

the NOVI
NEWS

Sports

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Novi News/STEVE FECHT

Sophomore Franz Samson will hurl the discus for the Novi track team this season

Wildcat thinclads faced with rebuilding season

By B.J. MARTIN
staff writer

NOVI — About this time last year, Novi Track Coach Bob Smith was brashly enthusing his team was "not rebuilding, but *reloading*." This year, Smith's optimism is tempered by a cold fact: graduation last year claimed a bevy of the school's most talented trackers ever.

"I remember at last year's conference meet they had a ceremony where the seniors from each team would come forward," Smith recalls. "We had those green warmups of course, and when they called up our seniors, there was this big green wave of people . . . We've got only three returning lettermen.

"We'll be coming back," he adds. "We're maybe a year or two away, but we'll get there."

One area Smith won't be able to complain about in the future is team depth. For the third straight year, there is a record number of athletes on the team. This year the number is 57. Of that 57, 29 are freshmen and only one — first-year hurdler Curtis Jones — is a senior.

Despite his team's inexperience, Smith says he is "looking forward" to this season. "I'll be able to work with our younger people right from the start. They won't have any bad habits, and they're willing to work hard."

Among the team's 10 juniors is returning letterman Paul Sumner, a formidable 400 meter and relay man. But most of Sumner's classmates are hobbling. Two of the squad's most promising sprinters, Tom Marcus and Brian Serra, are nursing injuries, as are distance man Kent Lunski, plus weight man Pat Lunski and Mitchell Gordon.

Somewhat more healthy juniors include middle-distancers Bruce Johnston, versatile James MacKay (who will also help in sprint relays and shot put) and Jeff Maggert, plus pole vaulter Steve Schneeman.

The sophomore class has a pool of promising field events personnel. Weight man Franz Samson set Novi freshman records in shot (36-7½) and discus (95-7) last year. Hard-working sprinter Joel Finzel set the school's freshman long jump record (18-8½), and Matt Stahr owns the school's freshman high jump record (5-8) — no small feat for a school with a great legacy of high jumpers.

Among the sophomores are cross-country veterans specializing in distance events: Mike Dillon (who placed fifth in the Oakland County freshman meet in the two-mile last year), Mike LaHate, Tim McBride, hard-working Mike McNutt and Alex Milam. All but McNutt and Milam, however, are experiencing early-season aches and pains. "That's normal for this time of year," Smith says.

Robb Wilson, Marc Williams and Weston Webster all will bolster Novi's jumping and sprint events. Middle-distance personnel will include sophomores Wayne Appleton, Gordon Dupras and Mark Snider. David Brownlee and Todd McNary will provide depth in shot and discus, while Corey Huculak will fill in as a sprinter.

Novi will need freshmen as much as ever this season.

Smith: 'We'll be coming back. We're maybe a year or two away, but we'll get there.'

Smith has high hopes for promising distance man Mike Starnes, and a high need for help from hurdlers Jeff Leininger, Scott Campbell, David Kohler, Travis Rayburn, Brian Schram, Mark Schaper and Jim O'Neill.

Chris Carothers, Craig Cowden, Mike Ducker, Jeff Dunn and Tony Hersberger give Novi plenty of numbers in distance events. Cowden has already clocked the team's fastest 1,600 meters.

Freshman sprinters include Greg Kopp, Schram, Campbell, Mike Maisano, Dave Morris, brothers Andy and John Price, Larry Ploszak, Jay Keranen, Ken Rosenthal, Dave Samaan, Schaper and Rich Ziegler. Freshmen who are apprenticing in field events are pole vaulters Mike Carlson, Ron Fritz, Pat Parsons, Rosenthal and John Price; weight men O'Neill, Kohler, Chuck Mutz, Morris and Doug Sadrack; long jumper Matt Lorenz; and Schram, a fine young high jumper.

"We're going to be potentially a solid team for years to come," Smith says. "We should do respectably against all the teams in the league except maybe Lakeland. Lakeland's going to hit everyone this year.

"It kind of reminds me of how Brighton was with us a couple years ago," he adds. "In 1982, they brought over just their freshmen and sophomores and beat us in a laugh. Well, the next year we came out and beat their whole team, and I mean we beat them badly.

"Nobody's going to keep us down for long."

Smith plans to use his own videocassette recorder to refine his squad's techniques on an individual basis — a twist that could help the Wildcats considerably in coming years.

Helping Smith with this year's large turnout is the respected veteran coach Dave Armstrong and former South Lyon head coach Lee Donley. Recently 1984 alumni and state qualifiers Paul Moote and Jim Kohl, on leave from college, helped out with training the high jumpers and distance runners, respectively.

Novi opens its season in a non-league tune-up meet today (Wednesday) at 3:30 p.m. at Farmington Harrison. The team will undergo some intense conditioning workouts over the upcoming spring break to prepare for the next meet against former KVC team Pinckney April 16.

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Thinclads show promise despite loss to Harrison

NOVI — Their record will show a 105½-31½ loss to Farmington Harrison in the season-opener last Wednesday. But Novi's men trackers won what might be an equally important meet — even if it didn't count.

"The guys were feeling pretty deflated because the score was so lopsided," said Novi Coach Bob Smith. "But I told them they reminded me of the team I had in 1981. We won two meets that year, but those same guys two years later were 11-1.

"To prove my point, I compared our freshmen and sophomores' times and distances with those from the 1981 team in their first meet. It turned out that this year's team would have won 73-44. I think the guys who are freshmen and sophomores on the team now have the potential to be as awesome as that '83 team."

As an example, Smith pointed out that Novi's hurdlers scored no points at all against Harrison — but he noted that four Wildcats recorded better times as freshman than had record holder Dan Senda: Matt Stahr, Mark Schaper, Ron Fritz and Travis Rayburn.

"That was happening all over the

place," Smith said. "In just about all the events except middle distance, this year's team is stronger."

In reality, the Wildcats did get a few strong showings against the Hawks. Joel Finzel was a double winner, taking first in the long jump with a fine leap of 18-6½ and also winning the 200 meters in 25.5. "That was an exceptionally good time considering how windy it was," Smith added.

Brian Schram picked up Novi's only other first of the day, winning the high jump at 5-3. Strong winds held down the heights, but Stahr added a second at 5-2 and Mark Williams finished in a tie for third at that same height on jumps.

Tom Marcus, running at only 85-90 percent efficiency because of an ankle injury, took second in his only race of the day, clocking a personal-best 11.74 in the 100 meters. Paul Sumner added a second in his first 400-meter race ever, with a time of 58.84.

