

Track invitational brings out best among preps; three records tumble

By LEN HOYES

Excellent all-around performances Wednesday night in the 1973 season finale had most Flint area track coaches rubbing their hands in anticipation of 1974.

Next year the season will end two weeks later. With the precarious Michigan spring weather, extending the season two weeks should create the best possible conditions for trackmen.

Considering the performances Wednesday in the Greater Flint Track and Field Invitational at Houston Stadium, the extra two weeks should create a mass assault on the record books.

EVEN DREARY weather—it was damp but wind was almost nonexistent—couldn't deter the Flint area's best.

Three records tumbled, at least 12 men had their best performances of the spring, there were two individual double winners and the meet produced its first champion from a Class C school.

That honor went to Mike Wilcox of Byron who came from behind in the last 220 yards to win the 880-yard run in 1:56.3. Among others, he defeated the Class B champion, Fenton's Dave Karns, and two men who placed in the Class A and Class B state meets.

WILCOX, the Class C champ, found himself in an unfamiliar situation. "It was the first time I've been behind in a race all season except for the first few yards," said the 5-foot-9 140-pound senior who didn't try track until he was a sophomore and didn't become a half-miler until the 1972 regionals.

"You can't believe how much he's improved," said Coach Roger Bashore.

There were plenty of believers in the crowd which was limited to 458 because of precarious weather.

Wilcox's time was only 1.1 seconds off an excellent meet record of 1:55.2.

He was the only non-Class A winner.

NORTHWESTERN'S Brian Coles won both hurdles and Southwestern's Mark Carrington won both dashes.

Coles took the highs in 14.6 seconds and shaved two-tenths of a second from his 1972 meet record with a time of 19.8 in the lows. The slim senior barely outlasted Grand Blanc's Jeff Allen in the lows. Allen and third-place Don Toatley of Central also bettered Cole's meet record of 20.0.

For Coles, that made five victories in three years in the Greater Flint meet. He won highs and placed second in the lows as a sophomore and won both in 1972.

Carrington's times were 10.0 in the 100 and 22.1 in the lows. In the 220 he reversed last year's finish against Central's Duane Hill.

HILL HAD HIS inning in relays, joining Greg Davis, Charles Garrett and William Chatman in winning the 880 in 3:30.5 and the 440 in 43.3.

Carman's Brad Rainwater spurred a Metro League "double" and claimed a record of 49.7 seconds in the 440 which

developed into the race of the night. Lapeer's Tom Utley (49.8) and Fenton's Scott Hofstetter (49.9) also bettered the meet record.

Minutes later Rainwater anchored Carman's victorious mile relay team to an excellent 3:25.5. His comrades were Kevin Skidmore, Gale Shaver and Bob Burks.

Northwestern, which won one-third of the 15 events, got another record performance from Dan Wilkerson who heaved the shot put 57-39/4, cracking the mark of 56-7 1/2. Teammates Terry Thames took the long jump at 21-1/2 and Jerry Stribling was only one-fourth of an inch below the meet mark with a high jump of 6-6.

KEARSLEY WAS next with three champions, Jim Stokes winning with a pole vault of 14-7, Greg Wilson taking the mile with a season best of 4:22.2 and Joe Dixon winning the two-mile run in 9:35.3.

Kearsley's Don Seibert, who was second in the mile and Grand Blanc's Craig Stone, who was third, had their best times of the year, only 2.5 seconds separating the top three.

The chief disappointment was the absence of most of the team from Linden, the area's top Class B club. Of 10 men who failed to appear, five were from Linden and the Eagles were unable to field any of three invited relay teams.

The summary:
Long jump—1. Terry Thames, Northwestern. 2. Vince Adams, Beecher. 3. Steve Moten, Northwestern. 4. Greg Hoops, Kearsley. 5. Craig Thomas, Swartz Creek, D-21 1/2.
Shot put—1. Don Wilkerson, Northwestern. 2. George Washington, Central. 3. Dan Robbins, Lapeer

4. Tyrone Armstrong, Beecher. 5. Jeff Allen, Grand Blanc, D-57 3/4. (Breaks meet record of 56-7 1/2 by Ted Kiopt, Central, 1971).

