

Five Metro track records tumble; Holly, Swartz Creek share title

By PHIL PIERSON

It'll be a long time before the Metro League has a track meet to equal the individual brilliance and dramatics of Wednesday night's spectacle at Lapeer.

Five records were set paced by Swartz Creek's Craig Thomas who put on the finest one-man display in Metro history. The league also had its first tie for the team championship.

Thomas set three records but despite his heroics Swartz Creek had to settle for a co-championship with Holly. Each team scored 67 points after entering the meet in a three-way tie with Carman from the dual meet schedule.

CARMAN WASN'T a factor in the team standings and ended third with 37 points, followed by Lapeer 30, Fenton 26, Ainsworth 11 and Mt. Morris 2.

The drama was provided by the pole vaulters, Thomas and two teammates, Kerry Morgan and Phil Burek and Ainsworth's Kevin Scott.

The championship rested in their hands because they were still competing after all of the other events were concluded.

Holly had already scored its 67 points and was in a helpless position. Coach Duane Raffin could only pace the press box nervously while he watched the vaulters decide the fate of his team which has won four Metro crowns.

THE DRAGONS needed a 1-2-4 finish to get a piece of the championship and could have won it outright except for Scott. The Ainsworth vaulter clinched third by clearing 12-6 to top Burek who went out at 12-3. Morgan also finished at 12-6 but he finished ahead of Scott because of fewer jumps.

First place was won easily by Thomas who bettered his existing Metro record of 12-6 when he cleared the bar at 12-9. The Swartz Creek senior pushed his mark to 13-9 before missing on three attempts at 14 feet.

Thomas established himself as the meet's outstanding performer before the pole vault was completed. He smashed the 120-yard high hurdles record with a time of 14.4 which is the best clocking by any area runner this season.

THE HIGH JUMP record also belongs to Thomas with his effort of 6-3½, which is one-half-inch better than the existing standard.

Thomas, who is also among the league's better long jumpers, finished third in that event behind Holly's Mike Moses and Ken McKay. Moses set a record with a jump of 22-3½.

The fifth record also went to a Holly performer, Geoff Wilson in the two-mile. His winning time was 9:55.5.

Holly and Swartz Creek each accounted for five victories. Curtis Bates upset Dave Wright to win the shot put, Tom Seavey captured the mile and Gary Spangler won the low hurdles for the Bronchos.

SWARTZ CREEK'S other victories came in the 880 and mile relay. Mike Helms, who transferred from Fenton, won the 880 and teamed with Bart Richardson, Scott Coucher and Jerry Owens in the mile relay.

Carman and Fenton accounted for the other victories. Brad Rainwater won the 440 and 220 for Carman with times of 51.2 and 23 seconds, respectively.

Todd Minock helped Fenton win in three of the sprint events. He won the 100 in 10.4 and joined Don Bancroft, Tony Delecki and Mike Goïn on the winning 880 and 440 relay teams. The 440 relay time of 45.5 seconds tied the Metro record.

Coach Roger Lehmann's Swartz Creek squad was blanked only in the shot put while Holly came up empty in the 100 and 220.

The summary:

Legend and team scoring — Holly (H) 67, Swartz Creek (SC) 67, Carman (C) 37, Lapeer (L) 30, Fenton (F) 26, Ainsworth (A) 11, Mt. Morris (MM) 2.
Shot put — 1. Curtis Bates (H) 2. Dave Wright (A) 3. Tom Powers (L) 4. Paul Trussell (C) 5. Tim Hogen (H) D—50-7.

Long jump — 1. Mike Moses (H) 2. Ken McKay (H) 3. Craig Thomas (C) 4. Gale Shaver (C) 5. Larry Perkins (A). D—22-3½ (breaks meet record of 22-3¼ by L.M. Thomas, Holly, 1971).

High jump — 1. Thomas (SC) 2. Tom Milne (SC) 3. Dave VanValin (C) 4. Bob Johnson (H) 5. Bruce Shick (MM) H—13-9 (breaks meet record of 6-3 by Randy Henry, Swartz Creek, 1971).

