished third with an excellent time of 3:24.1.

Saginaw won the Class A team championship with the help of 18½ points from sprinter Reggie Jones, who tied the state record of 2.8 in the 100 and also won the 200 and ran on the winning 800 relay team.

Three other Class A records

were tied and two-miler Mike McGuire of Farmington set a new one of 9:12.0.

The top area performer in Class B was Brantwyn's Dave Furst, who was second in the half mile and fifth in the 400. Ecorse won the team championship with the help of two relay victories.

Detroit St. Martin DePorres won all three relays plus both hurdles races while taking the Class C championship with a whooping 73 points.

Gary Blocker of East Claire pitted up 15 points himself by placing third in the long jump, fourth in the pole vault and fifth in the high hurdles, while Decatur posted honor roll performances while earning places in both the 800 and 400 relays and New Buffalo's Greg Battle had the area's second-fastest 200 clocking at the season, 22.4.

Mendon used distance strength to win the Class D title with 74 points, dominating the 400, 800 and mile and also taking the mile relay.

Among the new Class D records was a 100-yard dash breakthrough by Dwight Jones of Grosse Pointe Liggett, who became the first "D" runner to crack 10 seconds with a record 9.8.

**RECORD-SETTER:** Greg Sanderson of Lawton breaks finish line string in victorious two-mile performance. Sanderson set Class B state record of 9:38.0 in Saturday's state meet. (Staff photo)



**FAST FOURSOME:** This Benton Harbor quartet of (left to right) Pat Jones, Don Larry, Andrew Atterberry and Rodney Atkinson posted an outstanding 400-yard relay time of 43.5 seconds — second



**ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOOTWEAR RIGHT NOW CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD:**

Clipped By:



jeffhollobaugh  
Wed, Apr 21, 2021