

Flint Northern Hot In Huron Relays

BY HAL SCHRAM
Free Press Sports Writer

YPSILANTI — By modern day standards, it was not much of a vault on this pre-Easter Saturday and John Kretschmer, a 16-year-old junior from Bloomfield Hills Lahser, was upset with his own failures.

Kretschmer had just won the pole vault in the Class A division of the Huron Relays with a leap of 13 feet, 3 inches,

almost a full foot off his best previous mark.

"It may sound a little silly to start talking about vaulting 16 feet after the way things went here today," said the 167-pound athlete. "But you know that's my goal... that's what I pledged myself to accomplish before the summer is out."

KRETSCHEMER went on to explain that if he hits 16 feet

he will establish a world age record and attain a mark he established seven years ago when he took up the sport.

Kretschmer is also a wrestler who reached the third round of the state finals before eliminated a month ago.

Flint Northern, the pre-meet favorite, jumped into the early lead before 3,500 fans in Bowen Fieldhouse. Coach Elmer Badar sent a quartet of Steve Branch, Ken Bray, Richard MacInnes and Keith Young to the line in the two-mile relay and got the job done in eight minutes and 13 seconds, just two seconds off the meet record.

Northern also picked up six points in the pole vault where Mark Towar finished third behind Kretschmer and Fritz Lehmann of Grosse Pointe North.

A traffic jam was in prospect later in the program at the finish of the 60-yard dash finals. Harlan Huckleby of Cass Tech, William Copeland of Cooley and Randy Smith of Jackson all qualified for the finals in 6.4 seconds.

Two-mile relay: 1-Flint Northern (Steve Branch, Ken Bray, Richard MacInnes, Keith Young); 2-Oakburn; 3-Grosse Pointe North. Time — 8:13.
Pole vault: 1-John Kretschmer, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; 2-Fritz Lehmann, Grosse Pointe North; 3-Mark Towar, Flint Northern. Height — 13 feet, 3 inches.



This Week in Sports

Big Week For Pistons

BY BRIAN BRAGG
Free Press Sports Writer

The final pair of home games for the Detroit Pistons will be big ones (probably sellouts), the final action before the playoffs . . . if the Pistons make it to post-season play.

The Red Wings are at home just once and — couldn't you guess? — the hockey game once again goes head-to-head with basketball for the sports dollar. It's happened regularly all season, so why not in the final week as well?

Huron Relays A Boys 1

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