

baton from teammate Todd Woodley Saturday afternoon during the Class A regional track meet at Port Huron Northern. Taylor place finish in the 440-yard relay. The relay squad qualified for the state meet June 2 in Jackson.

Big Reds win regional

Port Huron, Huskies finish 1-2 in A meet

By KEVIN ALLEN
Times Herald SportsWriter

There is strength in numbers, but a few doses of talent will go a lot farther at a regional high school track competition.

Port Huron High's small band of competitors rode two relay victories and three individual championships to the school's first Class A regional title since 1971.

The Big Reds, who could probably put their entire team into three Volkswagens, totaled 96 points in the 18-team meet to outdistance crosstown rival Port Huron Northern by more than 30 points.

The Huskies were second with 64½ points, while Sterling Heights Stevenson was third with 59.

Stevenson won the girls title with 93 points. Sterling Heights was second with 51 points, followed by Eastern Michigan League champ Anchor Bay with 44 points.

Port Huron Northern tied Clintondale for fifth place with 35 points. Port Huron won two relays to finish ninth with 29 points.

The top three places in each event advance to the state meet, which means Port Huron will send its largest delegation to the grand finale in several years.

"We just peaked at the right time and we've been getting some help in the field events lately," said Lowell Spiess, who last won a regional title in 1980 as coach of defunct Port Huron Central.

Eric Boldon, D'Wan Lindsay and Cliff Johnson qualified in four events for Port Huron. Boldon won the long jump, finished second in 400 meters to all-planet runner Omar Davidson of Mount Clemens, and ran legs of the Big Reds' winning 800- and 1,600-meter relays.

Boldon ran a personal best of 49.23 in the 400 but Davidson, a University of Michigan recruit, ran an amazing 47.11. He has already qualified for two national meets.

Boldon also won the long jump with a 21-7 effort. Johnson set a school record with a 38.55 winning time in the 300-meter hurdles. Lindsay was third in the 100 and 200 meters.

Johnson, Boldon, Jeff Kerr and Lindsay ran a 1:29.15 to win the 800-meter relay. That is the area's best time by a full two seconds.

The 1,600-relay quartet of Johnson, Kerr, Cass Eccles and Boldon ran a 3:24.8, about five seconds better than the closest competition in the Blue Water Area.

The Big Reds' other individual first went to Chris Floyd, who won the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 14.61. Floyd has run 14.42 this season, which puts him among the best in the state.

Port Huron also got a big lift from Steve Wisniewski who picked up a third in discus with a 139-9. John Luyt of Anchor Bay won with a 146-9.

John Fleet and Jim Taylor led Northern's impressive showing with a first in the pole vault and high jump, respectively.

Fleet had a 13-1 Saturday. Taylor cleared 6-5 in his event.

King Thomasson also grabbed a second in the 200 meters for Northern with a

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Mon, May 18, 2020

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time of 22.77, while Lindsay was third. Durand Ashford also was second in the long jump with a 21-6.

The Northern 440 relay team qualified for state with a third, behind second place Port Huron and first-place Warren DeLasalle. Thomasson, Taylor, Todd Woodley and Ashford are on that squad.

The Port Huron Northern girls had a pair of qualifiers in high jumper in Mary Wyckoff and miler Marge Hayden. Wyckoff was first and Hayden second. Their efforts surprised no one; they are both among the best in their respective fields.

The Big Reds' efforts may have been a mild surprise.

The 400 team of Heron Chisholm, Mary Perry, Selena Lloyd and Phyllis Portis won that event in 52.26 — easily its best clocking of the season. The 880 team of Chisholm, Lloyd, Petter Callahan and Portis did likewise with a 1:48.88.

"It was warm," Coach Mac Domke said in explanation. "We always run well when it is warm."

Port Huron Northern 400 specialist Jeanne Weis, a former Louisiana state champ, qualified for the Michigan meet with a second in that event.

Anchor Bay qualified its 3,200 relay team (Sue Halt, Polly Strother, Dana Retell, Pam Kroll) and its 1,600 team (Michelle McGrath, Strother, Halt and Jeanette Shereda). The 3,200 quartet

ran a 9:49 — the best local time by more than 12 seconds.

Tars' Coach Kim Renas knows he is blessed with a stable of good quarter-milers.

"I like to think that is because I used to be a quarter-miler," he said with a laugh. "But I know that isn't it."

Fournier also placed second in the long jump with a 16-3½ effort, and finished third in the 100 dash. Shereda was third in the 400 meters.

In other regional highlights:

■ Algonac's Julie Petrovich won both hurdle events at the Class B regional at Linden. Her 47.8 clocking in the 330-hurdles is the best time in the area. The Muskrats finished fifth.

Kelly Cracchiolo of Richmond finished first in the high jump and 880.

■ Ed Bernardi, injured most of the season, still finished first in the 120-hurdles and second in the 330 event. Teammate Ken Gaida won the discus with a school record 154-8. Matt Mueller won the pole vault with a 13-7. Richmond's Pete Stemmler won the two-mile.

■ Marlette's 1,600-meter relay team of Kathy Huggett, Kim Rumpitz, Pam Dombrowski and Sherri Gilkerson finished first at the Class C Carrollton Regional in 4:16.7. Chris Landeryou of Uby won the 300-meter hurdles in 47.68, setting up a battle with Petrovich in the Times Herald Meet of Champions May 26.

■ Marine City Holy Cross boys and girls finished fourth at the Class D meet at Caro. Holy



Times Herald — Greg Jensen

Port Huron's Cliff Johnson crosses the finish line in first place during the Class A track regional meet Saturday afternoon at Port Huron Northern. Johnson won the 300-meter hurdle event with a school-record time of 38.35. He qualifies for the state meet scheduled June 2 in Jackson.

Cross's 880 relay team of Holly Saph, Sue Goldenboggen, Karen Papson and Jill Ruttan finished first with a time of 1:53.1.

■ Marysville boys finished fourth at Corunna Class B. Jim Grosser won the discus with a 148-

6 and finished second with a 50-11 in the shot.

■ The Marysville girls also earned fourth with Helen Johnson leading the way with a first in the two-mile. Her winning time was 12:00.

Derby

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Mon, May 18, 2020