

Sexton takes 4th, Swain 1st at girls' 'A' Spartan Relays

By STEVEN WAITE
Journal Correspondent

Not even a disqualification could prevent Flint Northern from leaving the Class A field awestruck at the 9th Annual Spartan Relays for high school girls at Jenison Field House Saturday.

The Vikings of Coach George Dedrick won six events en route to a 72½-point total, 32½ better than runner-up Detroit Cass Tech. Benton Harbor was third with 39. Sexton put forth a 25-point effort, good for fourth place, three points ahead of Pontiac Central.

SEXTON WAS the lone Lansing area Class A school to score.

"That's fantastic, I'm thrilled," said Big Red coach Georgia Old. "We did better than I expected. But then again, I'm a pessimist. After all, this is the cream of the crop in terms of Class A."

Class B, C, D results, Page 3C

Flint Northern left no doubt in anybody's mind that it is indeed the best in Class A — or any class, for that matter. In winning six of the Spartan Relays' 13 events, the Vikings swept all but one of the relays. In all fairness, Flint Northern did finish first in each of the six relay events, but was disqualified after outdueling Cass Tech in the sprint medley relay.

NO MEET RECORDS were set by Dedrick's impressive corps, but his victorious mile relay squad (4:03.12) of Shonda Johnson, Pamela Brown and the Isabelle sisters, Carlene and Marlene, was six seconds ahead of runner-up Cass Tech.

Sexton's mile relay unit of Lynette Gardner, sophomore Alfreida Jones, Yvette Jackson and Angela Swain won its heat in 4:21, but had to settle for sixth place.

Swain, who ran her first competitive 440-yard split since eighth grade, was the Lansing area's

lone individual champ. The senior Big Red, who ran a 1:06.05 split in the mile relay, took top honors in the 60-yard hurdles with a mark of 8.16.

"Angela is a top-notch competitor," said Old. "You don't take anything away from her without a fight."

WHAT'S TRUE of Swain can also be said of teammate Janice Norris. Sexton's sprint specialist took fourth in the 60-yard dash with a time of 7.35, just .09 off the winning pace of Flint Northern's Brown. Norris also anchored the Big Reds' third-place 880-yard relay team, 1:48.48. Swain ran the third leg on that medal-winning unit.

"I thought I did pretty good, considering I ran my first 440 since 8th grade," said Swain while trying to walk off the day's uncomfortable aftereffect — leg cramps. "I got off to a bad start in the hurdles, too. Everybody was ahead of me, but I made it up between the second and third hurdles. I'm surprised. I ran faster than I thought I could today."

Another surprise came in the effort of junior Lynette Gardner, who anchored Sexton's sixth-place sprint medley relay team (3:04.40), and ran the first leg of the mile relay. Gardner's mile relay split of 1:03.64 left Old pleased and optimistic for the outdoor season.

"She has matured beautifully . . . she's showing a lot of courage. She made a significant change of attitude during volleyball, and it has definitely carried over," Old said.

Spartan Relays for girls (at Jenison Field House)

CLASS A
Team scoring: Flint Northern 72½, Detroit Cass Tech 40, Benton Harbor 39, Sexton 25, Pontiac Central 22, Redford Union 20, (tie) East Kentwood and Midland and Traverse City 18, (tie) Ann Arbor Pioneer and Brighton and Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills 17.
Two-mile run — 1, Shumate (Clio), 11:19.18; 2, Stode (Traverse City); 3, Walcher (Temperance-Bedford); 4, Thomson (East Kentwood); 5, Greb (Ulster Ford).
Long jump — 1, Curry (Ottawa Hills), 17'0"; 2, Isbell (Brighton); 3, Taylor (Flint Northern); 4, Bver (Pioneer); 5, Poinewy (Northville).
Distance medley relay — 1, Flint Northern (M. Isabelle, Johnson, C. Isabelle, Cody), 13:14.19; 2, Redford Union; 3, East Kentwood; 4, Traverse City; 5, Ann Arbor Pioneer.
880-yard run — 1, C. Isabelle (Flint Northern), 2:21.02; 2, Mosher (Midland); 3, Daniels (Traverse City); 4, Young (Temperance-Bedford); 5, Parisi (Grand Haven).
Shuttle hurdle relay — 1, Flint Northern (Barbers, M. Isabelle, Grahman, Taylor), 23.89; 2, Detroit Cass Tech; 3, Pontiac Central; 4, Saginaw; 5, Detroit Pershing.
Sprint medley relay — 1, Detroit Cass Tech (Griffin, McKethen, Clark, Jackson), 2:55.62; 2, Benton Harbor; 3, Pontiac Central; 4, Detroit DeWitt; 5, Ann Arbor Pioneer; 6, Sexton, 2:04.68.
60-yard hurdles — 1, Angela Swain (Sexton), 8.16; 2, Barber (Flint Northern); 3, Rowley (Detroit Cass Tech); 4, Ferguson (Benton Harbor); 5, Nash (Saginaw).
40-yard dash — 1, Brown (Flint Northern), 7.26; 2, Arnold (Pontiac Central); 3, Malochi (Port Huron); 4, Janice Norris (Sexton), 7.35; 5, Laneston (Benton Harbor).
One-mile run — 1, Mocielski (Redford Union), 5:18.45; 2, Shover (East Kentwood); 3, C. Isabelle (Flint Northern); 4, Sheels (Brighton); 5, Shoenen (Bishop Shoberg).
Shot put — 1, Richardson (Flint Central), 39.31; 2, Short (Farmington Hills); 3, Bell (Benton Harbor); 4, Voder (Redford Union); 5, Bolker (Temperance-Bedford).
High jump — 1, Stephanie Roberts (Midland), 5'4"; 2, Ferguson (Benton Harbor); 3, Fetterman (Bishop Gobel); 4, Rondes (Millard Lake); 5, Malochi (Port Huron); 7, Sherrin Tree (Everett), 5'4".
880-yard relay — 1, Flint Northern (Barber, M. Isabelle, Taylor, Brown), 1:45.21; 2, Detroit Cass Tech; 3, Sexton; 4, Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills; 5, Ann Arbor Pioneer.
Mile relay — 1, Flint Northern (Johnson, C. Isabelle, Brown, M. Isabelle), 4:03.12; 2, Detroit Cass Tech; 3, Benton Harbor; 4, Detroit DeWitt; 5, Detroit Cody; 6, Sexton, 4:21.
Outstanding Athlete — Carlene Isabelle (Flint Northern).

Piwinski second

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Michigan State's Paul Piwinski leaped 7 feet, 3½ inches to place second at the Dogwood Relays at the University of Tennessee Saturday.

Piwinski equaled the meet record, only to see Jerome Carter, competing unattached, erase the mark by jumping 7-5.

Michigan State's 800-meter relay took sixth with a 1:27.26 clocking, 4.03 seconds behind first-place Eastern Kentucky.



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jeffhollobaugh
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