

Track Coaches Hail Success Of First County-Wide Meet

By Joel Greer
(News Sports Writer)

YPSILANTI — The First Annual Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Meet of Champions was barely over and plans already were being made for next year.

"This is going to be an annual affair," affirmed meet originator Larry Steeb, who also coaches Manchester High's track and field team.

Meet host Levi Simpson said the meet was a great idea and "you have to give Larry (Steeb) a lot of credit. This meet should grow and grow," the Ypsilanti track coach added. "We were very happy to host it, and we would be more than happy to host it again."

Chances are, however, that the meet most likely will wind up at Michigan's Ferry Field next spring. Nearly all concerned anticipate the event will grow beyond the capacity of Ypsilanti's Shadford

Field.

Pioneer's Don Sleeman was elected area Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches while Len Lillard of St. Thomas was voted the meet's outstanding field man and Mike McMahon of Pioneer was named the outstanding track man.

Sleeman's squad already has captured



DOUG HENNIGAR

the Seven-A league crown, and last week's regional. The Pioneers will be well represented in Saturday's state Class A finals at Flint Northwestern.

"We've really had a good year overall," said the Pioneer coach, who was only disappointed with the weather.

It was not exactly a day that produces good times, but there were still some fine performances.

With Pioneer's Doug Hennigar and South Lyon's Bob Smith not competing in the 100 or 220, both sprints were left to Milan's Rick Belmore who won them in :10.4 and :22.7.

Belmore finished a close second to McMahon for outstanding trackman, and it could have gone either way.

Hennigar dueled Smith in the 440 and won it in a fine :50.3 while Smith, who had previously run :49.4, finished second

in :50.7.

"Considering the weather," said Sleeman, "I was glad he (Hennigar) didn't run the 100 or 220."

Pioneer's McMahon breezed to a big victory in the high hurdles, running :15.0 while outlasting Craig Colter of Chelsea and Eric Maurer of Pinckney in the low hurdles. McMahon also ran a good second leg in Pioneer's winning mile relay which apparently made the difference in the vote.

The weather didn't affect the field events quite as much.

Huron's John Arndt tossed the shot 56-3 for a personal best and victory. Lillard was named the outstanding fieldman due to his second in the shot (53-9½) and his victory in the high jump (6-2).

"He had one good jump at 6-4 and went two feet farther in the shot," said Irish Coach Don Canham.

Huron's Aivars Nollensdorf tied a personal best by winning the pole vault at 12-9, while South Lyon's Joel Vann Bonn was second, 12-6.

"Nollensdorf's going to jump 13 feet in the state next week," promised Huron Coach Kent Overbey who was pleased with the meet and pleased with his team's performance.

"Mark Foster ran a strong mile," Overbey added. Foster led from the opening gun to register a winning time of 4:25.6.

Sophomore Dave Luurtsema impressed Overbey with a 4:37.4 and a fifth place finish while freshman Wayne Williams placed third in the 100.

The other Huron winner was senior Don Hubbard, who is rapidly recovering from the broken collarbone he suffered in Eastern Michigan's Huron Relays.

"He went out too slow," said Overbey of Hubbard's first lap pace in the 880. But Hubbard came storming to the front in the backstretch to finally overtake Pioneer's Chip Hadler on the turn for home.

In the two mile, Huron's Mike Bishop came from far back to grab a second (9:50.3) behind Pioneer's Eric Burt.

Pioneer swept all three relays without too much trouble while Mark Slaughter was the other Pioneer champion, taking the long jump with a leap of 21-0.

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Knocks Out High, 5-4

The Braves were right back in the game on Jeff Oestrike's RBI single in the second and Chuck Coker's RBI safety in the third.

Huron took a 4-2 lead in the fourth when Peterson singled and then Ypsilanti hurler Bob Smith issued three walks forcing in a run.

A two-base error and two-run homer by Ken Robinson produced the decisive runs for Ypsilanti. So it was a tough, third loss for pitcher Scott Peden, who has won seven.

HURON 030 100 6-4 5 2
YPSILANTI 011 030 4-5 10 4
Scott Peden and John Baritz.
Bob Smith and Jeff Oestrike.

Sunday Sports