

D-6 THE STATE JOURNAL Sun., April 9, 1978

Linda McCurdy soars 5-feet, 6-inches

# Everett leaper sets girls' Spartan Relays mark

By DAVE MATTHEWS  
Staff Writer

Everett High School's underground railroad to athletic success is still turning up prime talent.

A year ago, it produced the "little farmer from Homer", Jamie Huffman, who helped Earvin Johnson put the school permanently on the Class A basketball map with a state title.

THIS YEAR, it has produced not one but two "little leapers from Windsor" who promise to put a lot of punch in the Vikings' girls track and field program.

They're named Leslie and Linda

McCurdy, and they both acquired reputations for excellence in the province of Ontario, Canada, before coming to Lansing at the outset of the 1977-78 school year.

Saturday, the younger of the two, 14-year-old Linda, demonstrated how in the Class A-B section of the Spartan Relays for High School Girls in Jenison Fieldhouse. In her first competitive appearance for Everett, Linda won the high jump with a meet record leap of 5-foot-6.

IT COULD just as easily have been Leslie, a senior, because she, too, has gone 5-6 in the high jump. But, meet

rules permit only one entry per school, so Leslie had to be content to cheer her sister on.

And cheer she did, because they are not only sisters, and often hot rivals on the field of athletic combat, but the closest of friends.

Spartan Relays summary,  
page D-3

"We're so close, a lot of people don't realize we're sisters until we tell them," Leslie said, before launching with obvious pride into a discussion of all the records Linda has broken back home in Windsor.

IT DOESN'T bother Leslie in the least that the records belonged to her before Linda came along.

The two are here because their mother, Patricia McCurdy, is doing master's degree work in interior design at Michigan State. Their father, Dr. Howard McCurdy, stayed home in Windsor, where he heads the biology department at St. Clair College.

The fact that U.S. high schools place greater emphasis on sports than do Canadian schools encouraged them to transfer. And the fact that both Dr. McCurdy, a native of Canada, and Mrs. McCurdy, an American, were

high jumpers in their youth has greatly enhanced the skills of Leslie and Linda.

DR. MCCURDY is their favorite coach. Saturday's record effort by Linda is not the greatest testimonial to his coaching ability she has given, either. A year ago, at age 13, she was Canadian national age group high jump champion, clearing 5-6 then.

Her performance in the Spartan Relays was good enough to put the Vikings in a 12th place tie with 10 points.

East Lansing and Holt shared the honor of generating the best local performances, tying for fifth with 14

points apiece. Detroit Northern scored in only two events, but won them both, the sprint medley and mile relays, to cop the team title.

A THIRD by Tonya Wells in the long jump, Pam Poquette's fifth in the high jump and a third in the shuttle hurdle relay did the job for East Lansing. Holt did it all in two events, like Detroit Northern, taking second in the mile and third in the sprint medley.

Two other records toppled. Detroit Our Lady of Mercy scoring in the two-mile relay with 10:07.53, and Grand Rapids Quion lowering the 880 relay standard to 48.59.



Clipped By:  
jeffhollobaugh  
Sun, Mar 13, 2022