Tim McBride cleared nine feet for a second place in pole vault, a feat Smith called "a pleasant surprise. If he can keep doing just that, he's going to pick up a second or third in

every meet," Smith added.

Franz Samson placed third in discus with a 107-7 effort, his personal best by 12 feet. Also taking thirds for the Wildcats were freshman Craig Cowden in the 1,600 meters (5:01.2), Pat Parsons in the 3,200 (11:39.7) and McBride in the 800 (2:21.53).

All of Novi's relay teams ran into trouble. The 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams had problems with baton exchanges, while the longer-distance relays suffered from the need to "save" individuals for other events.

"The relays are going to give us some problems this year," Smith said. "They've got a lot of work to do."

Novi's second meet takes place next Tuesday, when the Wildcats host Pinckney (0-1). "Harrison has a pretty good team, but I think we'll do a little better against Pinckney," Smith said. "But we're going to take some lumps this year, just like we're going to lump them next year. It goes in cycles."

Novi's first Kensington Valley Conference meet will be at home April 18 against Brighton.

HAWKS PREVAIL:
Wildcat girls throw
scare into Harrison/5C

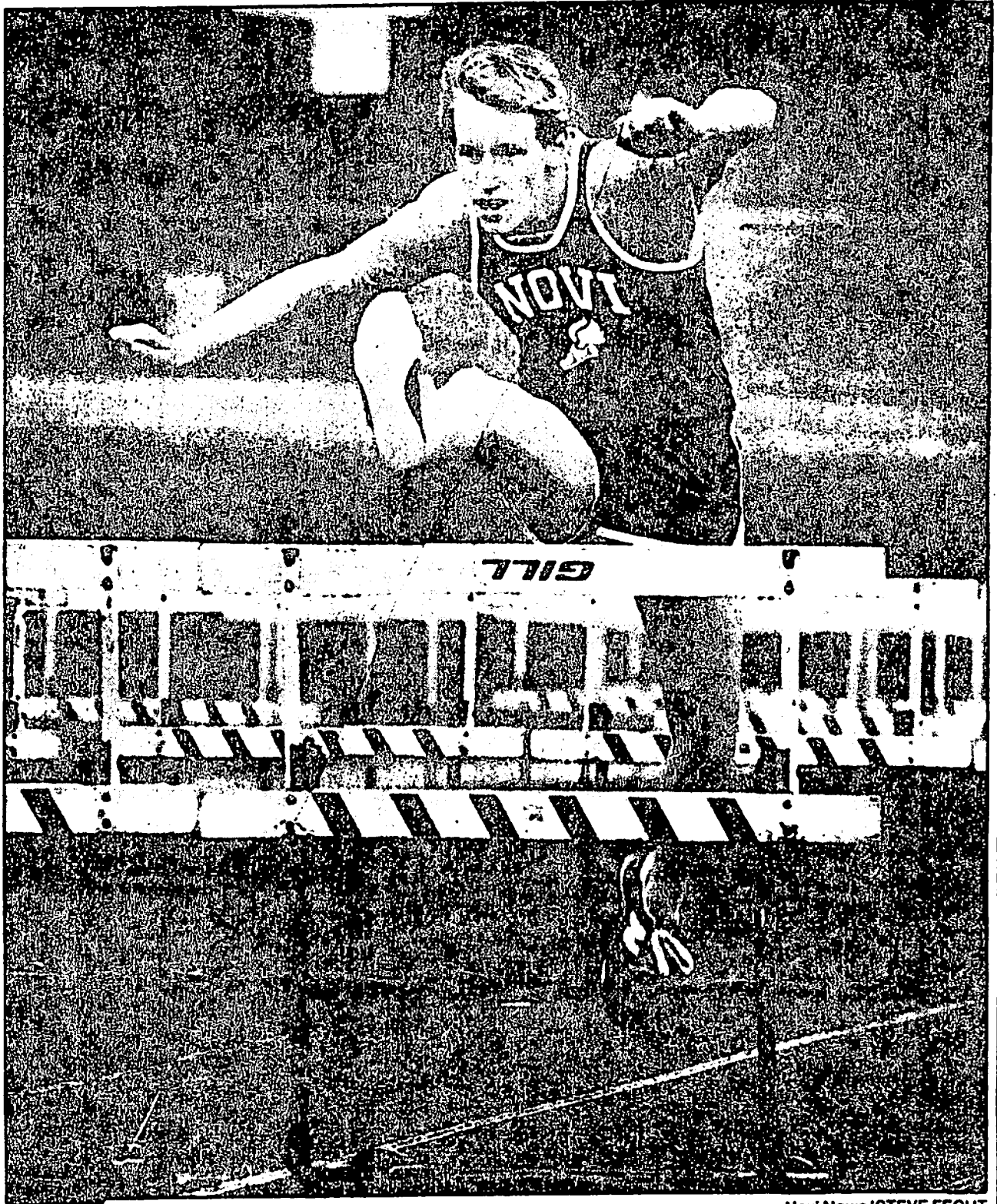
RULES CHANGE?
MHSAA to consider
expanded grid playoffs/6C

4C

QUESTION MARK:
Mound corps holds
key for Wildcat nine/5C

MORE MEDALS:
Cohen brothers take
state swim championships/6C

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Novi's Matt Stahr sails over a hurdle against Farmington Harrison

Novi News/STEVE FECHT

Wildcat of the Week



ANDY LENAGHAN

Andy Lenaghan didn't even make the Wildcat varsity in 1983, and now he's leading the team in RBIs. The senior catcher figured to be a backup for rifle-armed Jeff Tanderys this year, but his heads-up play behind the plate and his hitting ability has turned him into one of the most valuable cogs in the Wildcat machine — and this week's Wildcat of the Week selection.

Lenaghan drove in two runs with a sacrifice and a single against Walled Lake Central in the season opener and added two more RBIs against Oak Park on Thursday. And Lenaghan's ability to get on the same wavelength as the Novi pitchers has been no small part of their success so far this season.

"Andy's done an excellent job for us," agreed Coach Gar Franz. "He's got a good arm, and he's a smart ballplayer. We count on him to give us a lot of leadership on the field."



TOM MARCUS

About a month ago, Novi men's track coach Bob Smith was trying to find bright spots about the coming season. One thing he never mentioned was that he had any potential school record-breakers on his young, quite inexperienced team.

He must have forgotten Tom Marcus, one of our two Wildcat of the Week selections this week.

In his second meet this season, the junior nipped one one-hundredth of a second off Dave Williams' three-year-old 100-meter dash record. Marcus registered the new record of 11.39 to win the event against Pinckney last week.

