

Track: 'Nothing To Be Ashamed Of'

By Bill Anderson
(News Sports Writer)

FLINT — Don Sleeman is getting into a rut.

Every time the Pioneer High coach has taken his team to a state meet this year, it has been the runnerup.

If a coach is going to get into a rut, he could hardly find a better one.

The Pioneers recorded their second, second-place finish of the year here Saturday afternoon at Houston Stadium in the 40th Annual state Class A track and field championships.

Sleeman's team compiled 35 points on the bright, warm afternoon before 4,000 spectators while Pontiac Central, as expected, made a runaway of the meet with 52 points.

It was a far different coach from the

one who gathered together his broken-hearted cross country team last November at Grand Blanc.

The Pioneer harriers went into the final run last autumn with hopes of winning, only to be denied by two points and Goose Pointe North.

Sleeman and his athletes took a realistic approach to Saturday's meet and they made the Chiefs work for everything they got in the 15-event carnival.

"This was the best team effort we have had in six years," Sleeman said. "We made it interesting for a while. We have nothing to be ashamed of."

After 11 events, Pioneer held a 33 to 32 lead over Pontiac Central. Following the 12th event, the one mile relay, the Chiefs forged into a 39 to 32 lead and never looked back.

"We just ran out of steam at the end. We scored 35 points without winning a thing. Let's say we had picked up a point or two here or there, we still wouldn't have won the thing."

Huron High was the only other area school represented at the state meet and scored 10 points, thanks to Donny Hubbard and John Arndt.

Hubbard won the mile a year ago at 4:16.9 but his training regimen had been knocked off schedule earlier this spring by an accident at the Huron Relays in which he broke his collarbone.

He ran a gutty final quarter yesterday and made up all kinds of ground. Still, he wound up only fifth at 4:19.8 while Ed Grabowski of Orchard Lake won his title at 4:15.7.

Arndt, a three-time titlist in the South

Central Conference meet, gained the other six points. He took a third place in the shot put at 54-10.

Just like Hubbard, the entire Pioneer team came up with a gutty effort, prime examples being Mark Slaughter and Greg Giltrow.

Slaughter got Pioneer's final two points of the meet with a seventh-place effort in the long jump at 21-feet- $\frac{1}{2}$. Giltrow came out the slow heat of the 880-yard run to be fourth at 1:56.4.

Sprinter Doug Hennigar personally accounted for 14 points. He was second in the 100-yard dash at :10.0 and the 220-yard dash at :21.9.

Furthermore, the senior anchored the fifth-place 880-yard relay team. He was preceded by Jim Copeland, Jim Paper and Walt Blissit and they had a collec-

tive time of 1:29.5.

Mike McMahon took a sixth place in the 120-yard high hurdles at :14.7 and Richard "Chip" Hadler was fourth in the one mile run at 4:18.1 to account for Pioneer's other points.

It was an exciting track meet and four state records were broken. One was tied but it won't go into the books.

Darrell Williams of Ottawa Hills and Tony Brown of Flint Northern both were tied for first place in the high jump at 6-feet-8. They were even tied after total misses were counted.

In the subsequent jump-off, Williams won when he cleared 6-9. This would have tied Reggie Ferguson's 1972 mark but officials ruled that competition had officially ended at the 6-8 height.

Flint Kearsley's Jim Stokes astounded

everyone by clearing 15-feet- $6\frac{1}{2}$ in the pole vault. This was way above Nathan Durham's state mark of 15-0 set in 1972.

Pat Davey of Birmingham Brother Rice nearly ran the state's first sub-9:00 two-mile and he still shattered the 1973 state meet record of 9:12.0.

The Tennessee-bound runner snapped the tape at 9:00.4. Who was second? None other than Farmington's Mike McGuire, who set the record a year ago.

The final two new records came in the relay races.

Detroit Central's one mile relay zipped to a 3:18.5 time and the old mark was held by Detroit Pershing at 3:19.5. Detroit Kettering won the 440-yard relay in 42.8 bettering the 42.9 held by Oak Park and Kettering.

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