

# Williams a kick for Rice runner



Karyn Finucan, of Birmingham Seaholm, who battled to a second place in the high jump with a leap of 5-7.

By JOHNETTE HOWARD  
Free Press Staff Writer

On the climactic day when several other Oakland performers expected to do better, Birmingham Brother Rice's John McCleary slipped in and did best of all.

The meet was boys and girls state Class A track and field championships at Jackson High School, and though plenty of Oakland performers challenged for individual titles, McCleary was the sole — and surprise — winner of the bunch.

In the team race, Lansing Everett won the boys championship and Flint Northern held off Benton Harbor and its slew of outstanding sprinters to win the girls title. Birmingham Brother Rice took fifth in the boys division, and Pontiac Central, led by sprinter Dedra Bradley, was sixth among girls teams.

McCleary, competing in the open 800-meter run for only the fifth time all season, put on a rush with about 180 meters left to outkick favored P.J. Osika, of Waterford Kettering, and win with a time of 1:52.1.

Osika, a senior who beat McCleary on a lean for the 800-meter championship at the Oakland County meet last week, was a close second in 1:52.4. It was the first time Osika lost this season.

Oddly enough, Osika inadvertently may have helped McCleary to the title over the crowded 12-man field that started the race.

"I KNEW HE WAS better than these guys, so I just decided to stick with him. He's run this race before," said McCleary, who was sitting on the Astro-Turf infield acting remarkably subdued in victory.

"After I finished second to him at the county meet, I wanted to kick earlier today,

which I did. He kicked at about the same time, but then he kind of leveled off coming around the last turn," McCleary explained. "That's where I got him."

McCleary, a senior, said he planned to celebrate his victory by indulging in "a little partying."

"Not a whole lot," he laughed. "Maybe only until Thursday."

McCleary's win stole some thunder from his more celebrated teammate, Joe Davey, a pre-meet favorite to win the 3200-meter run. Davey entered the meet with the state's fastest time this season (9:14.6), but wound up second behind the next-fastest qualifier, Erik Koskinen, of Swartz Creek. Koskinen, a sophomore, finished in 9:19.5, followed by Davey in 9:20.4.

Koskinen agreed Davey might have spent himself too early in the race by trying to keep up with Grosse Pointe North's Joe Schmidt, who went out like a rabbit and covered the first mile in 4:28. Schmidt, with half the race gone, had opened a 20-yard lead on the field and Davey went after him. Koskinen was nearby, in third, but saving his energy.

But Schmidt faded, Koskinen passed Davey with less than two laps to go, and survived Davey's late rush to win the title.

**OTHER TOP FINISHERS** for the boys included: Holly's Ed Lumm, last year's Class B champion, who took second in the pole vault with a personal record of 14-feet, 1-inch; Walled Lake Central's Steve Thibert, second in the discus behind state record-setter Johnny Mitchell; Seaholm's Eric Wittenberg, third in the 1600; and Southfield's Glen Williams, who placed second in the 110-meter hurdles and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles behind double winner Steve

Smith, of Lansing Everett. Williams is headed to Eastern Michigan University on a track scholarship.

"Coming off the last hurdle (in the 110-meter race), I had him beat but I started my lean prematurely and he was able to run by me," Williams said.

Monroe senior Gary Price, one of the nation's best high school shot putters, shattered the previous state record by more than a foot to win. Price's best was 63-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Farmington's Pete Brown was fourth in the shot and Troy's Derrick Perry was fifth. Al Meacham of Troy took sixth in the discus.

In the girls' competition, Pontiac Central senior Dedra Bradley was nipped by winner Barb Stinson, of Jackson, at the wire in the 400-meter dash. Bradley took second in the 400, then came back to take fourth in the 200-meter dash, just behind third-place Lisa McCoy, of Pontiac Northern. McCoy also took fourth in the 100 with a time of 12.2.

West Bloomfield's Kelly Gieger took second in the 800-meter run and sixth in the 1600-meter run. Farmington Harrison's Alice Short, the defending state shot put champion, took second despite breaking the previous state record for the third time this season. Tempeance-Bedford's Karen Sapp established the new state record with a winning toss of 45-7, to Short's best of 44-8. Short also took a third place in the discus.

Other top local finishers: Karyn Finucan, Birmingham Seaholm, who battled to a second place in the high jump with a leap of 5-7; teammate Mary Ballantyne, third in the 800-meter run; Sue Tomanek, of South Lyon, fourth in the 400; Rochester Adams' Kathy Kubicki, third in the 3200.

For results of the Class A, B, C and D state boys and girls track and field championships, see Scoreboard.