In the same meet, Marcus also won the long jump with an 18-1½ leap into a stiff wind. He sailed a foot farther for a second place against Brighton two days later.

Marcus busts record but thinclads fall

NOVI — Novi's men trackers fell to 0-3 for the season with losses last week to deep, experienced squads from Pinckney and Brighton.

With conference meets against strong Milford and Lakeland this week, the Wildcats rebuilding process will still involve a few aches and pains, no doubt. But coaches Bob Smith and Jim Armstrong think their crew can handle it.

"The kids are smart enough to realize that if we were running teams in our own age group, freshmen and sophomores, we'd be phenoms," Smith explained.

Junior sprinter Tom Marcus did more than show potential in Novi's 87-50 loss to Pinckney Tuesday. Marcus won the 100 meters in 11.39, a school record. Marcus also took first in the long jump with a leap of 18-1½.

Marc Williams, Tim McBride and Paul Sumner provided Novi's only other individual firsts against the Pirates. Williams' 5-4 won the high jump in extremely blustery conditions, while McBride took the pole vault with a 9-6 and Sumner won the 800 meters in 2:15.7.

Joel Finzel, Robb Wilson, Mike Maisanto and Marcus won the 4x100 relay. "That's two sophomores, a freshman and a junior, (in that order)" Smith noted. But the Wildcats were overwhelmed in the 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relay events.

Taking seconds for Novi were Franz Sampson in discus (98-3), Finzel in long jump (18-¾), McBride in 300 hurdles (45.9), Craig Cowden in the 1,600 (4:58.3) and also the 3,200 (10:54.0).

Taking thirds were Sampson in shot (34-6½) and

David Brownlee in discus (80-10).

If Pinckney was tough, Brighton was brutal. The Bulldogs with 23 returning lettermen pounded Novi 121-16.

Highlights of Novi's meet were a 1-2 finish in long jump. Marcus' 19-1 won and Finzel sailed 18-11½ for second. Marcus added a second in the 100, running a 12.1.

Cowden performed the difficult feat of placing in all three of the longest distance events. Cowden took third in the 800 (2:16.14, a new Novi freshman record), the 1,600 (4:59.26) and the 3,200 (11:22.0).

Brian Schram tied a freshman high jump record with his third-place leap of 5-9. "He's going to be a really good one," Smith said. "That's only his third jump of the season and I know he's got more in him."

Wildcat thinclads drop two, but coach reports progress

NOVI — A surprisingly strong Walled Lake Central squad and perennial powerhouse Milford both thumped Novi's men's track team last week while the Wildcats' rebuilding program continued to chart progress.

Central topped the Wildcats 93-44 in a non-conference dual meet April 23. Novi captured firsts in only three individual events against the Vikings, but won both the 4x100 and 4x400 relays in fine form.

"They were better than I thought," Novi Coach Bob Smith said of the Vikings. "They would fare pretty well in KVC (Kensington Valley Conference) meets.

"We pumped ourselves up thinking we had a shot at Central, but when their long jumper sailed over 20 feet and they won the high jump, discus and pole vault, we knew we were in trouble . . . But a lot of the races were very close."

Novi junior Tom Marcus breezed to a 100 meters win in 12.29, while freshman teammate Craig Cowden turned in a time of 10:39.55 to win the 3,200. Sophomore weight man Franz Samson delivered a 36-3 heave to win the shot put.

Joel Finzel, Robb Wilson, Mike Maisano and Marcus teamed up to win the 4x100 in 48.27, and Mike McNutt, Jay Keranen, Paul Sumner and Tim McBride turned in a 3:59.26 for first place in the 4x400 relay.

Turning in second-place finishes were Samson in discus (103-9), Finzel in long jump (18-2), Steve Schneeman in pole vault (9-0) and Marcus (25.04) in the 200.

Taking thirds were Brian Schram in high jump (5-4) and 110 meter high hurdles (19.69), Matt Stahr (92-9) in

Smith: 'I like the fact a lot of times went down despite the extra work — I think that shows the guys are running with a lot of guts.'

discus, Dave Samaan in pole vault (8-0), McBride in the 400 meters (58.0) and Cowden in the 1,600 with a time of 4:51.32.

Smith knew it would be impossible for his squad to upset veteran-heavy Milford on Thursday, so he didn't taper workouts prior to the meet. Milford won easily, 114-23.

"We want to be prepared for the big meets near the end of the season, and the guys understand that," Smith said. "I know a lot of our guys like to look good every meet, but this way we'll be ready. Eventually we'll have improved times."

The Redskins looked ready now, sweeping six of the individual events and all four relays. Cowden's freshman records of 10:33.84 in the 3,200 meters and 2:12.5 in the 800 meters did not even place. Samson met much the same fate in shot put. His personal best of 37-4 also scored no points.

Novi's firsts came from Samson's 113-1 discus toss and Marcus' convincing win in the 100 meters (11.5). Marcus added Novi's only seconds with a 25.47 clocking in the 200 and a leap of 18-¾ in the long jump. Brian Serra turned in a

47.34 to take third in the 300 meter hurdles.

"We ran pretty well in spite of having had a real hard workout Wednesday," Smith said. "I like the fact a lot of times went down despite the extra work — I think that shows the guys are running with a lot of guts."

This weekend, Smith will get a handle on just how Novi's vaunted freshman and sophomore contingent stacks up against comparable competition at the Holly Freshman-Sophomore Invitational meet.

"We'll take a skeleton crew of juniors and seniors out to the Milan Relays on Saturday, and we'll take our young guys to Holly. We won't be able to repeat as champions at Milan, but hopefully we'll do exceptionally well at Holly."

Tomorrow the winless Wildcats will take on Howell at 4 p.m. Quarter-miler Jim Dixon, a late turnout, is expected to begin competing then. "That should give us a boost," Smith said. "He's looked pretty good in practice so far, but he needs to get in shape."

Novi will host Farmington in a non-conference meet next Monday at 4 p.m.

