Experience, youth triumph in relays

By LEN HOYES

Experience counts. Kearsley High's veteran team ran away with the boys' championship Friday night in the 10th annual C. S. Mott Relays.

But who said an inexperienced team can't win a big one? Northern High's girls, a team of mostly sophomores and juniors, took the other half of the championship in a weather-plagued meet at Houston Stadium.

Neither champion had much opposition.

Kearsley scored in 10 of 13 events while piling up 80 points, the second largest total in the history of the meet. Southwestern was a distant second with 44 points in the 22-team field.

NORTHERN DETHRONED Midland which had won the last two years. Northern totaled 44 points to the Chemics' 29 in a 13-team field.

Despite a bone-chilling temperature of 41 degrees and a drizzle which

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-Journal Photo by LEO AL JOHNSON

WHERE'D IT GO? — Greg Dawson (left) of Southwestern looks behind to locate a fallen baton which slipped away from Norm Graham while attempting a handoff Friday night in the Mott Relays. The Colts were leading before the mishap and had to settle for fourth place in the sprint medley relay. They were runnerup to Kearsley in the 10th annual meet at Houston Stadium.

one-out single.

title with 338 average - on a career-

Dilone saved one other run by flagging down a liner by Steve Kemp in right center in the fourth. Staub, who had walked with one out, was running on the play and would have scored.

"It was my best game of the season," said Johnson, who tossed a shutout against the Seattle Mariners and who has accounted for both of Oakland's complete games.

THE FACT THAT the Tigers, statistically the best hitting team in the league, were in town didn't seem to faze Johnson.

We went over their lineup like we always do, although we talked a little longer about some hitters.

"But all we think about is winning and that's all I went out there to do.

Owner Charlie Finley sent the A's honey before the game for quick energy. The gift worked as the A's scored in the first inning off starter and loser Jack Billingham (3-1).

Bill North opened with a single, but was thrown out trying to steal.

With two outs, though, Billingham walked Mitchell Page and surrendered a single to Gary Alexander.

MARIO GUERRERO then bit a soft liner behind second base that was fielded by Steve Dillard, whose throw skipped past first baseman Jason Thompson to allow Page to score.

The A's added a pair in the fourth on a walk to Dave Revering and a home run by catcher Jim Essian, his second and the first issued by Billingham this season.

Another error by Dillard led to Oakland's fourth run in the fifth and Billingham uncorked a wild pitch to account for the fifth run in the sixth.

The two teams were to meet again today with Langford opposing Bob Sykes, who is replacing scheduled starter Dave Rozema.

Rozema is ill with a virus. He will pitch Sunday if possible. Otherwise, it will be Milt Wilcox.

It is a shuffling of pitchers which Houk hoped to avoid. But it is a roll which he's becoming to accustomed.

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fell through most of the 414-hour meet. seven records were broken.

Kearsley had a monopoly on three boys' records while four girls' marks were spread among three teams.

Kearsley's four-mile team of Dave Podsadecki, Ernie Jacot, Jim Scofield and Terry Doherty clipped 18.1 seconds from a six-year-old record in 17:58.6. Dave Duchene threw the discus a record 157-8 and joined Tim Diener in totaling 299-10 for another record.

NORTHERN'S TEAM of Cindy Readus, Edyth Childress, Venita Bowie and Paula McGee won the shuttle hurdles in 1:03.8, bettering the 1977 record of 1:06.2.

Lorri Thornton of Central longjumped a record 17-1 and joined Renee Turner in totaling 33-10 for another

Shelia Harris of Northwestern took the 100-yard dash in 11.0, wiping out her 1977 standard of 11.2.

Where Al Sigman, who is cocoach of Northern with George Dedrick, figured his team was an unknown quantity. Kearsley Coach Don Marsh figured his team had the tools to claim the title it last won in 1971

MARSH SAID, "I thought we had the manpower but I wasn't so sure when I got here and saw the bad weather. I was worried about the field events in such bad weather because we needed points in those events.

His worries were needless.

Besides the Duchene-Diener victory. Dave Shock and Chris Walley won the pole vault with a combined 22-6. Jac Rottiers and Dale Nordgard took the high jump at 11-10 and Diener and Duchene were second in the shot put.

Marsh also got a victory from Jacot, Podsadecki, Doherty and Barry Glasco in the distance medley in

Of Kearsley's top men, Rick Hayden, Podsadecki, Glasco, Doherty, Shock and Diener are seniors and Duchene, Rottiers and Jacot are juniors. Only Arnold Smiley is a sophomore.

MARSH SAID, "It's a great group of veterans. We could have brought some youngsters who might have scored. We have an outstanding junior varsity and we have some great prospects in junior high.

'After this year we'll have to wait two years for another great team. Not so with Northern's girls.

Sigman is anticipating not only the rest of 1978 but also 1979 and 1980

He said, "We're loaded with sophomores" and pointed out Childress. Paula McGee, Tonya Lowe, LaGretta Riley and Pam McGee

We have some good juniors, too, he said, naming Readus and Bowie.

Childress and Paula McGee won the high jump for the Vikings' other first.

SIGMAN SAID, "We have some other girls who are good but we couldn't use them in a meet where there are only eight events.

"But we're looking forward to the next two years, especially if we can keep this group together."

Northern's prospects will run into a better test next week in the city meet when it faces Central, the defending Class A state champion.

The Vikings also must contend with Northwestern which has enough outstanding individuals to be a factor in a regular meet.

But for the moment, it was Northem's chance to sayor the first victory by a Flimt team in four tries in the Mott

Results of Mott Relays

Scoring Kearsiev 80, Southwestern 12 Grant Bidnig 51, Pantiac Central 38, Ann Ampri Myran 19 Defroir Cas Teen 13, Northern 18, No land 21, Defroir Restord 12, Defroir Myran Whanti 19, Defroir Bid Scentral 5, Defroir Charles Whanti 19, Defroir Unit 3, Central 6, Defroir Charles VI, Cop 3, Flushing 1, Grand Ledde 12, Northwestern, Flort Academy, Flint Open, Ook Park, Sogindar Arthur Hill and Sogindar feeld to score.

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