

# Northern trackmen live up to Badar's rating



Colt contributors (from left) James Brewer, Brad Simpson, Booker Moore and Rodney Feaster

By **LEN HOYES**  
Journal Sports Writer

**GRAND RAPIDS** — There was some thought that Norbert Badar, veteran track coach at Flint Northern, overstepped early in the spring when he called his Vikings "the best balanced team I've ever had."

If Badar was putting them on the spot, they lived up to expectations Saturday when the Vikings took the Class A state track title with a convincing 44 points in a 136-team meet at Houseman Field.

For the second straight year, Flint celebrated a 1-2 finish. Defending champion Southwestern was runner-up with 35 points, outpointing pre-meet favorite Ypsilanti by winning the final event.

Flint Northwestern, suffering a "down" day in the 85-degree heat, scored 24½ points but finished a respectable ninth.

**IN A DAY** of team success, there also was individual success.

Southwestern took the 880 and 440 relays, equaling a record in the former event with a time of 1:27.9 and taking

the shorter race in 42.6.

The Colts' Brad Simpson, who helped on the 880 team, stunned the field with a time of 48.6 in the 440-yard dash despite running in the next-to-last heat which supposedly couldn't produce a winner.

Rob Cummings gave Carman its first Class A state champ with a time of 14.3 seconds for the 120-yard high hurdles.

Sprinter Mike Miller, a sophomore, took the 220 in 21.6 for Northern.

Teammate Rich MacInnes won the 880 in 1:55.3.

**SIX VICTORIES** are the most by the Flint area contingent since the same number in 1963. That year had further significance because it was the last time Northern ranked No. 1.

Flint contestants also took five second places.

Badar said, "I could tell they were ready today. They wanted to win badly. And we were healthy, too, especially the 880 relay team."

Third place by the team of Miller

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Journal Photo

# Beecher captures title but not the 'B' trophy

By CHUCK JOHNSON  
Journal Sports Writer

BATTLE CREEK—Flint Beecher High's track team scored 42 points to win the state Class B track title here Saturday, but the Buccaneers were forced to go home without the first place trophy because of an error in the team scoring.

The error, which gave Dearborn Heights Robichaud eight points in the two-mile run although it didn't have a competitor entered, caused a scene at the Harper Creek High School Stadium that won't soon be forgotten by the fans who were still in the stands to witness it.

Beecher Coach Marty Crane had informed his squad of its victory on the basis of his final scoresheet that had Beecher on top and Robichaud second with 39 points.

The jubilant Buccaneers were posed on the winners' stand, prepared to accept the first-place trophy and nearly everybody left the stadium with the impression that Beecher was the state champion.

Then a public address announcement said that Robichaud was the winner with 47 points and Beecher was second. The message caused instant pandemonium from the Robichaud team while Beecher's trackmen jumped from the stand in disgust and disbelief.

Crane, after gathering his composure from the sudden turn of events, asked the meet director, Ralph Kenyon, to go over Robichaud's scoring. After a brief check, Kenyon found the mistake that had given Robichaud eight points in the two-mile. The points should have been awarded to Dearborn Divine Child's Kevin Marcy.

Kenyon immediately announced the correct results but by that time Robichaud had boarded its bus and was headed out of the stadium. An attempt by some of the Beecher runners failed and several calls over the PA were also unheeded by the now accelerating caravan.

Even without the first place trophy temporarily, Beecher's victory was sweet.

The Bucs scored in six events, including two first places to claim their first-ever state championship. It ended a successful athletic year for the school which won the state Class B basketball crown in March.

Paced by the workhorse performance of Anthony Akins, the Bucs had too much overall talent to be denied the title they were favored to win.

Akins triumphed in the 120-yard high hurdles and also had a hand in the Bucs' winning mile relay victory. In addition, the senior standout anchored his team's second-place 440 relay unit and capped a fourth place in the 40-yard dash.

Akins posted a 14.2 in the high hur-

dles, barely nipping Victor Huguley, who had run a 14.1 in the preliminaries for a state record.

The mile relay unit of Benard Carpenter, Ricky Franklin, Ricky Curtis and Akins was clocked in the winning time of 3:23.1. Beecher's 440 relay quartet of James Ross, Kenneth Miller, Jessie Hogan and Akins finished with a 43.9, a step behind Muskegon Heights which won in 43.8.

Akins' time in the 440 was 49-flat. The event was won by Brian Blank of Grand Rapids Northview with a state record time of 48.3.

Beecher also got points from

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## Stones sets jump record

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dwight Stones of Long Beach State, making a promise he could keep, broke his world high jump record with a leap of 7 feet, 7 inches Saturday at the 55th annual National Collegiate Track and Field Championships.

Stones, an Olympic bronze medalist with his sights on a gold in Montreal this summer, set the old mark of 7-6 1/2 in 1973 while competing for the Pacific Coast Club.

The cocky Stones predicted he would set a world mark at the NCAA's because he felt he wouldn't reach it in the Olympic Games this summer at Montreal. Stones described the Olympics as a drag.

His effort Saturday, anything but a drag, marked the ninth time he set a world record in the high jump and the 19th time he has gone over 7-5.

Stones said the high jump at the Olympic Games takes five hours, and is nerve wracking. He predicted high jumpers at the Games will not be able to keep their muscles loose for so long a period.

The 22-year-old Stones was at Munich in 1972, finishing third and suffering from a lack of experience.

But he went back to Munich in 1973 in a dual meet against West Germany and jumped 7-6 1/2, then a world record.

The NCAA record was 7-4, set by Ray Brown of California Poly at San Luis Obispo and Tom Woods of Oregon, both in 1973.

Tennessee's Phil Olsen won the javelin title with a mark of 273 feet. He edged Brigham Young's Dick George who threw 270-8.