Pole vault — 1. Thomas (SC) 2. Kerry Morgan (SC) 3. Kevin Scott (A) 4. Phil Burek (SC) 5. Larry Ashley (H) H—13-9 (breaks meet record of 12-6 by Thomas, Swartz Creek, 1971-73).

880 relay — 1. Fenton (Don Bancroft, Todd Minock, Tony Delecki, Mike Goïn) 2. Carman (Shaver, Bob Burks, Chuck Lewis, Brad Rainwater) 3. Holly (Greg Goodearl, Mike Mores, McKay, Jeff Starkey) 4. Swartz Creek (Steve Knickerbocker, Gary Fields, Terry Shuman, Jeff Howard) 5. Lapeer (Dennis Kramer, Ted Thomas, Gregg Riegler, Gary Bulzan) T—1:34.4.

880 — 1. Mike Helms (SC) 2. Brad Avis (L) 3. Rick Kursik (C) 4. Darrell Coleman (H) 5. Greg Loder (SC) T—1:58.3.

120 high hurdles — 1. Thomas (SC) 2. Gary Spangler (H) 3. Ashley (H) 4. Bob Cummings (C) 5. Paul Matson (H) T—14.4 (breaks meet record of 14.8 by Dennis Beshears, Fenton, 1971), and equaled by Mike Cummings, Carman, 1972, and Spangler in preliminaries).

200 — 1. Tom Seavey (H) 2. Roger Schultz (L) 3. Jim Ward (F) 4. Mark Grinenk (SC) 5. Gordon Dabler (L) T—4:31.3.

100 — 1. Minock (F) 2. Shuman (SC) 3. Jerry Leary (A) 4. Jack Achtabowski (L) 5. Knickerbocker (SC) T—10.4.

100 — 1. Rainwater (C) 2. Helms (SC) 3. Goodearl (SC) 4. Starkey (H) 5. Thomas (L) T—51.2.

180 low hurdles — 1. Spangler (H) 2. Ashley (H) 3. Howard (SC) 4. John Hartwick (C) 5. Rich Coates (L) T—20.9.

Two mile — 1. Geoff Wilson (H) 2. Kelly Skidmore (C) 3. Joe Bulzan (L) 4. Brian Roberts (SC) 5. Scott McRorie (C) T—9:55.5 (breaks meet record of 10.00 by Mark Badgeley, Swartz Creek, 1972).

220 — 1. Rainwater (C) 2. Achtabowski (L) 3. Bancroft (F) 4. Shuman (SC) 5. Goïn (F) T—23.

Mile relay — 1. Swartz Creek (Bart Richardson, Scott Coucher, Jerry Owens, Helms) 2. Lapeer (Schultz, Avis, Bruce Bauer, Thomas) 3. Holly (Starkey, Coleman, Don French, Seavey) 4. Carman (Shaver, Burks, Lewis, Hartwick) 5. Fenton (Jim Ward, Doug Spear, Terry O'Brien, Mark Roger) T—3:31.2.

440 relay — 1. Fenton (Bancroft, Minock, Delecki, Goïn) 2. Holly (Spangler, Alex Alston, McKay, Moses) 3. Swartz Creek (Knickerbocker, Gary Fields, Mike Durbin, Howard) 4. Lapeer (Coates, Achtabowski, Riegler, G. Bulzan) 5. Mt. Morris (Richard Russell, Mark Altshberger, Ken Gunther, Sneider) T—45.5 (ties meet record by Holly, 1972).

Bears' draft pick donates to school

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Former Tennessee State linebacker Waymond Bryant, a first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears of the National Football League, has donated \$1,000 to his school.

Bryant, who recently signed a bonus contract with the Bears, said he made the donation to Tennessee State "to show how much I appreciate what everyone—coaches, teachers and teammates—did to help me attain what I have."

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