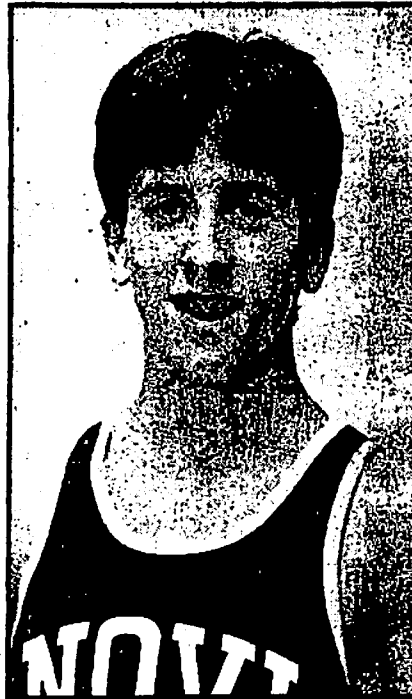
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Wildcat of the Week



MICHELLE HEATH

Michelle Heath has been one of the most steady, reliable and talented athletes to attend Novi High School, and this spring the senior begins to wind down her prep career. Except she's not winding down. She's leading the Wildcat varsity softball team in batting average, contributing first-rate defense behind the plate and emerging as an important team leader on and off the field. Softball coach Jim Tinsley calls Heath his best player. Tinsley's praise for Heath's maturity and steadiness echoes the comments varsity basketball coach Bill Ayotte made about her last fall. We're inclined to agree, and are happy to name Heath this week's Wildcat of the Week.



CRAIG COWDEN

Craig Cowden came out of nowhere last fall to become a vital member of the Novi varsity cross-country team. As track coach Bob Smith recalls it, Cowden slowly improved from being just another freshman "body" to becoming the team's most valuable runner. And from the looks of Cowden's spring, he's beginning to take aim even higher. Cowden last week established freshman records in both the 3,200 meters (10:33.84) and the 800 meters (2:12.5). Smith called the ninth grader one of his "guttiest" performers and a determined hard worker in practices — rare qualities in someone with three more years of competition ahead of him and worthy of a Novi News Wildcat of the Week salute.

Wildcat thinclads place fifth at relays

NOVI — South Lyon's Sunshine Relays provided at least a ray of hope for Novi's men's track team Saturday.

The Wildcats placed fifth at the six-team meet for freshmen and sophomores, but their 75 points weren't far off the pace of perennial track powerhouses Lakeland (83), Farmington Harrison (99) and Milford (110). The Lions carted off first-place honors with 144 points.

Considering the fact that the Wildcats had a relay meet only the day before, it's easy to see how they could have moved up at least one more place in Saturday's meet if they'd been rested.

"The kids were a little flat because of Friday's meet," acknowledged Coach Bob Smith. "But you can see where we're going to need some help in the future.

"At the end of the field events we actually had a six-point lead. And we did all right in the distance events — it was sprinting where we really need some help.

"You can work on technique in field events. You can do enough roadwork to make yourself a good distance runner. But you can't coach speed. We really need a couple sprinters to come forward."

Marc Williams recorded Novi's best high jump, a second-place leap of 5-6. Brian Schram took third and Matt Stahr sixth.

Williams landed a fourth in long jump with a 17-11 effort, ahead of teammates Robb Wilson in fifth place (17-8½) and sixth-place Joel Finzel (17-4).

Franz Samson's 104-1 heave, identical to Stahr's

effort, placed third in discus. Stahr was awarded fourth place because Samson's second-longest toss was further. Samson added a fifth in shot put with a 35-10 — understandably off from his 39-5½ the day before.

Dave Samaan contributed a 9-6 pole vault for a fourth-place finish. But soon after the running events started, the rest of the field caught up.

Novi's best running event showing came from Craig Cowden, who turned in a second-place 10:38.2 in the two mile, faster than any other Kensington Valley Conference distance runner. A strong wind hampered Cowden's mile time, but the freshman took third in 4:55.43, about 12 yards out of first place.

Joel Finzel added a third in the 100 yard dash with a 10.86. Novi's only other medal-winning (top three) finish came from the two-mile relay team of Mike McNutt, Mark Snider, Tim McBride and Cowden (8:49.3).

Taking fourths for the Wildcats were Finzel, Wilson, Greg Kopp and Wayne Appleton in the 880 relay (1:45.39) and the 440 relay (49.4). McBride clocked a 44.93 for fourth in the low hurdles.

Novi's complete team placed fourth at the Novi Relays on Friday. Farmington Harrison won the five-team relay meet with 46 points, followed by Milan (39), Dexter (18), Novi (13) and Pinckney (one point).

"It felt good to finish ahead of Pinckney, after they beat us in a dual meet earlier this year," Smith reported.

Novi's best showing came with a first-place finish in the high jump relay. Schram and Williams each cleared 5-6 and Stahr topped the bar at 5-4. The only second-place Wildcat showing came in the 4x1,600, with Mike LaHaie, Snider, Kent Lunski and Cowden teaming up to clock a 20:30.9.

"I was really happy with Mike LaHaie's split (5:18)," Smith said later. "He's had a knee problem most of the year and it looks like he's coming around."

Novi's 4x200 relay (Finzel, Steve Schneeman, Kopp and Marcus) placed third (1:42.69) and so did the Wildcats' long jump relay, with Wilson going 18-3½, Marcus 18-2 and Finzel 17-3.

Novi also took thirds in two medley relays. In the 400-200-200-800 relay, McBride, Finzel, Marcus and Paul Sumner clocked a 3:57.62 with McBride running a 56.7 400 split and Sumner anchoring the 800 split in 2:11.5. In the 800-400-1,200-1,600 distance medley relay, Novi's 11:27.34 was good for third.

The previous Tuesday, Novi fell to KVC opponent Howell 101-36. Novi's three firsts came from Samson in discus (107-4), the 4x880 relay team of Snider, McBride, Sumner and Cowden (no time available) and Cowden's 10:47.6 clocking in the two mile.

Brian Serra took second in the 120 highs, but his 18.5 time had to remain unofficial since an entire flight of hurdles had not been put up. Brownlee took second in discus (101-1), Samson in shot (38-2), McBride in the 330 yard lows, Williams in high jump (5-8) and Marcus in the 100 yard dash (10.7).

Novi thinclads show potential

By B.J. MARTIN
staff writer

NOVI — Men's track Coach Bob Smith predicted Novi would open some eyes at Holly's freshman-sophomore invitational track meet Saturday.

He was right. Novi's 17 points placed 12th among the 20 Class A teams competing — well behind winner Holly (52 points), second-place Southfield (45) and third-place Schwartz Creek (42) — but well ahead of track powerhouses Brighton (3½) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (10).

The Wildcats' best showing came from Matt Stahr and Franz Samson in the two-man discus relay. Stahr heaved a 104-5 and Samson a 101-5 for third place. The same two athletes took sixth in the shot relay, with Samson going 38-9 and Stahr 31-4.

