

Field day puts Trojans atop pack in Twin Valley boys' track

By STEVE MORSE
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HILLSDALE — "Playing the field" isn't just a well-worn, romantic cliché to the members of Sturgis High's boys' track team. It's a way of life.

But don't get the wrong idea. The Trojans, you see, do their playing in field events: the pole vault, high jump, shot put and long jump.

They really had a field day Thursday, rolling up 56 points in those four events to walk away with the Twin Valley championship.

The triumph ended Marshall's two-year reign atop the league and propelled Sturgis back into the dominant role in Valley track and field circles. The Trojans had gone four years without a league title after winning it 8 of 10 years beginning in 1967.

They ascended to the top Thursday by finishing with 136½ points, 18 more than runnerup Hillsdale. Sturgis outscored Hillsdale, 56-30, in the field events.

"We had to get 'em in the field

events," Sturgis coach Jack Grant said of Hillsdale. "I thought our field events would be the difference and they were."

Tod Nestor won the shot put, Scott Frohriep took the pole vault and Dave Kolb captured the high jump to lead the way for Sturgis.

The Trojans trailed much of the meet, but came on strong at the end when the results of the shot put and pole vault were added to the running score. Both events finished just prior to the completion of the running events.

Nestor threw the shot 50 feet, 6½ inches, nearly three feet farther than his previous best.

"When we're behind, I really get upset and I come up with some of my best throws," said Nestor. "I had a 47-11 here in a dual meet when we were behind."

The motivation worked both ways.

"In a meet like this, momentum makes a difference," said Grant. "I think one of the things we try to do is let all the kids know what's going on in the field events. We let 'em know that Tod

had hit 50. I think efforts like that help the others."

Grant also cited Jeff Harris' 21-2¼ long jump and Lon Morrison's 12-6 pole vault, both good for second places as uplifting performances.

Another effort that fell into that category was Mitch Rambadt's victory in the 1,600-meter run. He came from 15 to 20 yards behind to nip Coldwater's Bret Norton at the finish line in 4:27.2.

Sturgis won only one other running event, the 800 relay, thanks to the tenacity of Hillsdale, third-place Marshall and fourth-place Hastings.

Perhaps the biggest thorn in the Trojans' side was Hastings sprinter Brad King, who won the 100- and 200-meter dashes and anchored the Saxons' victorious 400 relay team. He relegated Sturgis to second place in the latter two races.

It was King's second straight Twin Valley 100 championship.

Greg Clark of Hastings and Todd Kirkby of Marshall also prevented the Trojans from taking first places.

Clark captured the 800 by holding off

a rampaging Rambadt.

"I was worried about it all the time," Clark said of Rambadt's strong finish. "At the far turn, I picked it up, but I could hear him going into the last corner. I knew Mitch had a good kick. I just wanted to give it all I could."

Kirkby came back from a disappointing third-place finish in the 1600 to turn back Jeff Ash of Sturgis and win the 8,200 in 9:54.6.

But his victory didn't soothe his ear-lier disappointment.

"I thought I was going to win it," Kirkby said of the 1600. "But I haven't been running good in the mile lately. It kind of bummed me out. I was pretty upset after the mile."

"I had planned on going after the school record (in the 9:30s), but the mile kind of wore me out."

Marshall also won two other events, including the only one in which Sturgis did not place, the discus. Steve Boehmer took first with a meet-record toss of 155-2. That was 17 feet farther than runnerup Glenn Baker, Harper Creek's best finisher of the day.

Marshall's Joe Jasienski captured the 300 hurdles, beating out Hillsdale's Jeff West, who had defeated him twice earlier this season.

"I guess it was revenge," said Jasienski. "I told him I was going to win this one."

The day capped a disappointing season for Redskins coach Barney Roy, who had thought his team had a shot at a third straight league title.

"We had too many things go wrong this year to be champion," said Roy. "I thought we had enough people to do it, but we had some injuries, some kids couldn't come out and one moved away."

"I'm disappointed, sure. I guess you can't win all the time."

TWIN VALLEY BOYS' TRACK MEET

At Hillsdale
Team Standings
Sturgis 136½, Hillsdale 118½, Marshall 87, Hastings 58, Coldwater 43, Jackson Northwest 29, Harper Creek 25, Albion 4

Individual Events
(Winners and area place finishers)
(Running events in meters)
Shot: 1-Tod Nestor (S) 50-6½, 3-Stahly (C) 47-11, 5-Kuhn (S), 6-Boehmer (M)
Discus: 1-Steve Boehmer (M) 155-2 (Meet record), 2-Baker (HC), 4-Cowles (M), 5-Booth

(C), 6-Stahly (C)
High Jump: 1-Dave Kolb (S) 6-3, 5-Barnes (Ha), 4-Hickman (S), 5-Rurka (C), 6-Waterman (HC)

Long Jump: 1-Jerry Harless (HI) 21-9¼, 2-Harris (S), 4-Rurka (C), 5-Lancaster (Ha), 6-Swartz (M)

Pole Vault: 1-Scott Frohriep (S) 13-0, 2-Morrison (S), 3-Robinson (HC), 5-Williams (Ha), 6-VandyBour (M)

High Hurdles: 1-Jeff West (HI) 15.2, 2-Kentworthy (M), 4-Whitesides (C), 5-Rurka (C), 6-Waterman (HC)

100: 1-Brad King (Ha) 11.3, 3-Harris (S), 6-Robinson (A)

800 relay: 1-Sturgis (Jeff Harris, Dan Ruhlig, Jon Palmer, Tom Myers) 1:33.7, 2-Marshall, 5-Hastings

1600: 1-Mitch Rambadt (S) 4:27.2, 2-Norton (C), 3-Kirkby (M), 4-Metzgar (HC)

400 relay: 1-Hastings 45.3, 2-Sturgis, 4-Marshall, 6-Albion

Low Hurdles: 1-Joe Jasienski (M) 39.2 (Remaining finishers unavailable)

800: 1-Greg Clark (Ha) 1:59.7, 2-Rambadt (S), 3-Metzgar (HC), 4-Warnement (S)

200: 1-King (Ha) 23.0, 3-Palmer (S), 4-Earl (M), 5-Brown (A), 6-Cary (HC)

3200: 1-Todd Kirkby (M) 9:54.6, 2-Ash (S), 3-Kelley (M), 5-Danzinger (M)

1600: 1-Hillsdale 3:30.0, 2-Sturgis, 3-Coldwater, 4-Marshall, 5-Hastings

Final League Standings

(Dual meets and league meet points)
1-Sturgis 16, 2-Hillsdale 14, 3-Marshall 12, 4-Coldwater 9, 5-Hastings 7, 6-Harper Creek and Jackson Northwest 6, 8-Albion