

Coldwater Finishes Close 4th

Skins Cop TV Boy's Championship

BATTLE CREEK — Marshall High School climaxed an undefeated Twin Valley Conference season with a convincing win in the league championship meet staged Thursday evening at Pennfield High School.

The Redskins piled up 122 points under a new scoring system which counts six places and awards points on the basis of 10-8-6-4-2-1 for each of the places in order. Runnerup honors for '79 went to the Hastings Saxons with 87 points. Albion just squeaked past Coldwater for third place with 56 tallies while the Cardinals took fourth with 55½. Rounding out the field behind Coldwater were Harper Creek with 50 1-3, Hillsdale 42½, Sturgis 42½ and Pennfield 39 1-3.

Rain Hampers Efforts

Because the track and field were buffered by wind and rain there were plenty of upsets and surprises in Thursday meet with the biggest defeat being that of Pennfield sensation Chuck Clay in the high jump. Marshall's Brad Huffman bettered Clay who won the Jackson Regional Championship last Saturday with an amazing leap of 6-11. Clay could not get untracked on the rain-soaked field on Thursday and settled for a best height of 6-0. Huffman won the event with a 6-1 jump with Clay second and Coldwater's Jeff Newman, who also had difficulty performing in the conditions, settling for fifth position at 5-9.

Clay did make up for his loss in the high jump by coming from behind to win the high hurdles championship in 16.6 which proved to be an upset over Coldwater hurdlers Newman and Jim Lyon. Both Newman and Lyon made it through the qualifying rounds to the finals but picked up a fourth and fifth respectively in the finals.

Another shocker in last night's meet came when defending

TV high jump champ, Jeff Herrman of Hillsdale, failed to place in the competition. When it came to the long jump however, Herrman surprised everyone with a meet best of 19-3¾ good enough for the win. Coldwater underclassman Rick Rurka also performed well and picked up a sixth place with a leap of 18-4¾.

McCormick Triumphs

It was no surprise when Albion sprint star Jeff McCormick won the 100-yard dash and anchored the Wildcats to victories in both the 880 and 440 Relays. Due to the weather, the sprint times were somewhat lower than usual with McCormick and teammate Anthony Ridley both clocked at 10.8 for the 100 with Brad King of Hastings in third (10.8) and Coldwater's Leonard Smith in fourth (11.0).

Albion also laid claim to the 880 Relay championship on Thursday, a title that Coldwater had held for the past three seasons. The Wildcats won the event in 1:35.3 and later returned to win the 440 Relay in 45.4.

Another relay dominated by Coldwater teams over the past two years is the mile relay which was won by Marshall, the Cardinal's Twin Valley record of 3:29.0 remained intact. Jim Lyon, Jeff and Jack Newman and John Huss picked up a fourth for Coldwater in the mile relay.

The league champion Reskins also managed to win the mile relay with a 3:34.7, a time considerably lower than that of previous Marshall times this season.

In fact, the only Twin Valley record that did fall yesterday was in the 330-yard low hurdles when Anthony Ridley of Albion overpowered the wind and rain to finish in 39.3. Ted Keating of Hillsdale held the previous T-V best at 39.9. Cardinal Jim Lyon

took fourth behind Ridely with a 41.7 mark, a full second off his regional performance last weekend.

Lawhead, Emerson Place

Performing just as competively as in the regional were Coldwater distance runners Steve Lawhead and Bill Emerson. Although their times were not as good as last Saturday, the two underclassmen ran up against some of the toughest runners in the league and placed fourth and fifth respectively.

Lawhead just missed a third place in the mile by a mere tenth of a second and then returned to the track to cop a sixth in the half-mile behind Sturgis' winner John Marshall (2:02.1).

In the mile run, the two best distance runners in the league battled it out before the screaming onlookers with Tim James of Hastings outkicking Fred Bisel of Marshall to win the mile in 4:30.5. The pair raced nip-and-tuck for ¾ laps before James pulled away to the win. The two mile was an exact carbon copy of the mile finish in which Bisel set the pace only to be out-sprinted by James in the homestretch. Despite running only his second two mile race of the season, James turned in an excellent 9:59.2.

With the meet drawing to a close and Coldwater lodged in last place, four Redbirds went into action and brought their team back into contention. Leonard Smith and John Huss came charging down the track in the 220-yard dash to picked up Coldwater's first medals of the day as well as nail down a spot on the '79 all-conference team. Their second and third place finishes gave the Cards 14 key points and propelled the Redbirds into fifth place for the day. Smith was clocked in 23.9, Huss in 24.2, and winner Mike Whitney of Marshall finished in 23.6.

Place 2nd and 3rd

The pole vault competition lasted during the entire meet on Thursday but when it was over, Coldwater fans had another pleasant surprise. Throughout the day, Cardinal's Steve Hourtienne and Chuck Neutz barbed the wind, rain, cold and tough competition and by meet's end had earned second and third place medals and the all-conference status that goes with it. Both vaulters cleared 12-0 but Hourtienne won the runnerup spot on fewer misses. Brian Price of Pennfield went 12-4 to earn the championship medal. With the 14-points picked up by Hourtienne and Neutz, Coldwater moved into fourth place in the final team standings and only two points away from third. To finish third, the Cards would have needed some points in the weight events but instead they were shut out. Hastings and Marshall dominated both the shot put and the discus with Kevin Echtenaw winning both events, the discus at 143-0, and the shot at 46-¾. Marshall took three of six places in the shot and repeated that finish later, with three places in the quarter mile.

Dave Klint won the 440 in 52.5 with Coldwater's John Huss claiming sixth. That finish marked the first time since 1976 that a Coldwater athlete has not won the 440. Last year graduate Tom Newman dominated the event throughout his high school career.

The final Twin Valley standings for 1979 are as follows.

1. Marshall	5. Albion
2. Hastings	6. (tie) Hillsdale
3. Harper Creek	Sturgis
4. Coldwater	8. Pennfield