Novi placed fourth in the 440 relay with Joel Finzel, Mark Wilson, Greg Kopp and Wayne Appleton clocking a 49.2 on the concrete track (no starting blocks could be used). The distance medley (880-440-1,320-mile) team of Tim McBride, Mike McNutt, Mark Snider and Craig Cowden placed fifth in an outstanding race.

Novi took sixth in the two-mile relay with Mike Starnes, Tim McBride, Mike McNutt and Craig Cowden clocking a 9:12.0 for sixth place. Joel Finzel and Robb Wilson combined for 32-8 to take seventh in the long jump relay, and Snider, Pat Parsons, Mike Ducker and Mike Dillon placed ninth in the eight-mile relay.

"We did everything right at that meet," Smith said. "I only wish we could have run it as a Class B team, like we were last year. We would have probably been the Class B runner-up at Holly this year."

While many of Novi's best freshmen and sophs were at Holly, the rest of the Wildcats were busy placing fourth out of four teams at the Milan Relays, behind winner South Lyon, Milan and New Boston Huron. "We would easily have finished third if we'd brought the rest of our team there," Smith said later.

Novi's best individual showing was

junior Tom Marcus' third-place 11.5 time in the 100 meters and fifth-place 24.3 clocking in in the 200. Marcus also took fifth in the long jump (18-7).

Wes Webster's 8-6 pole vault was good for a sixth, and Novi's only other points at the meet. But Kent Lunski's 11:36.0 in the 3,200 meters and freshman 1,600 entries Tony Herschberger (5:29) and Jeff Dunn (5:36) were all solid, much-improved times, Smith noted.

Lakeland and Hartland bruised the Wildcats with a pair of Kensington Valley Conference losses on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively. While Smith expected Lakeland to win easily, he said Novi had an outside shot at upsetting Hartland — despite the fact that Hartland won 106-31.

"I keep a 'dream sheet' before every meet," he explained. "And if we'd gotten some peak performances, it would have been a very close meet. It was a lot closer than the score indicated. Sometimes track scores can be misleading."

In the Hartland meet, the Wildcats posted a stirring win in the 4x800 relay with anchor Cowden kicking in to the lead in the backstretch and holding on for a strong win in 8:55.23. The first three legs were run by Lunski, Paul Sumner and McBride — all of whom return next year.

Marcus won a close 100 meter dash with an 11.46 clocking, while Finzel finished third in 11.94. But aside from a 4x100 relay win in 47.83, Novi could pick up no other first places.

Samson continued his drive toward 40 feet in shot put, turning in a 39-8½ effort for second place. Brian Schram tied for second in high jump (5-4) and Cowden gave the Wildcats seconds in the 1600 (4:51.8) and 800 (2:16.89). Sumner took third in the 800 (2:16.99), Snider third in the 1,600 (4:59.83), Webster third in pole vault (9-6) and Marcus third in the 200 (24.37).

Lakeland swamped the Wildcats 109-28 two days before, with the Wildcats picking up firsts from Samson in discus (105-0), Marcus in long jump (18-4½) and Cowden in the mile (4:50.6) and two-mile (10:28.6).

Wednesday
MAY 8
1985



Novi's Tom Marcus (right) beats Hartland's Wes Lund in a photo finish in the 100 meter dash

Novi News/STEVE FECHT

Northville tops Wildcat thinclads

NOVI — It's been a rebuilding season for men's track at both Novi and Northville high schools this year — the Novi Wildcats were winless in the Kensington Valley Conference and the Northville Mustangs were equally winless in the Western Lakes Athletic Association.

So what was at stake in the two teams' May 13 dual meet?

Plenty. A sorely-needed victory and bragging rights in the Novi-Northville rivalry, for two things.

This time, Northville gets to brag. The Mustangs came from behind to win going away 81-56.

"They won't next year," Novi Coach Bob Smith stated boldly. "I can just about guarantee you that."

They almost didn't win May 13. Novi fired up a lead after field events thanks to the Wildcat weightmen. Franz Samson blasted past the 40-foot barrier for the first time in shot put, launching a 40-11 heave. Matt Stahr followed with a toss of 34-½ and Jim McKay nearly pulled off third with a 33-5 effort.

In discus, Stahr led a 1-2-3 Wildcat sweep with a season-best throw of 113-1 "That got Franz' goat," Smith chuckled. "Before that meet, Franz had our best toss this year, 113-1." Samson took second against Northville with a 106-10 toss and David Brownlee's 99-1½ was good for third.

Novi failed to deliver the goods in jumping events, though. Mark Williams cleared 5-4 for a second in high jump and Stahr could go no higher than 5-2 for third.

Smith was most disappointed with his long jump

crew. "They didn't warm up enough before the meet, and they all know better than that," he bristled. While three Wildcats have done better than 18 feet earlier this season, Novi's best effort against the Mustangs was Tom Marcus' third-place 17-9½.

Northville slowly gained ground in running events, however, finally passing Novi with five events to go. "We knew at that point we were in trouble because we don't have the depth in middle distance they do. But the kids got a real charge out of scaring them like that for so long."

Novi picked up only two firsts in running events: Tom Marcus' 11.7 won the 100 meter dash, and Novi's 4x400 relay team of Jim Dixon, Tim McBride, Mike McNutt and Paul Sumner won a close race in 3:54.59.

The Wildcats were held to seconds and thirds in both hurdle races. "We should have been 1-2-3 in the highs," said Smith. "Their best hurdler kept knocking down the hurdles, and you're not supposed to run 'em that way. He just got a warning, but he could have been — and maybe should have been — DQ'd."

With times affected by the dropped hurdles, Jeff Leininger and Curtis Jones were awarded second and third place in the 110 meter highs. In the 300 lows, Brian Serra took second with a 46.91 and Leininger third with a 47.31.

Marcus was second in the 200 with a 24.43 clocking, Paul Sumner was second in the 800 (2:07.63) and Craig Cowden pulled off seconds in the 1,600 (4:55.7) and 3,200 (10:56.72).

Steve Schneeman bettered his previous best in

pole vault by a foot, clearing 10 feet for third place. Cowden added a third in the 800 (2:12.78), Matt Snider in the 1,600 (4:58.37, a personal best).

Novi "trained through" an inevitably one-sided meet against South Lyon Wednesday, falling 117-20. "We were running 10 quarter-mile repeats the day before," Smith said. "That'll take the zip out of you fast." Novi's only first was Cowden's 4:47.1 clocking in the mile and a first in the 4x220 yard relay, awarded to Mike Maisano, Schneeman, Greg Kopp and Stahr due to a South Lyon lane violation.

