

# Area has three champions in state 'B' track meet

By BRUCE JOHNS

The Flint area hit another "slump" in the State Class B high school track championship Saturday at Houston Stadium.

The area had two individual champs in Fenton's Dave Karns and Montrose's Eric Rush. Karns won the 880 in a breeze with a time of 1:55.9 and Rush took the 120 high hurdles in 15-flat.

For years, local runners were just has been in state competition before Holly ended the jinx by capturing the championship in 1971.

LAST YEAR, Mt. Morris had speedster Roy Young and would have made it two straight area titles except for a dropped baton in the 800 relay. The Panthers had to settle for second.

THERE WERE no strong local contenders Saturday as perennial challenger Ecorse outlasted Dearborn Heights Robichaud for the team title by compiling a 43-29 edge. Grand Rapids West Catholic was third with 26, Port Huron Central fourth with 22 and Wyoming Rogers fifth with 21½.

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Only three other area teams scored, Montrose totaling 13 points for 18th place, Holly tying for 21st with 11 points and Powers tying for 35th with six.

MILER Greg Meyers of Grand Rapids West Catholic broke the four-lap mark by 4.2 seconds with a fine 4:14.9. Runnerup Tom Duits of Hastings also bettered the old record with a 4:16.1 clocking.

Mt. Morris' 440 relay team of Ron Gamble, Shelton Pinnix, Tim Tucker and Don Gamble tied the state mark of 43.9 set by Oxford last year. The Panthers were running third at the final baton exchange but D. Gamble exploded around the final turn to beat the pack at the wire.

"I WAS NINTH last year and didn't score," said Karns, a senior. "I've been thinking about that all year."

Rush, only a junior, also had revenge on his mind.

"I got burned up in the prelims last year," he said. "I didn't forget that."

Rush also ran in the 880-yard lows, his first year of competition in the event, and took sixth place with a 20.8 time.

Linden's Jim Stars had to be disappointed, especially after hinting earlier in the week at a possible shot in the top three. His best individual per-

former was freshman Randy Rife who took third in the 100 dash.

RIFE ALSO anchored the 880 relay quartet and gained 15 yards on two other anchormen to help the Eagles win their heat in 1:33.3, and finish ninth over-all in the event.

The Murphy brothers of Linden each finished in their specialties, the 880 and mile runs. Ray ran a 1:58.3 time in the half mile in Karns' heat and Rick was 4:24.8 in the mile against the fast-stepping Meyers.

They combined with Bill Hall and Jim Herronen for a 3:27.9 time and sixth place in the mile relay. Linden ran in the third fastest heat. Hall completed the Egales' scoring with a 1:59.7 time in the 880 for eighth place.

Assisting Karns in Fenton's point total was Scott Hofstetter. He was third in the 40 in 50.3 and seventh in the 220 with a time of 22.8.

TERRY THOMANN picked up two points for Montrose by ending eighth in the high hurdles in 15.7 and finishing in a six-way tie for sixth in the high jump with a leap of 5-10.

Hurdler Gary Spangler accounted for Holly's 11 points with a third in the highs and a fourth in the lows. Spangler ran the highs in 15.2 and the lows in 20.6.

Powers Catholic finished with six points, those coming on Dwayne Strozier's third place effort in the 220 with a clocking of 22.6, Mt. Morris' 880 relay team of D. Gamble, R. Gamble, Tucker and Mike Holloway was sixth in 1:32.8.

Ecorse scored 29 of its 43 points in the relays, winning the 880 and mile tests and finishing second to Mt. Morris in the 440 challenge.

Robichaud actually won the 880 relay but was disqualified on a baton exchange violation. It also didn't qualify a team for the 440 relay.

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