

## Schoolgirl discus star heads News' All-State lineup

By **KEN WILLIAMS**  
 News Sports Writer

Abby Currier is the only Class D selection to The Detroit News' 1977 All-State girls high school track team, a blue-chip roster which covers 14 events.

Last weekend, Currier captured a state championship by tossing the discus 130 feet, 9 inches — the longest throw ever by a Michigan schoolgirl. Her performance shattered the state Class D record of 121-1 which Currier posted a year ago.

"It was an incredible feat of strength combined with reflex action, timing and poise," said Dominican High School track Coach Joe Smetanka, who compiled The News' weekly listing of outstanding performances by prep girls this season.

Currier, a 5-foot-11 senior, already has accepted a basketball scholarship to attend the University of Michigan. Currier is from Lake City, which has a population of about 1,000, and is located 15 miles northeast of Cadillac.

Sheila Warren of Lansing Waverly also successfully defended her Class A discus title by improving her record from 108 feet to 123-6.

Two Class B athletes were named to The News' All-State squad: Rochelle Collins of Detroit Immaculata in the 880-yard run and Terri Johnson of Muskegon Catholic Central in the high jump.

Collins, a junior, improved her 880 state record from 2 minutes, 14.3 seconds to 2:12.5 and also won the 440 state title in 56.8 seconds. Johnson tied the Class B high jump record of 5-9, which was the best effort in the state this season.

Two All-Staters — from a lineup composed entirely of state champions — represent the Detroit Public School League. They are sprinter Athlen Bowles of Detroit Ford and middle distance runner Delisa Walton of Detroit Mackenzie.

Bowles was picked for the 100-yard dash and Walton for the 440. The Ford star took the state Class A title with a clocking of 11.0 seconds, and the Mackenzie ace was timed in 57 seconds flat to win the 440 crown.

The other sprint choice was Molly Brennan of Waterford Mott. Brennan tied the state Class A record of 24.5 seconds in the 220.

Two of the state's finest long-distance runners were picked for The News' squad: Kathy Wilson of Bloomfield Lahser in the mile run and Miriam Boyd of Port Huron in the two mile. Both were Class A champions. Wilson broke the five-minute barrier with a mile record of 4:59.8, and Boyd sped to a 10:56.7 two-mile mark.

Shirley Mason of Pontiac Central gained the other individual All-State track berth for the 110-yard low hurdles. She finished second to Renee Turner of Flint Central by only one-tenth of a second, :14.5 to :14.6. Shirley, however, topped The News' weekly listings with a :14.1 clocking.

The Flint Central 880-yard relay team set a state record. Led by Turner, Flint's relay team was selected for The News' All-State squad. Other members of the Flint foursome are: Robin Flynn, Nancy Nard and Demetria Fulgham.

Turner's overall performance (she also finished fifth in the 220) led Flint Central to the state team title. Flint scored 33 points to Walled Lake Western's 30 on the Bloomfield Lahser track.

Turner's father, Clif, who has coached the Flint Central girls' track team the last three years, has been named coach of the year for 1977 by The News. Clif, 39, has coached Flint Central boys' varsity basketball for 10 years.

Clif attended Benton Harbor High School and graduated from Hillsdale College in 1963. He earned his masters degree from the University of Michigan and is an English teacher at Flint Central. Valerie Peterson had coached the Flint Central girls' teams for two years before Turner took over, leading Flint Central to a 7-3 dual record in the Saginaw Valley Conference this season.

The other All-State relay selections were awarded to Mt. Clemens for the 440 and to Walled Lake Western for the mile relay.

Mt. Clemens, coached by Chris Timberlake, set a 440 record of 48.2 seconds, only six-tenths of a second off the girls' national high school mark.

The Mt. Clemens foursome is composed of Crystal Thomas, Marcelle Rickman, Roberta Brown and Eileen Rickman.

Walled Lake Western broke its record of 3:57.8 set a



**ATHLEN BOWLES**  
 Detroit Ford



**MOLLY BRENNAN**  
 Waterford Mott



**DELISA WALTON**  
 Mackenzie



**CLIF TURNER**



**ROCHELLE COLLINS**  
 Immaculata



**KATHY WILSON**  
 Bloomfield Lahser



NEWS PHOTO—WILLIAM T. ANDERSON

Walled Lake Western's mile relay champs: (from left) V. Parrish, K. Abel, S. Reimer, R. Hubbard

year ago in the mile relay with a time of 3:57.5. Coach Sharon Young's foursome includes Vanessa Parrish, Karen Able, Sue Reimer and Ruth Hubbard.

The other two All-State selections for field events were awarded to long jumper Cynthia Lett of Grand Rapids

Ottawa Hills and shot putter Josephine Mask of Lansing Sexton.

Lett set a state Class A record of 19-½ that also topped The News' listing as the season's best effort. Mask won the state Class A shot put with a toss of 41-6½.

## All-State girls track selections

### RUNNING EVENTS

- 100 — Athlen Bowles, Detroit Ford
- 220 — Molly Brennan, Waterford Mott
- 440 — Delisa Walton, Detroit Mackenzie
- 880 — Rochelle Collins, Det. Immaculata
- Mile — Kathy Wilson, Bloom. Lahser
- Two miles — Miriam Boyd, Port Huron
- Low hurdles — Shirley Mason, Pont. Cent.

### FIELD EVENTS

- Long jump — Cynthia Lett, GR Ott. Hillis
- High jump — Terri Johnson, Musk. Cent.
- Shot put — Josephine Mask, Lansing Sexton
- Discus — Abby Currier, Lake City

### RELAY EVENTS

- 440 — Mt. Clemens (Crystal Thomas, Marcelle Rickman, Roberta Brown, Eileen Rickman)
- 880 — Flint Central (Renee Turner, Robin Flynn, Nancy Nard, Demetria Fulgham)
- Mile — Walled Lake Western (Vanessa Parrish, Karen Able, Sue Reimer, Ruth Hubbard)

### COACH OF THE YEAR

— Clif Turner of Flint Central