Marcus took second in a photo-finish 100 yard dash, clocking a 10.56. Samson's best-ever heave in shot, 42-0, took second, and Novi ran 2-3 in the two-mile run with Kent Lunski's 11:21.0 and Mike Starnes' 11:26.9.

Saturday, Novi competed at the Class A regional track meet at Westland John Glenn. Novi had no regional qualifiers, but there were some strong showings. Brian Schram barely missed the 5-10 opening height in high jump, which may have landed him a medal.

Marcus made the 100 meter semifinals with a personal-best time of 11.64, and freshman Cowden took an impressive 14th in the 3,200 meters with a 10:29.7.

The Kensington Valley Conference meet gets under way at 3 p.m. this afternoon (Wednesday) at Brighton High School. Saturday, Novi plans to enter eight events at the Oakland County freshman meet (10 a.m. at Milford High School), and Smith said he has high hopes of a strong showing there.

Wednesday
MAY 22
1985

Wildcat of the Week



BOB HUOTARI

If you ran a printout of Novi's senior class to determine its best athlete, Bob Huotari might come out on top. Simply put, the kid does everything he's asked.

On one of the area's best-hitting baseball teams, Huotari has been firmly implanted in the number-three slot all season. He's had eight hits in his last 19 at-bats for a .421 batting clip. Not bad, but not all that much better than his .387 season average.

While playing superbly in center, Huotari leads Novi in at-bats, runs, hits, doubles and triples. He has 10 stolen bases and 17 runs batted in — and he sports a .495 on-base percentage. Good enough for Wildcat of the Week.



FRANZ SAMSON

When the rebuilding Novi men's track team scores only a few points, most of them usually are supplied by the young man in the above photo — sophomore weight ace Franz Samson.

Samson's shot put distances hovered near the 40-foot mark without crossing it most of the year — not bad, but nothing great, either. But after a couple sessions of fine-tuning his form with Coach Bob Smith ("Franz was snapping his head too much when he let go," Smith explained) the muscular Samson first cracked the 40-foot barrier with a 40-11 first-place effort against Northville. Then he popped a 42-0 against South Lyon.

Wildcat runners take 6th in KVC

NOVI — It wasn't hard for Bob Smith to find some consolation in Novi's sixth-place finish at the Kensington Valley Conference track meet last Wednesday.

Noting that four of his Wildcats registered season-best performances, the men's track coach said the meet provided "a few very pleasant surprises."

"I was pretty worried going into the meet," he said. "I was very concerned we might not even score. But it was a pretty good meet for us. A few of our guys really came through."

Did they ever. Sophomore Joel Finzel registered a 19-11½ long jump for fourth place. The distance was nearly a foot further than Finzel's previous best and broke Novi's sophomore long jump record.

"We had a talk with our long jumpers before the meet, and we made sure they knew how to prepare," Smith said. "Looks like it paid off."

Finzel, he pointed out, has a good chance to break Novi's school record. "Joel's got a lot more speed than (current school record holder Steve James) had. I'm sure he could really do 21 feet if he stays with it. He's got the speed; all we have to get is some more height."

Franz Samson continued his rapid improvement in the last four meets, launching a heave of 43-7½ for sixth place in the shot put. "We just ran out of meets for Franz," laughed Smith. "If we'd had a few more meets, he might have gone 45 feet this year."

Novi's all-underclassmen two-mile relay team of Tim McBride, Matt Snider, Paul Sumner and Craig Cowden turned in a fine fourth-place finish, clocking an 8:56.4.

Cowden ran a 10:20.1 in the two-mile to take eighth — the best showing by any freshman at the meet.

Lakeland, as expected, was an easy winner in the meet, followed by Brighton, South Lyon and Milford.

"I expect we'll move up to fifth next year," Smith said. "(Meet directors) had their usual senior recognition ceremony and we by far had the fewest. All the others had 10 or 15 seniors. We had two."

Novi sent a contingent of freshmen to the All-Oakland County Freshman meet at Milford Saturday, and for the second straight year, captured a first in high jump.

Freshman Brian Schram leaped 5-10 for first place in the event. "We seem to have a real dynasty in high jump here," Smith observed. "Brian went higher than Matt Stahr did last year, and Matt

Smith: 'I was pretty worried going into the meet. I was very concerned we might not even score. But it was a pretty good meet for us.'

was even ahead of Paul Moote's freshman height."

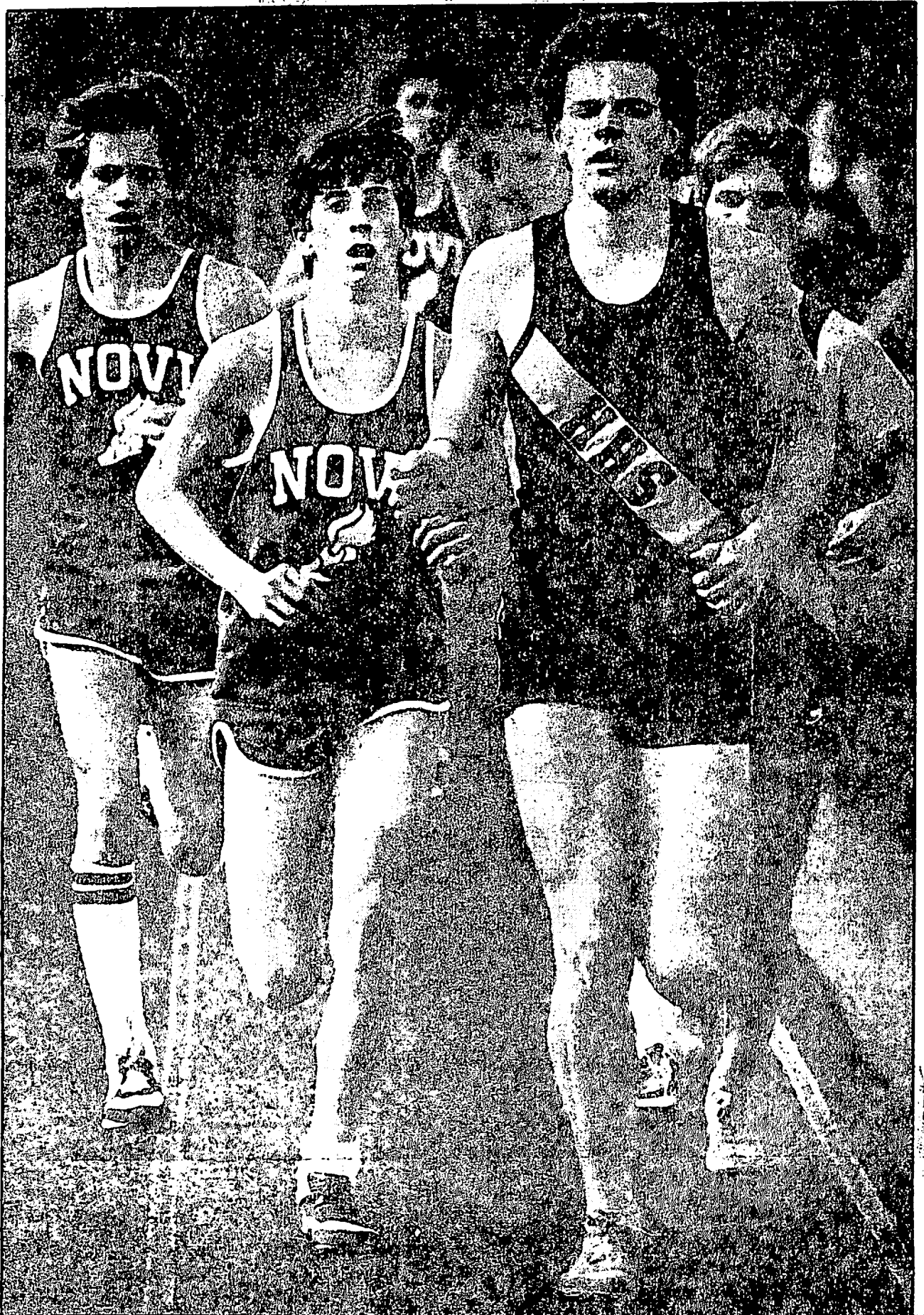
Novi took eighth among the 30-odd men's teams at the meet, won by Pontiac Central, with West Bloomfield second and Southfield Lathrup third.

