

Newman, Huss Qualify For State Meet

CHS Trackmen Take 11th

STURGIS — Jeff Newman and John Huss will be representing Coldwater High School on June 2 in the State Class B Track and Field championships in Grand Rapids after both qualified in Regional competition last weekend.

Newman high jumped 6-1½ to qualify for the state meet while Huss earned his trip to Grand Rapids by running two excellent races in the 220-yard dash. In the morning, Huss won his preliminary heat in 23.7 and then ran a 23.4 in the finals to gain third. Shelby Gamble of South Haven proved to be the 220-yard regional champion, flashing across the line in 22.8. Dan Ayres of Delton placed second in 23.1.

Those two teams, Delton and

South Haven, battled for the regional team championship throughout the day along with Dowagiac. After the final event, South Haven finished on top with 58 points, Delton grabbed second with 56 and Dowagiac settled for third with 55.

Delton picked up eight more runner-up points when the finished second in the high jump. Tim Fish outjumped Newman of Coldwater by three inches but Fish was defeated himself by Bruce Thomas of Plainwell who soared 6-7½ for a regional record. The old regional mark of 6-7 was established in 1975 by Brandywine's Dennis Wilson.

Even before completing his efforts in the high jump, Newman earned a spot among

the eight finalists in the high hurdles with a morning qualifying time of 15.7. He repeated that performance in the finals but it was only good for second place. Plainwell's Thomas was first in the time of 14.4.

Coldwater's best regional performance in the hurdles came when senior Jim Lyon ran the fastest race of his career over the low hurdles, setting a new CHS record of 40.7. The time bettered the previous mark of 41.0 set last year by Mark Kellogg, also at the regional meet. Lyon managed a fourth place finish on Saturday and just missed earning a trip to the state finals. Mike Jones of Otsego (39.7), Thomas of Plainwell (39.6) and Andy

Gray of Gull Lake (38.9) each qualified in the low sticks.

Gary's winning hurdle time set a new regional record, breaking the mark of 39.1 that had been set in 1977, the first year the 330 low hurdles were a MHSAA event.

Another innovation by the MHSAA for the '79 season was the awarding of points and medals to the top six finishers in each event. As a result, the Cardinals took home four of the new sixth place medals and one fifth to account for 25 points and an eleventh place ranking in the 16-team regional field.

CHS pole vaulters Chuck Neutz and Steve Hourtienne both cleared 12-1 in their competition during the day and placed fourth and fifth

respectively. Roy Kaylor of Allegan won the pole vault with a best of 12-10.

John Huss picked up another CHS medal by placing sixth in the quarter mile, an event won by Carl Merriweather of South Haven in 51.1. Huss later teamed up with Lyon and Jeff and Jack Newman to run the mile relay in 3:36.1. That time was also good enough for sixth place in the event won by South Haven with a blistering time of 3:30.1.

Junior Steve Lawhead copped Coldwater's only other sixth place by running a 4:44.7 mile, the best of his career. Not far behind Lawhead was Coldwater's freshman miler, Bill Emerson, who ran a 4:49.9, just nine-tenths of a second off the CHS freshman record. The mile winner was John Biek of Dowagiac who ran 4:28.0 to outstrip Delton's John Foss who finishing in 4:28.3.

Just missing a Cardinal medal in the long jump was Coldwater sophomore Rick Rurak. Rurak chalked up a personal best of 19-3, just 3½ inches out of sixth place. The regional long jump champ was Greg Lee of Dowagiac who sprung 20-9½.

By the end of the meet, the Cardinals chalked up a total of 11 regional medals. This Thursday, the team will travel to Pennfield for the Twin Valley Conference meet. The Redbirds are presently in fourth place in the league standings.

Final team standings at last Saturday's class B regional were as follows: South Haven 58, Delton 56, Dowagiac 55, Plainwell 47, Gull Lake 36, Otsego 33, Three Rivers 32, Lakeshore 31, Paw Paw 27, Comstock 26, Coldwater 25, Sturgis 19, St. Joseph 15, Coloma 14, Allegan 11, Vicksburg 10.