

THE PREPS



NEWS PHOTO / HAROLD ROBINSON

Paulette Bryant skims over the low hurdles in winning the 100-meter event for Southgate Aquinas in Friendship Meet.

Cass, Central grab victories in track

PSL schools defeat Catholic League in Friendship Meet

By Terry Cabell
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Most of the coaches complained about the weather.

"It's too cold," said Cass Tech Coach Bob Glenn. Denby Coach Chuck Lewis and Central Coach Woody Thomas agreed.

With temperatures in the 40s and not a single ray of sunshine, it was not the best of days to run track. But yesterday's Operation Friendship Track and Field Meet between the Detroit Public School League and the Catholic League at the Lorenzo C. Wright Athletic Field brought some warm moments. Especially for Thomas and Glenn; their teams won.

Central finished first in the boys' meet with 74 points, while Cass Tech took the girls' meet with 94 points, giving the PSL a double victory in the annual spring runoff. The PSL also topped the Catholic League in total points. The PSL boys finished with 294 points to the Catholic League's 218, while the girls had 251 points to the Catholic League's 229.

Redford Bishop Borgess finished second in the boys' team standings with 59 points, followed by Denby with 57 and Cooley with 47. In the girls' meet, Pershing was second with 62 points, Henry Ford third with 38 and Bishop Borgess fourth at 36.

"We got lucky and the good Lord was

kind," said Thomas, whose teams have won four state titles. "We've got a young team. Besides Michael Thomas and Orszie Bumpus, we've got all sophomores on the relay teams. We've got a lot of talent, but we're about two years away."

Perhaps the best is yet to come, but Central had more than enough to win yesterday.

The Trailblazers' Rodney Dobine, Lenny Moore, Robert Oglesby and Michael Thomas won the 400-meter relay with a time of 43.3. The 1600-meter relay team of Oglesby, James Johnson, John Battles and Dennis Wilson won in 3:27.3. In individual competition, Bumpus won the 3200-meter run with a 9:57.3.

Cass Tech was just as dominant in the girls' meet. The Lady Technicians won all the relays — the 400 meter, 800 meter, 1600 meter and 3200 meter. Stacey Randolph, Madelyn Clark, Cynthia Merritt and Dana McKeithen turned in a time of 48.9 seconds in the 400 and Merritt, Clark, Nancy Wheeler and McKeithen won the 800 in 1:43.5. In the 1600-meter relay, Lisa Griffin, Clark, Angela Jones and Wheeler took it with a 4:07.5. The 3200-meter team of Jones, Tracey Thomas, Tracey Harris and Griffin came out on top with a 10:04.0.

In addition, Jones won the 800-meter run in 2:21.1.

"We've got one of the best teams in the

state," Glenn said. "We've beaten everybody in this area. We practice year-round. The girls are dedicated. We have qualified in nine events for the state meet (Saturday), and we should place in eight of those."

Of course, the biggest attraction of the day was Denby's Anthony Mahone. The senior sprinter won the 100-meter dash in 10.8 seconds and the 200-meter in 21.7 seconds. He also anchored Denby's winning 800-meter relay team, edging Southwestern at the finish with a time of 1:29.7.

The big disappointment, however, was that Mahone failed to qualify for the Olympic trials with only one race to go.

"Those are good times for out here," said Lewis. "But we're down to one day. We didn't want to push it this far. I think he'll respond to the challenge, though. They're predicting good weather."

The meet produced several double winners. Jeff Neal of Murray-Wright won the 800-meter and 1600-meter runs with times of 1:58.0 and 4:26.4, respectively. Keith Nichols of Benedictine won the 110-meter high hurdles (13.8) and the 300-meter hurdles (39.7). Paulette Bryant of Southgate Aquinas won the 100-meter low hurdles (14.7) and the 300-meter hurdles (44.7). And Angela Prince of Pershing won the 100 meter and 200-meter dashes with times of 12.1 seconds and 24.5 seconds.