Novi nearly picked up another first when the two-mile relay foursome of Pat Parsons, Mike Starnes, Jay Keranen and Cowden surpassed even Novi's KVC meet time with a second-place 8:53.0.

Parsons surprised even Smith by popping a 2:09.44 in the 880 to break Bob Peery's old freshman half-mile record. "I've got a guarantee he'll be out for cross-country this fall," said Smith. "I'll tell you, I'm already getting excited about cross-country season. We've got a ton of new people who are going to help us out a lot."

Dave Samaan's pole vault of 9-6 was good for a fifth-place tie.

Smith announced the following awards were given to members of the Novi track team: Most valuable athlete — Tom Marcus. Most dedicated — Mike McNutt. "Iron Man" — Craig Cowden. And the "Wildcat" award for physical and attitudinal "class" — Bruce Johnston.



Novi News/STEVE FECHT

Novi freshman sensation Craig Cowden keeps pace with Hartland's Dan Veres

SHOT PUT		3200 M RELAY		1600 M RUN		300 M L.H.	
Samson	43 7½	Cowden	2:09.40	Cowden	4:45.50	McBride	44.70
McNary	34 6½	Parsons	2:10.30	Snider	4:58.37	Serra	46.08
Stahr	34 6	Sumner	2:10.70	Starnes	5:02.00	Leininger	46.48
Brownlee	33 8½	McBride	2:11.10	Lunski	5:08.80	Schram	47.32
MacKay	33 5	Starnes	2:13.60	Milam	5:16.72	Marcus	47.40
Gordon	32 9	Snider	2:15.50	LaHaie	5:18.50	Schaper	47.74
Sadrack	29 9½	Keranen	2:17.40	Dillon M	5:19.30	Rayburn	48.53
Fritz	29 2	McNutt	2:17.40	Ducker	5:27.70	McNutt	49.01
Mutch	27 8	Lunski	2:17.90	Hershber	5:29.30	Jones	49.24
Lorenz	25 6	Milam	2:24.50	Parsons	5:31.50	Fritz	50.88
McNutt	24 5	Rosenthal	2:27.60	Carlson	5:32.40	Campbell	51.77
Dillon P	19 10	Wilson	2:29.30	Dunn	5:32.90	Webster	52.13
Morris	18 10	Carlson	2:30.50	Campbell	5:36.90	O'Neill	58.38

DISCUS	
Stahr	113 1½
Samson	113 1
Brownlee	103 7
Sadrack	102 8½
Gordon	95 0
MacKay	90 9
McNary	89 5½
McBride	76 6½
Mutch	66 7
Lorenz	63 2½
Dillon P	58 11

HIGH JUMP	
Schram	5 10
Williams	5 8
Stahr	5 4
Wilson	5 2
Webster	5 0
Rosenthal	4 10
Snider	4 8

LONG JUMP	
Finzel	19 11½
Marcus	19 1
Wilson	18 3½
Williams	17 11
Schram	16 10
Appleton	16 7½
Kopp	15 4½
Price A	15 3½
Snider	15 2
O'Neill	14 4½
Maisano	14 4
Webster	13 4½
Lorenz	13 4
Morris	12 10

POLE VAULT	
Schneeman	10 0
McBride	9 6
Samaan	9 6
Webster	9 6
Fritz	8 0
Price J	8 0
Parsons	M8 0
Lorenz	M8 0
Hershber	M8 0
Carlson	M8 0

400 M RELAY	
Finzel	
Wilson	
Kopp	
Marcus	47.40 5-10-85

110 M H.H.	
Schram	19.05
Serra	19.53
Leininger	19.79
Fritz	19.85
Jones	19.96
Stahr	20.25
Schaper	20.57
Rayburn	21.18

100 M DASH	
Marcus	11.39
Finzel	11.76
Wilson	12.23
Appleton	12.36
Maisano	12.40
Kopp	12.48
Gordon	12.70
MacKay	12.77
Price A	13.10
Schaper	13.10
Huculak	13.35
Ziegler	13.47
Johnston	13.54
O'Neill	13.60
Morris	13.70
Koller	13.78
Pioszak	13.83
Price J	14.11
Snider	14.24

800 M RELAY	
Marcus	23.70
Dixon	24.83
Finzel	25.10
Schneemann	25.10
Kopp	25.60
Wilson	25.60
Sumner	25.60
Appleton	25.90
Stahr	26.30
Serra	26.40
Maisano	27.00
McNutt	27.20
MacKay	28.70

400 M RELAY	
Finzel	
Wilson	
Kopp	
Marcus	47.40 5-10-85

400 M DASH	
Dixon	55.40
McBride	58.00
McNutt	58.40
Jones	58.48
Keranen	58.49
Sumner	58.84
Parsons	59.40
Rayburn	60.30
Webster	61.80
Koller	62.21
Kopp	62.96
Price A	63.44
Huculak	64.26
Appleton	64.36
MacKay	65.20
Ziegler	66.20
Johnston	67.40
Pioszak	67.64
Price J	70.60
Samaan	71.00

