

Young athletes carry Northern, Beecher to titles

By LEN HOYES
Journal sports writer

Officially, Beecher High's boys and Northern High's girls won only one championship Friday night in the Mott Relays.

Unofficially, they may have shown that the results of 18th the annual event will be repeated in the 19th and 20th events, too.

Both relled heavily upon non-seniors to beat quality fields and cold, windy conditions at Houston Stadium. Both are so well-stocked with underclassmen that they will be tough to beat for at least another two years.

BEECHER WON three events and was second in another while totaling 62 points against 36 for defending champion Kearsley and Saginaw.

"It's the first time we've won here in a long time," said Beecher Coach Marty Crane who won back-to-back championships in 1980-81. Central and Northern shared fifth place with 32 points.

Northern claimed the girls' title for the eighth time in the last nine years. Coach George Dedrick's club won two events and was second in two, capturing 59 points for an 11-point edge over Saginaw. Central won three events and was third with 35.

"WE HAVE almost the same kids who won the state championship last year," said Crane. "We have only four or five seniors on the team and most of our key men are sophomores and juniors.

"We have some nice sophomores who never ran before. It could be a good year if we stay healthy. We thought we might get some good times today but you

can't get loose and go in this weather."

Dedrick was equally pleased by his youngsters.

"We got lots of points in lots of events and most of those who scored are kids. Our young shot-putters and high jumpers came through and we got good efforts from at least four freshmen."

ONLY ONE record fell, partly because of temperatures which sank into the mid-30s and seemed colder because of stiff winds.

Traverse City's pole vaulters, Bim Scala and Steve Kent, totaled 29 feet to break the mark of 26-7 by Kearsley in 1974. Scala cleared 15-1 to equal the individual record of Kearsley's Jim Stokes in 1974.

Courtney Hawkins ran on three winning relay teams for Beecher, the 4x400 in 3:26.88, the 4x100 in 44.01 and the 4x200 in 1:31.2. Terry Strong, Ken Campbell, Dewayne Harris and Thad Williams helped two victories and Joe Baker one. Strong also ran on a second-place relay.

Swartz Creek's Paul Slosovsky, Harold Mueller, Art Main and Jeff Bach won the 4x1,600 relay in 18:46.10. Slosovsky and Mueller joined Keith Cook and Keith Lancaster for a 11:01.34 victory in the distance medley.

KEARSLEY'S Howard Chapman and Chris Kozma combined for a 100-7 total to win the shot put. Kozma's 53-0 toss was the individual best.

Darnella Sudberry, a four-year stand-out, and freshman Danine Hodges helped Northern win the shuttle hurdles in 1:06.14 and the 4x400 relay in 4:10.17. Pam Fleming and Ayesha Shabazz were the



PHOTO/BRAD POULOS

Northern's L.J. Muddy, Jr., takes a handoff from Renaldo Brown in the sprint medley.

other hurdlers and Deb Jinnah and Makella Thompson the other quartermilers.

Central Coach Dick Haffner was elated by victories in the 4x200 and 4x100 relays. "It's been a long time since we've won three events here," he said.

PATRICE VERDUN, who won

the individual 100 meters in 12.31, also helped win both relays, the longer distance in 1:47.06 and the shorter in 50.41. Sarita Verdun also ran on both teams.

Amy Mateen and Teresa Bracy helped win the 4x200 and Quita Turner and Anita Riley were on the 4x100 team.