

Track title hopes disappear

Blue Jays shot down

By TOM BAER

Royal Oak Kimball's 63-60 victory over Southfield High last Monday was a lot more than just another dual track meet in the Southeastern Michigan Association. That meet may have decided the league championship.

Kimball's victory—it's 25th straight over the past three seasons—all but ensured another league crown for the Knights. Southfield, which had set its sights on the title, will have to settle for second or third place.

"We lucked out, you might say," said Kimball coach Dick Zulch. "We were really flat, and Southfield ran very well."

"We got as close as you can get without winning," said Southfield coach Chuck Balog.

Southfield's Tom Bakerman and Bill Bangert had been injured earlier in the season, but came back to run well against Kimball. Bakerman ran a leg in Southfield's winning 880 relay, and also won the low hurdles in :19.5. Ban-

gert defeated Kimball's Dave Hargreaves in the 880 and 440 races.

"Bangert ran a fantastic race and a half," Balog said. "He ran the fastest times of his life."

Southfield's Scott Slade and Steve Trowbridge finished one-one in the high hurdles, putting the Blue Jays four points ahead of Kimball going into the 220-yard run. Balog entered Bakerman in that event, hoping to ice the victory with first and second place finishes.

"Things looked well at that point," he said. "We kept our lead right up to the 220 where I thought we'd finish one-two. That would have won the meet for us, but Bakerman failed to score a point."

Southfield's Ken McNamee won the 220 in :22.8, but Kimball runners finished second and third.

Southfield still could have won with a victory in the mile relay, but Kimball runners finished first in 3:37.8.

"We still hope to win the SMA championship meet on May 29, although that won't bring us home any trophies," Balog said. "At least that'll give us some satisfaction."

"As long as I've been in the SMA, I've felt that track is a sport where the championship should be based on a single event at the end of the season. It's like that in the national championships and the Big Ten."

Southfield could still win the SMA title if Kimball loses one of its remaining dual meets and has an exceptionally poor showing in the league meet. But the chances of that happening are very slim, according to Balog.

"That's not really probable, because there's no one in the league who can beat Kimball," he said. "Hazel Park might have an outside chance, but I don't think that's possible."

Zulch, however, wasn't so confident. "Anything can happen in this league. It has happened before," he said.

In the Hazel Park Relays last Friday, Southfield took firsts in the 880, the two mile and the shuttle hurdle re-

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lays. The shuttle team of Steve Trowbridge, Slade, McNamee and Bakerman finished in :57.5 for a meet record.

Kimball won five events including a record-setting 84'3/4" effort in the long jump relay.

Kimball-Southfield

880 Relay—Southfield (Trowbridge, Bakerman, Lieder, McNamee) 1:33.4.

890—Bangert (S) 1:58.5, Hargreaves (Royal Oak Kimball), Retzlaff (ROK).

120 High Hurdles—Slade (S) :15.5, Trowbridge (S), Foist (ROK).

Mile—Haubert (ROK) 4:39.4, McFall (ROK), Charneski (S).

100—Hyde (ROK) :10.5, McKenny (S), Crainz (ROK).

180 Low Hurdles—Bakerman (S) :19.5, McNamee (S), Foist (ROK).

Two Mile—Henry (S) 9:48.5, Leenhouts (ROK), Howes (ROK).

440—Bangert (S) :52.2, Hargreaves (ROK), Retzlaff (ROK).

220—McNamee (S) :22.8, Potts (ROK), Stanonis (ROK).

Mile Relay—Royal Oak Kimball (Link, Haubert, Retzlaff, Hargreaves) 3:37.8.

440 Relay—Royal Oak Kimball (Crainz, Stanonis, Hyde, Potts) :45.1.

Long Jump—Foist (ROK) 20'10 1/2", McNamee (S), Hargreaves (ROK).

Shot Put—McKay (ROK) 47'1", Olson (ROK), Weichert (ROK).

High Jump—Hibbard (S) 6'1 3/4", Torgeson (ROK), Blazo (ROK).

Pole Vault—Lepola (ROK) 11', Olds (S), Harmala (ROK).

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—Chuck Balog
Southfield track coach