800 M RUN	
Sumner	2:07.63
Parsons	2:09.44
Cowden	2:12.50
Milam	2:19.57
McBride	2:21.53
Rosenthal	2:23.81
Carlson	2:26.82
Carothers	2:29.00
Maggert	2:30.80
McNutt	2:31.50
Dupras	2:31.60
Snider	2:35.40
Dunn	2:37.60
Price J	2:39.53
Lorenz	2:42.90
MacKay	2:58.20

200 M DASH	
Marcus	24.30
Finzel	25.00
Dixon	25.36
Schneeman	25.64
Kopp	25.91
Maisano	26.17
Wilson	26.18
Stahr	26.44
Appleton	26.45
Keranen	26.80
McNutt	26.82
Sumner	27.03
Serra	27.20

3200 M RUN	
Cowden	10:16.67
Lunski	11:00.72
Snider	11:20.91
Starnes	11:23.49
Parsons	11:39.70
Ducker	11:45.80
Milam	11:47.00
LaHaie	12:11.70
Dillon M	12:24.08
Carlson	12:41.20
Rosenthal	12:46.70
Hershber.	12:49.10

1600 M RELAY	
McBride	56.40
Dixon	56.68
Sumner	56.90
Keranen	58.30
McNutt	58.60
Parsons	58.97
Jones	59.04
Schram	59.20
Rayburn	59.80
Kopp	59.80
Marcus	60.30
Snider	61.05
Serra	61.10
Webster	61.29
Appleton	61.50

3:49.23 on 5-22-85
1985 Best

NOVI HIGH SCHOOL TRACK RECORDS

Long Jump	1977	Andy Raddant	22' 4"
Shot Put	1976	Ben Galyon	48' 11"
High Jump	1984	Paul Moote	6' 7"
Discus	1981	Jay Dinan	140' 9"
Pole Vault	1977	Jeff McDermaid	12' 11"
Most Points	1983	Paul Boyd	145.25

Event	Year	Name	Time
2 Mile Relay	1984	Greg Prost, Greg Mowbray Jim Kohli, Bob Peery	8:43.8
3200 Meter Relay	1984	Paul Sumner, Greg Mowbray Jim Kohli, Bob Peery	8:34.5
120 Yard High Hurdles	1973	Pat Boyer	15.2
110 Meter High Hurdles	1984	Dan Senda	16.43
100 Yard Dash	1977	Andy Raddant	10.3
100 Meter Dash	1985	Tom Marcus	11.39
880 Yard Relay	1982	Dave Whitehead, Greg Prost Dave Williams, Paul Boyd	1:33.1
800 Meter Relay	1983	Mike Senna, Dave Whitehead Dave Williams, Paul Boyd	1:32.8
1 Mile Run	1978	Jeff Johnston	4:29.1
1600 Meter Run	1984	Jim Kohli	4:35.5
440 Yard Relay	1983	Dave Whitehead, Steve James Mike Senna, Dave Williams	45.48
400 Meter Relay	1983	Dave Whitehead, Steve James Dave Williams, Paul Boyd	45.34
440 Yard Dash	1982	Paul Boyd	50.5
400 Meter Dash	1983	Paul Boyd	50.2
880 Yard Run	1978	Tom Morris	1:57.6
800 Meter Run	1984	Bob Peery	2:01.33
330 Yard Low Hurdles	1977	Andy Raddant	39.9
300 Meter Low Hurdles	1983	Paul Boyd	39.82
220 Yard Dash	1978	Tom Morris	23.4
200 Meter Dash	1983	Dave Whitehead	23.29
2 Mile Run	1978	Jeff Johnston	9:46.0
3200 Meter Run	1984	Jim Kohli	9:57.73
1 Mile Relay	1984	Bob Peery, Mike Senna Dave Whitehead, Greg Prost	3:29.15
800 Meter Relay	1983	Mike Senna, Greg Prost Dave Whitehead, Paul Boyd	1:32.8

1985 VARSITY TRACK TEAM

1985 Varsity Letter Winners

Others on the 1985 team

Number of
letters
in track

	Name	Points	Rank	%	Grade	Name	Points
3	Tom Marcus (11)	82.50	1	%	10	Wayne Appleton	3.50
1	Craig Cowden (9)	76.75	2	%	10	Dave Brownlee	5.33
1	Franz Samson (10)	57.33	3	%	9	Scott Campbell	----
2	Joel Finzel (10)	38.00	4	%	9	Mike Carlson	----
1	Brian Schram (9)	31.67	5	%	9	Chris Carothers	----
1	Tim McBride (10)	31.00	6	%	10	Mike Dillon	----
1	Marc Williams (10)	27.50	7	%	11	Pat Dillon	----
2	Matt Stahr (10)	25.25	8	%	12	Jim Dixon	3.00
1	Paul Sumner (11)	21.25	9	%	9	Mike Ducker	----
1	Robb Wilson (10)	10.00	10	%	9	Jeff Dunn	----
1	Steve Schneeman (11)	9.25	11	%	10	Gordon Dupras	----
1	Mark Snider (10)	8.00	12	%	9	Ron Fritz	----
1	Pat Parsons (9)	4.00	13	%	11	Mitch Gordon	----
1	Doug Sadrack (9)	---	14	%	9	Tony Hershberger	----
				%	10	Corey Huculak	----
				%	11	Bruce Johnston	----
				%	12	Curt Jones	1.00
				%	9	Jay Kenanen	3.50
				%	9	Dave Koller	----
				%	9	Greg Kopp	6.50
				%	10	Mike LaHaie	.75
				%	9	Jeff Leininger	4.00
				%	9	Matt Lorenz	----
				%	11	Kent Luskki	6.00
				%	11	Jim MacKay	1.00
				%	11	Jeff Maggart	----
				%	9	Mike Maisano	3.75
				%	10	Todd McNary	----
				%	10	Mike McNutt	6.00
				%	10	Alex Milam	----
				%	9	Dave Morris	----
				%	9	Chuck Mutch	----
				%	9	Jim O'Neill	----
				%	9	Andy Price	----
				%	9	John Price	----
				%	9	Larry Pibetak	----
				%	9	Travis Raybunn	----
				%	9	Ken Rosenthal	----
				%	9	Dave Samaan	6.00
				%	9	Mark Schaper	----
				%	11	Brian Serra	6.00
				%	9	Mike Starnes	3.00
				%	10	Wes Webster	1.00
				%	9	Rich Ziegler	----