

100-Loy Norrix, Detroit Austin took B... ally pulled out the win, making it 64... years... Huron 6-1, 64...

Craig LaFontaine (wearing glasses) of Marshall comes in third as Mike Ball of Wyoming Park (right) edges Emerio Kimball of Detroit Lutheran West to win the 100-yard low hurdles during the state Class B championships at Harper Creek. (Photo by George Vallilice)

Premature victory lap

Robichaud has to give up state B track trophy to Flint Beecher

By DICK LOVELL

Flint Beecher High School sprinters appeared to run faster after the Four-borne Heights Robichaud was than they had during the state boys' Class B track meet at Harper Creek Saturday.

Robichaud had at first been announced as winner of the meet. The jubilant Robichaud team jogged a victory lap with the first-place trophy.

But just as Robichaud was hoisting its flag, meet officials discovered an eight-point error in Robichaud's total. Beecher was actually the winner, with 42 points to Robichaud's 38.

Robichaud's bus already was backing toward the highway when the correction was announced by public address. Shouting loudly, Beecher trackmen ran after the bus, several getting close enough to slip their hands against its metal frame.

No luck. The bus wheeled down Backley Road and out of sight.

The story apparently had a happy ending near Beecher: Harper Creek Athletic Director Ralph Kenyon announced later that someone the Robichaud team was located and that the trophy was to have been passed on to Beecher late last night.

The trophy incident climaxed an exciting day of track action. A re-dedicated crowd of 2,000 saw three records broken in the first state track meet ever held in the Battle Creek area.

Record breakers were Victor Hagarty of Robichaud, who clocked 14.1 seconds during a qualifying heat of the 100-yard high hurdles, Brian Blank of Grand Rapids Norview, with a 48.3 in the 400-yard dash final, and Gordon Jackson of Flint Beecher, whose 8-foot-9 high jump beat the previous record of 8'0", set in 1973 by Penfield's Jeff Swanson.

Sam Angeli of Holland West Ottawa threw the discus 111 feet, 9 inches to establish a state record in that first-year event.

Flint Beecher won the mile relay and placed second in the 400 relay, the final two running events to slip past Robichaud. Wyoming Park, led by double winner Mike Ball, placed third with 70 points. Jackson Lumen Christi, Muskegon Heights and Grand Rapids West Catholic led for fourth with 34.

Defending champion Inaker scored just one point.

Marshall and Lakewood led Battle Creek area teams with 22 points each. Albion had 10, Charlevoix and Spring 5, Harper Creek, Punnifield, Dalton, Hastings and Custer Lake did not score.

Marshall hurdler Craig LaFontaine and Lakewood sprinter Roland Stair each placed third in two events to lead area entries.

LaFontaine's hurdle came with times of 14.4 seconds in the 100-yard high hurdles and 20.1 seconds in the 100-yard low. Stair clocked 10.9 in the 100-yard dash and 22.2 in the 200.

Albion's Ray Washington placed third in the long jump with a leap of 21-7 1/4 and fifth in the 100 low in 20.2.

Penfield's Mark Berends ran 1:58.7 for sixth place in the 800-yard run and barely missed scoring. Points were awarded to the top eight places in individual events and the top 10 in relays.

LaFontaine, who concluded a brilliant sports career at Marshall, admitted he was plenty worried after Saturday morning's preliminaries when he qualified just eighth in 15.0 in the high hurdles and seventh in 20.2 in the low.

"I was just nervous, I guess," LaFontaine said. "I had a bad morning. I was edgy about this meet." But he cut his times significantly in the finals to take the two thirds.

LaFontaine, who also starred in basketball and football at Marshall, said he plans to attend either Albion or Olivet College. He hopes to go out for both basketball and track in college.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

100-YARD HURDLES
1st - Craig LaFontaine, Marshall, 14.4
2nd - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 15.0
3rd - Roland Stair, Lakewood, 16.0
4th - Ray Washington, Albion, 16.5
5th - Jeff Swanson, Penfield, 17.0

100-YARD DASH
1st - Brian Blank, Grand Rapids Norview, 48.3
2nd - Victor Hagarty, Robichaud, 49.5
3rd - Gordon Jackson, Flint Beecher, 50.0
4th - Sam Angeli, Holland West Ottawa, 51.0
5th - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 52.0

200-YARD DASH
1st - Mark Berends, Penfield, 22.2
2nd - Jeff Swanson, Penfield, 23.0
3rd - Ray Washington, Albion, 23.5
4th - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 24.0
5th - Sam Angeli, Holland West Ottawa, 24.5

400-YARD DASH
1st - Victor Hagarty, Robichaud, 48.3
2nd - Brian Blank, Grand Rapids Norview, 49.0
3rd - Sam Angeli, Holland West Ottawa, 49.5
4th - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 50.0
5th - Jeff Swanson, Penfield, 50.5

800-YARD RUN
1st - Mark Berends, Penfield, 1:58.7
2nd - Jeff Swanson, Penfield, 1:59.0
3rd - Ray Washington, Albion, 2:00.0
4th - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 2:01.0
5th - Sam Angeli, Holland West Ottawa, 2:02.0

1,600-YARD RUN
1st - Mark Berends, Penfield, 4:15.0
2nd - Jeff Swanson, Penfield, 4:16.0
3rd - Ray Washington, Albion, 4:17.0
4th - Mike Ball, Wyoming Park, 4:18.0
5th - Sam Angeli, Holland West Ottawa, 4:19.0

400-YARD RELAY
1st - Flint Beecher, 1:12.0
2nd - Marshall, 1:13.0
3rd - Lakewood, 1:14.0
4th - Albion, 1:15.0
5th - Spring, 1:16.0

800-YARD RELAY
1st - Flint Beecher, 3:15.0
2nd - Marshall, 3:16.0
3rd - Lakewood, 3:17.0
4th - Albion, 3:18.0
5th - Spring, 3:19.0

1,600-YARD RELAY
1st - Flint Beecher, 6:30.0
2nd - Marshall, 6:31.0
3rd - Lakewood, 6:32.0
4th - Albion, 6:33.0
5th - Spring, 6:34.0

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TEAM TOTALS

1st - Flint Beecher, 42 points
2nd - Marshall, 38 points
3rd - Lakewood, 22 points
4th - Albion, 10 points
5th - Spring, 5 points

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