

Three record efforts carry Southfield to share of title

By CHUCK KLONKE

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Tom Eschmann doesn't envy the people who got an early start on the trek to the cottages for the long holiday weekend.

The Southfield boys track coach was just where he wanted to be Friday — at the 26th annual Oakland County meet at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

"I'd hate to have missed this meet," Eschmann said. "Those people can be sitting in their cottages, but I'm glad I was here. It was just an outstanding meet all the way around. Anyone who doesn't watch high school athletics is missing a good shot of life."

One of the reasons for Eschmann's enthusiasm was the performance of his squad, which tied Milford Lakeland for the team championship with 77 points. It was the second time in three years that Southfield has earned a team championship in the county meet.

This year the Blue Jays rode a long way on the flying feet of Torin Dorn, the sprinter deluxe who won the 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes in record time and lifted Southfield from fifth place to second with a brilliant anchor leg in the 1600 relay.

"I'm happy with the tie for first, but deep down inside I wish we'd have won it by ourselves," Eschmann said.

"But this isn't football. We had a lot of individual first places, guys who didn't lose tonight, so how can you be unhappy?" he asked. "It was a meet where we didn't make any mistakes."

Southfield rolled through the South-eastern Michigan Association dual meet campaign without a loss and finished first in the league meet earlier this week, so the Blue Jays were among the favorites in the team competition.

"I didn't really know how we'd stack up against the competition, because there were a lot of teams here that we hadn't seen before," Eschmann said. "I was just hoping we'd turn in our best performances up to now and we did."

In addition to Dorn's three meet records, the Blue Jays' Joe Peoples won the 110 high hurdles in 14.9 and Jean Harris set a varsity record in the pole vault with a 13-foot-6 effort that was good for fifth place.

Going into the final relay, Southfield had 69 points while Lakeland and Pontiac Northern were tied for second with 7.

Northern jumped ahead in the 1600 relay and led through the first three legs but Lakeland's Dan Baenziger, who was clocked unofficially in 46.1 for the anchor, breezed past the Northern runner a few steps before the finish

line.

Baenziger's anchor leg overshadowed the outstanding effort of Dorn, whose final 400 was clocked in 46.8.

Lakeland's time for the relay was 3:20.5 while Southfield, which ran 3:22.3, was awarded second place when Pontiac Northern was disqualified.

Northern kept its 67-point total and finished third. West Bloomfield was distant fourth with 36 points, Birmingham Brother Rice had 32, Troy 2 and Pontiac Central 25.

Until the spectacular finish, the fans were buzzing about the performance of Dorn, who is only a junior. He's one of the most sought-after high school football players in the state and he'd also make any college track coach's day.

Dorn ran a 10.6 in the 100, beating the 10.9 he ran last year to share the meet record with Tracy Pettingill of Lakeland Orion (1981) and Derek Harper of Pontiac Northern (1980).

After a brief respite, Dorn came back with a 48.4 in the 400, nipping Baenziger by four-tenths of a second. The old record of 48.6 was shared by Geoffrey Craig of Detroit Country Day (1981) and Brad Cochran, Brother Rice (1980).

The next record Dorn erased was the 200, where he was clocked in 21.7, beating the 21.9 posted by Avondale's Hank Woodmore in 1983.

Dorn wasn't the only record-breaker in the meet. Troy sophomore Keith Wheeler won the 300 low hurdles in 37.3, beating by one-tenth of a second the record set by Pontiac Northern's Dale Washington in 1981.

All four relay marks were improved upon in Friday's meet.

Pontiac Northern won the 800 in 1:27.7 and the 400 in 42.7. Lakeland's winning time in the 1600 was a record as was West Bloomfield's 7:55.89 in the 3200.

Oak Park's Marcus Samuels cleared 6-5 to win the high jump, while Royal Oak Shrine's Don Estill had a winning leap of 21-3/4 in the long jump. Birmingham Seaholm's Doug Summers won the pole vault (14-3) and Troy's Chuck Bartz (55-8 1/4) outdistanced Hazel Park's Tim Ridinger in the shot put.

Bartz heaved the discus 152-1, but finished second to Holly's Terry Amerson, who had a throw of 153-2.

Lakeland's Dan Corey took the 1600 in 4:24.1, but Hazel Park sophomore Sam Blumke finished a strong second in 4:25. Darren Jones of Troy Athens took the 800 in 1:55.49 and state cross country champion Bob Thompson of Rochester breezed to victory in the 3200 with a 9:21.7. Royal Oak Kimball's Geoff Goolsby was second in 9:27.9.