

Irish Second To DePorres

Special to The News

GRASS LAKE — Finishing second to the defending state champions is nothing to be ashamed of.

And the St. Thomas High boys' track and field team certainly isn't ashamed of its performance Saturday, when it was outscored only by Detroit St. Martin dePorres in the Class D regional meet here.

DePorres rolled up 62 points to win the event while the Irish totaled 39 and host Grass Lake had 36.

"This is the second year in a row we have been runnersup to the Detroit team with the great sprinters," said St. Thomas Coach Don Canham. "Obviously, this was an extremely loaded regional. The state champion will come from this one."

The Irish qualified competitors in 10 events for the state meet.

John Wright was the top individual, making the grade in the 880-yard run and 440-yard dash in addition to anchoring the mile relay.

"Wright was fabulous, certainly the top competitor in the meet," said Canham.

Wright won the half-mile in 1:59.7 and took third in the 440 in :51.0. The mile relay took second in a school-record 3:31.4. Wright's :50.4 anchor

followed legs by Russ Sieron, Jim Driscoll and Ron Schatzle.

Mark Richard qualified in both hurdles, winning the highs in :15.3 after breaking his own school record with a :14.9 in the semifinals, and taking third in the lows in :21.2. Tom O'Brien took second in the long jump (20-10), fifth in the 220 (:23.5) and sixth in the 100 (:10.5). His 100 time qualified him for the state despite his placing and he also anchored the third-place 880-yard relay, another state entry. Mark Fox, Mike Mrozinski, and Ron Schatzle preceded him on the 880 relay, which was clocked in 1:35.4.

Paul Sherzer was second in the shot put (46-1½) and fourth in the discus (115-7).

Other Irish individual qualifiers were Pat Wright (fifth, mile, 5:42.7) and Schatzle (sixth, 440, :52.4).

Bill Van Bonn's 10:27.4 in the two-mile was St. Thomas' fastest in five years but he finished fourth and failed to qualify.

"We scored in 12 events, and outstanding demonstration of balance," said Canham. "The only real disappointment was the high jump. Both Richard and Dan Gallagher had bad days and did not place. We had expected a few points, at least."

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