

Area Track Standouts Set 12 Meet Marks

Jones Rips Rotary Records

By JOHN VANDEN HEEDE
Sports Editor

Benton Harbor's Chris Jones was out of sight at the 21st annual Rotary Meet Tuesday night at Dickinson Stadium.

There was a bumper bunch of track and field standouts from throughout southwestern Michigan on hand, but the Tiger senior was way above them all, setting Rotary records in all four events she entered ... long jump, 100-yard dash, 880 relay and 440 relay. And she made the peerless performance even more memorable with all-time area records in the 440 relay and long-jump.

"The last two weeks I've really been improving," declared Jones, "and I was really looking forward to the Rotary Meet."

Although she was undoubtedly the star of southwestern Michigan's premier track event, the crowd of more than 1,000 had plenty more to cheer

about.

The preps set 12 Rotary records overall, including 10 by the girls. They also made a total of 12 changes on southwestern Michigan all-time honor roll, including three new marks.

Track fans also saw River Valley's Sheila Varga and Decatur's Kathy Seibel split in their showdowns in the distance races, Benton Harbor's Maverick Burton hold on to his title of being this area's fastest human ever and Niles' Tracy Garner emerge on top in a battle of the best high jumpers southwestern Michigan has ever produced.

Benton Harbor's Jones set all-time area and Rotary records in the long jump at 19-0 and the 440-yard relay at 49.55. She teamed with Cheryl Clark and Tina and Sheila Atcher in the 440 relay.

Jones' winning time in the 100-yard dash of 11.09 was the second fastest in area history, besides being a Rotary record.

The 880 relay team of Jones, Clark Sheila Atcher and Lisa King turned a 1:44.79 which was a new Rotary mark and the second fastest time ever. The same foursome ran a 1:44.55 at the LMAC meet last Friday.

Benton Harbor girls also established Rotary and all-time records in the mile relay at 4:05.39. Runners on that squad included Lisa King, Juanita Wesby, Sharon Clark and Teresa White. White also added a 440-yard dash victory in a Rotary record time of 59.25 seconds.

River Valley's Varga

avenged a loss to Seibel in the Rotary two-mile a year ago by winning in a meet record 11:37.3.

"There was a lot of mental pressure," noted Varga. But she said she was looking forward to the re-match "for sure."

Seibel came back to beat Varga in the mile with a Rotary record time of 5:25.4.

"I decided to go for it," said Seibel. "I just was going to see what I could do. I think it helps both of us to run together. I think it psyches both of us up."

The girls races also

produced Rotary records by Lakeshore's Janel Root in the 800 run (2:22.8) and St. Joseph's Michelle Priefer in the 110 low hurdles (14.8). Priefer's effort also matched her own southwestern Michigan all-time mark.

Root repeated as an individual champion, along with Jones in the long jump, Seibel in the mile and Dowagiac's Becky Johnson in the 220 dash.

Benton Harbor's Burton in the 100 and Ricky McDonald in the 440 were repeat individual winners among the boys.

Burton matched his own all-time area mark while establishing a Rotary record of 9.64 seconds in the century sprint.

"Saturday (at the Class A state meet) I'm going to put it all together" stated Burton. "I'm going for 9.4. That's my dream."

McDonald set a Rotary mark of 49.02 seconds in the

440. It also stands as the second fastest time in area history.

Burton and McDonald were also on Benton Harbor's winning mile relay team.

Other boys Rotary records came from Niles' Larry Murphy in the discus (142-3) and Benton Harbor's 440 relay team of Al Chandler, Don Atkinson, Mark Adkins and Duane Tillman (43.5).

Elden Butzbaugh Jr. again served as chairman of the event which is sponsored by the Twin City Rotary Club. Proceeds provide college scholarships to participants.

Tuesday's meet was dedicated to Pat and Jean Ryan. Pat has served as a coach, teacher and principal in the St. Joseph schools, while Jean, an instructor at Gard School, is area chairman of the Special Olympics.

Boys

Shot Put — 1. Bailey (BH) 52-6½; 2. Knoll (Niles) 50-8 3. Kolenko (Co) 50-8 4. Chaney (Fenn) 49-9 5. Rose (LMC) 48-11½



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