

Despite times, no senior slump for Matson

Laura Matson, who broke the national prep record in the girls 1600-meter run (4:39.4) last year, has yet to come near that performance this year.

She's only broken five minutes twice, and that was barely — 4:59 and 4:59.8.

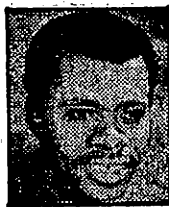
Blame it on the weather, blame it on the competition, but don't blame it on her.

"A lot of people have been disappointed in her times," said Andover coach Steve Price. "I don't think she'll break 4:39 (this year). That was like a one-time thing.

Price isn't fretting, though.

"I think our training is going much better this year," said Price. "I know in practice, she's just amazing."

Matson, a part-time high jumper — she holds the school



Marvin Goodwin

record at 5-5 with no training — has already done 10:47 in a relay split for 3,200 meters, more than a minute faster than anyone else in the county.

Her best is still yet to come.

■ Troy junior Keith Wheeler, destined to become one of the best prep trackmen Michigan has produced, clocked a 47.8 anchor-split on the 1600-meter relay at the Lutkus Relays May 2 — in 40 degree weather.

Troy coach John Bancroft, though, seemed more concerned

about the prospect of Southfield's Torin Dorn returning — he pulled a muscle three weeks ago — and the prospect of injuries to his own squad.

"If I could just make it through these next four weeks," said Bancroft.

■ Dorn update: Southfield coach Tom Eschman thinks Dorn has had it this season, claiming that the risk is too great for the 1985 Class A state 400-meter champ to sprint all out as he has in the past. Also, he thinks Dorn's desire to run is not as strong as before. So rest easy, John.

■ See you in court?: Not having Dorn is enough to ruin your season, but Eschman and the Southfield school district have other problems. One of Berkley's runners fell through

the bleachers at Southfield High a couple weeks ago during a dual meet and sustained some cuts and scrapes.

The bleachers have since been condemned and now the Class A regional, originally scheduled at Southfield May 16, has been shifted over to Hazel Park.

■ Payback time: Dorn made a career of flagging down runners in the 1600-meter relay last year. Now, Eschman knows how it feels. That was Southfield's Rudy Redmond, a pretty good sprinter himself, who was overhauled by Wheeler's 47.8. Wheeler has since done 21.8 and 48.5 in the open 200 and 400 — both county bests — and ran 46.8 on an 1600-meter relay anchor split Saturday at the Oxford Invitational.

He's closing in on the national

prep record of 35.32 set by George Porter of Lompoc (Calif.) Cabrillo High last year with his 36.1 at Oxford.

■ Dan Baenziger update: The Lakeland sprint star, who pulled up lame at the West Bloomfield Invitational two weeks ago is back in action.

Baenziger, who was Oakland County meet runnerup to Dorn in the 400 last year, did a 9.9 100-yard dash in a dual meet Thursday.

■ Battle of the prep track stars: Once again, Nate Childers and Tom Allen are waging an interesting battle in the long jump. Childers, from Rochester, and Allen, from Brother Rice, have competed against each other ever since they were freshmen, according to Rochester coach Hal

Commerson.

"He's (Childers) never beaten him," says Commerson.

Only an inch separates the two county leaders in the long jump — Allen has 21-11½ and Childers has 21-10½.

■ Both Adams' and Rochester's boys and girls track teams are undefeated in dual meets and tied for the Metro Suburban Activities Association lead.

That will change Tuesday when Adams hosts Rochester at 4:30 p.m. Rochester has usually ruled track in its community, but Commerson welcomes the competition.

"Gary Inman has done a good job of improving the program," he said. Let the races begin.

(Marvin Goodwin covers track and field for The Oakland Press.)

Yagiela winging her way to top

By MARVIN GOODWIN
Of The Oakland Press

Lynn Yagiela hardly knew what a discus was about three years ago. Now, the 16-year old

in throwing the discus while gradually improving her technique.

Of course, Ray Went, the boys wrestling coach who was a fair discus thrower in college, and



Prep Track Honor Roll

Girls Track Honor Roll

LONG JUMP — Jans Selent (Clarkston) 17-11½; Lisa Ladd (Clarkston) 17-5; Karen Yulle (Country Day) 16-9; Lisa Warnolak (Rochester) 16-7½; Michelle Tevlin (Rochester) 16-6; Stephani Frohock (Avondale) 16-1¾; Meredith Melton (West Bloomfield) 15-11¼; Jill Whiteman (Lakeland) 15-10½; Janet Kim (Country Day) 15-7; Liz Borman (Seaholm) 15-7.

HIGH JUMP — Pam Roselle (Walled Lake Western) 5-4; Erin Roufs (Adams) 5-2; Kelly Proper (Rochester) 5-2; Tara Carnecross (Clarkston) 5-1; Tracey Chatman (Farmington) 5-1; Terri Ford (Our Lady of Mercy) 5-1; Laura Matson (Andover) 5-0; Wendy Coheon (Clarkston) 5-0; Hollie Zwar (Kimball) 5-0; Chris Schumann (Athol)