Detroit Central takes title at Mansfield Relays meet

By KEN WILLIAMS

Demetrius Hallums and Tom Wilcher, an explosive senior-junior running combination, celebrated the Mansfield Relays' 50th anniversary over the weekend by sparking Detroit Central to its first team crown in one of the nation's oldest prep track meets.

Central, coached by veteran Woody Thomas, displayed its best punch when the weather was the wettest during the final program on the Ohio track Saturday.

Cold temperatures and strong winds prevailed during Friday's five-event card, and then torrential rains swamped the 14-event final.

CENTRAL WON the team title by finishing second — good for eight points — to Dayton, Ohio, Roth in the 1,600-meter relay. Roth was clocked in 3:20:4 to Central's 8:21.0. Detroit De Porres was third in 3:22.5 and Ecorse fifth in 3:24.0.

Central went into the event trailing Lancaster, Ohio, 45-44, Central finished with 52 points, while Lancaster had 45. Lancaster did not have an entry in the final event.

Hallums anchored the Central foursome, which also included Wilcher, William White and Dave McGibbon.

Wilcher was another double winner, taking the 110-meter hurdles in a wind-assisted 13.6 seconds and the long jump at 23 feet, 4 inches. The runner-up was Paul Bialowicz of Redford Township Bishop Borgess, who leaped 22-10%. Eric Foster, from University of Detroit High, was third at 22-8.

CENTRAL SPRINTER Dave Beasley won the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.7 seconds, while Jamie Weathers of Ecorse finished fourth in 49.1.