

Six Varsity Records Broken By Huron, Pioneer Trackmen

(Special to The News)

EAST LANSING — The athletes on the Huron and Pioneer High track teams weren't making any excuses for their performances Saturday night in the Spartan Relays. None were necessary.

Pontiac Central, a winner the previous weekend in the Huron Relays, made a runaway for the team title in Michigan State's Jenison Fieldhouse with a record total of 45.

Pioneer again repeated as the runnerup to Pontiac with 24 points while Huron accounted for three placings in the final indoor meet of the spring campaign.

It was a super meet for the Ann Arborites. Pioneer set four new school records in the process and Huron established two more varsity marks in the competition.

"We had some great performances," Coach Don Sleeman of Pioneer said. "But there isn't any way you beat perfection. I was very pleased with the way our kids responded in the finals."

Sprinter Doug Henniger ran a pair of :06.3s in the preliminaries and finals to capture first place in the 60-yard dash. Plenty good enough for new school marks.

He led off the second place 880-yard relay with :22.6 followed by Bob Smith's :24.0, Walt Blissit's :23.8 and Jim Copeland's :23.9. This adds up to a 1:34.3 final and another varsity mark.

"Our relay really ran a super race," Sleeman said. "Doug is really starting to click like clockwork."

Not content with that, Pioneer was third in the mile relay at 3:29.2, a school mark. Henniger led off with a super :50.8 followed by Greg Giltrow's :52.1, Steve Hartwell's :54.3 and Mike McMahon's

:51.0. The latter was fifth in the low hurdles at :08.5.

Pioneer emerged victorious in the two-mile relay. The team of Eric Burt, Hartwell, Steve Busch and Giltrow was clocked in 8:03.5.

"We are getting some quality performances," Sleeman said looking ahead to Friday and Saturday's Mansfield Relays. "We are going to be in the thick of things."

John Arndt continues to amaze just about everyone, including his coach Kent Overbey of Huron High. He placed second in the shot put at 54-feet-6.

"Just about everytime John competes, he ups the school record by a couple of feet," Overbey said.

Huron's mile relay of Reggie Jones, John Pelkki, Tony Brayton and Mark Foster were fourth in that rapid race and their time was a tenth of a second below the school mark.

Huron also accounted for a fourth place in the two-mile relay at 8:15. Brayton, Mike Bishop, Duane Millar and Foster were the personnel on that unit.

Pat Davey of Birmingham Brocher Rice has carried his form over from the cross country season right into the track campaign.

The leading individual runner in the last autumn's Class A final cross country run amazed everyone with his effort Saturday night. He won the two-mile run at 9:03, not only establishing a new meet mark but also recording the fastest schoolboy clocking of the year.

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