

# Northern ties for first

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## WEST BLOOMFIELD —

Pontiac Northern tallied victories in three of four relay events but had to settle for a tie for first place with Kalamazoo Loy Norrix at the boys West Bloomfield Invitational Saturday at West Bloomfield High.

Northern and Loy Norrix each had 64 points and were followed by Southfield (43), Troy (38) and Farmington (36).

First-place Ann Arbor Pioneer overwhelmed the girls competition with 131 points. Clarkston, last year's Invitational champion, was second with 80 points and Detroit Cody was third with 42 points. Pontiac Central was seventh with 20 points, Andover was eighth (19) and Rochester ninth (16).

Northern took first in the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter relay events, and placed second in the 400-meter and sprint medley relays.

"The kids gave a real good

account of themselves," said Northern coach John Osler. "There's eight or 10 kids that just gave 110 percent today."

One of them, Jessie Hodge, ran four races and turned in sparkling performances in all of them.

Hodge led off the 3200-meter relay in 1:57, anchored the sprint medley in 1:58, led off the 800-meter relay in 22.4 and led off the 1600-meter relay with a 49.2.

"Now you can't tell me there's many kids who'll do that in a day," said Osler.

Craig McFerrin ran on three winning relays, while Rico Walker and Craig and Reggie Wynns each ran on two winning relays for Northern.

Although first place was out of reach, Clarkston coach Gordie Richardson nevertheless was pleased with his Wolves.

"It's great, I'm excited," said Richardson. "I just wanted to come and place and we've run great times."

Jennifer Farough won the 100-meter hurdles (14.6), Jane Selent and Lisa Ladd took the first two

places in the long jump, and the threesome joined Kecia Powell on the winning 400-meter relay squad.

Lakeland, last year's defending champion, was dealt a crushing blow when its top sprinter, Dan Baenziger, pulled up lame in the 100-meter dash preliminaries.

"He said it hurt pretty bad but it's hard to tell without a trainer or a doctor," said Lakeland coach Randy Wilkins. "It's definitely going to hurt (Lakeland)."

There were several notable performances. Troy's Keith Wheeler continued to move closer to the national prep record in the 300-meter hurdles with a state-best 36.74 clocking. The 1985 listed record according to the National Federation of State High School Associations is 35.9 set by William Blessing of Hillcrest High of Dallas set in 1974.

Laura Matson of Andover, the national prep record holder in the 1600, won her speciality in 4:59.