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Running clears 6-8³/₄; Sanford runs 15.2

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MOUNT PLEASANT — Four Class A and three Class B records were broken at Saturday's Central Michigan University Relays.

Sarnia Northern's Pete Running set a Class A meet record in the high jump and nearly matched the state record by clearing the bar at 6-8³/₄ inches.

"Officially this is my highest jump," said Running, an 18-year-old senior. "I've done 6-10 in practice."

It was only the third time this year Running has jumped in competition. He was sidelined last year following an operation on his left knee.

"It's my power knee," Running said. "They really didn't know what it was. I got to talking with Dr. Paul Thomas at the Canada Games (in the summer of 1973) and he referred me to Dr. George Steckel. He operated and had me out walking on the streets in two weeks."

The operation became necessary when the lanky 6-4 high jumper grew 12 inches in one year when he was 14 years old.

"I went from 5-1 to 6-1," he said. "My parents went nuts trying to find clothes and stuff."

"The ligaments in my knee got weak because I used it a lot and it (his kneecap) would hit a bone."

The operation was successful and after one year's rest, Running jumped in the Mansfield Relays three weeks ago.

"I finished third there (Mansfield) winning with a 6-6," said Running. "I definitely got seven feet in me this year."

The one-year layoff didn't hurt Running. He said the rest did him good.

"It (the layoff) really didn't cause me any problems," said Running. "I am just recuperating. I've got to get my fundamentals down going over the bar."

Besides setting a CMU Relays record, the 6-8³/₄ also set an Alumni Field record. The old field record was held by Dennis Adams of Newago High School and was set in 1970. The meet record breaks the old one of 6-4 held jointly by Flint Central's Preis Baron, Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills' Darrell Williams and Flint Northern's Anthony Brown.

In class B high jump action, Class Marysville's Chris Albert earned the Vikings' only point of the day in the closing minutes of the meet by capturing fifth place with a jump of 6-0.

Port Huron Central's Mark Sanford went out of the competition at the starting point of 5-9 by missing three attempts.

"I took off too early all three times," said Sanford. "I usually put a piece of white tape down where my take-off point would be, but today they (event officials) wouldn't let me do it because they said it would distract other jumpers."

Sanford, unlike other Blue Water Area athletes, had some consolation, as he finished second in the high hurdles with a time of 15.2.

"I only ran 16.0 in the preliminaries," Sanford said. "They (preliminaries) were all slow."

Sanford said playing hockey on the Port Huron Fogcutters has slowed him down so far this year.

"Mr. (Lowell) Speiss (coach) likes to start practice early in the winter and I only had one week after my last hockey game to work out," said the 6-0 senior. "I'm just starting to get in shape now, but it will still be a while yet."

Sanford also cited a broken ankle during the past hockey season as slowing his time and his high jump performances.

"That is why I ran so slow in the preliminaries," he said of the healing ankle. "I had to start warming up two hours early this morning because it was hurting."

Sanford's second-place finish gave the Cougars four team points. They were the only points earned by Central all day.

Port Huron High's entrants were blanked in the point department while Port Huron Northern failed to show up, despite Huskie names on each heat sheet. The Huskies went to the Albion Relays instead.

Cross-Lex' Buck Goldschmidt finished sixth in the Class B pole vault with a jump of 11-6. Central's 880 relay team was one second off placing with a time of 1:35.4. Port Huron High's mile relay team was three-tenths of a second off placing, winning its heat in a time of 3:33.3.

Class A records set during the warm sunny day included a 23-8³/₄ long jump by Flint Northwestern's Terry Thames, Running's high jump, Flint Southwestern's 880 relay team which ran a 1:28.3 and the 440 relay team of Saginaw High which ran a :42.5, breaking a 10-year-old record.

In Class B, Flint Powers' Dwayne Strozier broke the 100-yard dash record of 9.9 with a sprint of 9.8. River Rouge's mile relay team ran a record time of 3:28.3 and Powers' middle-distance-medley relay team ran a record time of 10:49.2.

Flint Southwestern won the final 880-yard relay in record time to edge three rivals Saturday for the Colts' first Class A high school title in the 35th annual Central Michigan High School Relays.

In Class B, River Rouge won its seventh title, pulling away with victories in the final two relays.

The Panthers' first relays title in 10 years included a record time of 3:28.3 in the mile relay.



Mark Sanford
...second in hurdles



Chris Albert
...6-0 in high jump

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