

Norton, Davis, Loveberry, And Johnson Shine

Four County Youths Win In Battle Creek

BATTLE CREEK — Coldwater's Bret Norton, Bronson's Dena Davis, and Quincy's Karice Loveberry and Kelly Johnson all captured individual titles in the Battle Creek Enquirer and News' Area Best track meet held at the Battle Creek Central High School field last night to lead a host of outstanding performances by Branch County athletes.

Norton, a distance ace for Coach Jim Bilsborrow all season, gained a measure of revenge in taking the mile in 4:29.6 when he defeated two Twin Valley foes, Paul Metzger of Harper Creek and Mitch Rambadt of Sturgis. Rambadt, who won the Twin Valley crown, Norton, and Metzger exchanged the lead throughout the first three laps with Norton taking the lead for good with about 300 yards to go.

Loveberry showed her state championship form in taking both the 110 yard and 220 yard low hurdles, tying her own Quincy High mark in the first race with a 14.6 clocking and setting a new standard in the second with a 29.1. Loveberry also ran legs on two Quincy relay teams, joining with Lori Bailey, Kelli Stempien, and Brenda Cottman to set a

school record 54.1 in the 440 relay as the Quincy unit placed second to Battle Creek Central, and running a final leg in the 880 relay with Bailey, Stempien, and Sue Toth to finish in 1:49.5, good enough for third behind Central and Harper Creek.

The third Branch County winner was Bronson's state high jump champion Dena Davis. Coach Chris Brilinski's stellar jumper cleared the bar at 5'3" to take the laurels in last night's meet.

Quincy's Kelly Johnson become the fourth Branch County athlete to win an event when she captured the two-mile in 12:30.2. Teammate Tina Hand came in third in

12:53.9. Several other county athletes turned in strong showings in last night's meet. Coldwater's Cathy Page, running the last race of her high school career, finished third in the 440 yard dash in 61.0, losing the lead and second place just short of the tape. Harper Creek's Laurette Mallard and Battle Creek Central's Loretha Ervin took the top two spots, while Bronson's Carrie Maddox finished fourth.

Coldwater's Kathi Miller finished third behind Loveberry and Gull Lake's Kathy Owen in the 110 yard low hurdles, setting a Coldwater High School mark of 15.8 in the process.

Loveberry's Quincy running-mate, Brenda Cottman, ran a 32.3 to finish fourth in the 220 yard low hurdle event.

Quincy, the most strongly represented Branch County school in the meet, had all the other placers. Tammie Johnston set a new Quincy mark in the long jump when she went 16'5" to finish third, Tina Hand captured a third in the mile with a 5:37.8, Pam Loose took a fourth in the high jump at 5', Amy Geishert and Becky Wilson finished fourth and fifth in the discus with throws of 103'1" and 102'11", and Dawn McClellan took fourth in the shot put with a heave of 34'7". The mile relay team of Tammie Johnston,

Lori Bailey, Gail Condra, and Kelli Stempien finished sixth in 4:22.5.

The Orioles' Shannon Rice finished third in the shot put with a heave of 48'8 and a half inches, and fourth in the discus at 137'9". Mark Ludlow's 6' jump took fourth in the high jump, and Greg Miller's 2:03.1 880 run effort was good enough for third. The Quincy 880 relay team of Bryan Wymer, Jim Supianoski, Tyler Baldwin, and Jack Faulkner took fourth with a 1:35.3, while the 440 team of Wymer, Supianoski, Faulkner, and Ludlow took fifth in 45.6.

No team scores were officially kept in the meet.