High jump—1. Jerry Stribling, Northwestern. 2. Carl Reldsema, Davison. 3. Anthony Brown, Northern. 4. Nate Hawthorn, Beecher. 5. Hoops, Kearsley, H-6-6.

Pole vault—1. Jim Stokes, Kearsley. 2. Don Robinson, Clio. 3. Bill Stilson, Grand Blanc. 4. Mark Grab, Davison. 5. Brian Liikala, Northwestern, H-14-7.

880 relay—1. Central (Duane Hill, Greg Davis, Charles Garrett, William Chatman). 2. Beecher (Adams, Joe Wilkerson, Mose Rison, Homer Masley). 3. Mt Morris (Ron Gamble, Shelton Pinnix, Tim Tucker, Don Gamble). 4. Northwestern (Molen, Otha Fordham, Herman Thomas, Gary Burks). 5. Northern (Birdie Shields, Pat Atkins, Larry Dent, Bernard Lewis), T-1:30.5.

880—1. Mike Wilcox, Byron. 2. Dave Karns, Fenton. 3. Brian Groves, Grand Blanc. 4. Jerry Lindman, Powers. 5. Bill Hall, Linden, T-1:56.3.

120 high hurdles—1. Brian Coles, Northwestern. 2. Eric Rush, Montrose. 3. Mike Cummings, Carman. 4. Gary Spangler, Holly. 5. Allen, Grand Blanc T-14.6.

Mile—1. Greg Wilson, Kearsley. 2. Don Seibert, Kearsley. 3. Craig Stone, Grand Blanc. 4. Dennis Neurohr, Kearsley. 5. Keith Young, Northern T-4:22.2.

100—1. Mark Carrington, Southwestern. 2. James Wren, Northern. 3. Charman, Central. 4. D. Gamble,

Mt Morris. 5. Moten, Northwestern, Y-10.0.
440—1. Brad Rainwater, Carman. 2. Tom Utley, Lapeer. 3. Scott Hofstetter, Fenton. 4. Burks, Northwestern. 5. Kevin Skidmore, Carman, T-49.7. (Breaks meet record of 50.0 by Les Clerkiev, Northwestern, 1970).

180 low hurdles—1. Coles, Northwestern. 2. Allen, Grand Blanc. 3. Don Toatley, Central. 4. Spangler, Holly. 5. Jim Juy, Davison, T-19.8. (Breaks meet record of 20.0 by Coles, 1972).

Two-mile—1. Joe Dixon, Kearsley. 2. Dave Dax-later, Southwestern. 3. Richard Banks, Northern. 4. Mark Badgley, Swartz Creek. 5. John Schutze, Linden, T-9:35.3.

220—1. Carrington, Southwestern. 2. Hill, Central. 3. Moten, Northwestern. 4. Hofstetter, Fenton. 5. Dwayne Sirozier, Powers, T-22.1.

Mile relay—1. Carman (Skidmore, Gale Shaver, Bob Burks, Rainwater). 2. Northern (Robert Chambers, K. Young, Ron Whitner, George Young). 3. Grand Blanc (Groves, Jim Manules, Jeff Valloire, Steve Barnes). 4. Northwestern (Fordham, Stribling, Doug Hill, Jeff Welcome). 5. Clio (Ted Daniels, Steve Moody, Dennis Gocho, Dave Gemel) T-3:25.5.

440 relay—1. Central (Hill, Davis, Garrett, Chatman). 2. Mt Morris (D. Gamble, Pinnix, Tucker, R. Gamble). 3. Northern (Eugene Harris, Atkins, Shields, Wren). 4. Beecher (Wilkerson, Rison, Masley, Adams). 5. Grand Blanc (Allen, Grega Madrack, Craig English, Scott Wilcox), Y-43.3.

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