

# Area Tracksters Star In Battle Ck. Meet

BATTLE CREEK — Coldwater's Jeff Ernst and Chuck Neutz, Quincy's Karice Loveberry and Bronson's Julie Himebaugh and Cary Crabill were among the gold medal winners Saturday in the first annual Battle Creek City-Area Track and Field Championships held at C.W. Post Field.

The event was sponsored by the Battle Creek Area Amateur Sports Association.

Coldwater's Ernst, a Class B state hurdle champ, joined pole vaulter Chuck Neutz as the Cardinal's representatives in the meet. After a two-week layoff, Ernst was off stride in the long jump but still managed to soar 19-7½ to place third behind Pat Hurst of Battle Creek St. Philip.

Ernst was not off stride when it came to the hurdles however, hitting the tape in 15.05 to win the high sticks against the elite competition. In the 330-yard low hurdles, the Coldwater High grad found himself behind after the fourth hurdle. With a good second effort over the final four, Ernst outleaped the competition to win his second victory of the meet. Ernst's winning time in his last hurdle race as a prep was 40.45 seconds.

Coldwater's Chuck Neutz also faced tough competition in the pole vault. A total of four vaulters with personal bests of 13-feet were entered. At 12-6, Neutz cleared the bar on his first attempt, the only trackster to do so. When all entries failed to clear 12-10, Neutz captured the gold medal with the fewest number of misses.

## Loveberry Dominates

Quincy's hurdle sensation, Karice Loveberry, also a state hurdle champ, was another double winner for the area, setting school records in both of her specialties.

In the hurdle 100 hurdles, Karice shattered the magic 15-second barrier with a school record 14.6 run. She followed that with a 29.2 clocking in the 220 yard sticks. Teammate Tammy Johnston was good enough for third in the longer race, clocking in at 32.6.

Coach Marty Chard also saw his QHS mile relay team of Tammy Johnston, Loveberry, Kelli Stempien and Gail Condra set a school record in their event, covering the four laps in 4:13. Other finishers from Quincy were Gina Rice who was third in the shot put (33-9 3-4) and Tori Budd who took third in the discus (89-4½).

From Bronson High, Cary Crabill won the shot put for the meet with a 50-5 heave. Crabill wrapped up a brilliant career of his own with that toss. Another Bronsonite, Julie Himebaugh, made her mark in the girl's meet. One of the area's premier quarter-milers, Himebaugh covered that distance in 61.2 on Saturday to place a half-step ahead of the nearest competitor.

Earning a runner up spot in the meet was Chris Katz of Union City for a discus throw of 144-2. Debbie Spierling of Union City took second with a 2:31 in the girl's 800.

Sturgis' Keith Keyser was second after a 10:01.4 two mile, the best of his career.