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Prep Track

Bath 2nd in Spartan C-D relays

By DAVE HOLZMAN
Lansing State Journal

Sarah Neeley's record throw in the shot put highlighted a splendid day for Bath and two other area Class C-D girls' prep track teams Thursday afternoon in the 14th annual Spartan Relays at Jensen Field House.

Neeley's toss of 39-feet, 4 1/2-inches was the only first-place finish by the Bees who totaled 53 points for a second-place finish in the combined Class C-D competition. Detroit Country Day, which won six events including a Class C-D meet record 4:17.70 in the mile relay, finished first with 71 points.

Fowler, which finished third in C-D, gathered the highest total among all the Class D schools with 50 points. Williamston was fourth with 25.

In the Class A girls' competition, Flint Northern scored 40 points to dethrone defending meet champion and defending Class A state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer. Pioneer finished second with 32 points and Brighton was third with 38.

Competition continues today at 11 a.m. with the boys' Class A and the boys' Class C-D competition. Competition for boys and girls in Class B is set for Saturday at 11 a.m.

Neeley's throw surpassed the old mark of 38-11 set in 1984 by Donna Wright of Parchment. Neeley and her coach Liz Lentz, were unaware of the record-breaking performance until a public address announcement during the awards ceremony.

"I had no idea what the record was," said Neeley, a senior. "I'm pretty happy about it. It was pretty surprising."

"I was really pleased with her throw," Lentz said. "She has really done this on her own. She puts in a lot of extra time on her own with weights and reading."

While Neeley's performance may have been the team's most outstanding effort, Bath turned in some other fine showings. Sarah Meyers finished second in the two-mile run with a time of 13:14.50, and the mile relay team of Anne Olufson, Tammy McDonald, Alicia Wicheff and Kim Boock finished second in 4:21.33, just nipping Fowler by .01-second. Overall, the Bees scored in 10 events.

The Fowler Eagles, who finished third in Class D last year and lost a lot of talent to graduation, also turned in a fine performance. Shari Schneider started things off right with a "surprising" victory in the two-mile run (13:04.29). The foursome of Mincy Siltman, Lisa Rademacher, Lori Theisen and Kim Epkey won the distance medley relay, a 2 1/2-mile event, in 12:30.26. Epkey, a senior co-captain, also placed second in the mile run (5:31.39, just .39 behind Cathy Ackley of Hart who finished first).

and ran the second fastest split in the team's third-place finish in the mile relay (4:21.34), much to the delight of Fowler Coach Kim Spabbury.

"You don't think you can replace a Cindy Schneider," he said, referring to one of the school's all-time best female athletes who graduated last spring. "But then again you never know."

A makeshift team from Williamston also fared well. Led by Laura O'Dell who was running on a bad leg, the Hornets took fourth. O'Dell finished second in the 60-yard hurdles (8.94) and led off the 880-yard relay team which finished second in 1:55.51. Carey Parker, Kris Morris and Tonya McNelly were also on that team.

"O'Dell did real well. That's how good she is," noted Williamston Coach Mike Wynne. "She would have pushed the girl from Country Day (Peggy Evans) if she had been healthy. She's our top sprinter and top hurdler."

Along with Neeley and Country Day's record in the mile relay, three other meet records were set in Thursday's competition. In the distance medley relay, Pioneer set a Class A record with a time of 12:03.48. Charlotte Williams of Detroit Freshing ran the 800 in 2:19.49 bettering the old mark of 2:20.00 set by Laura Matson in 1985.

In winning the 60-yard hurdles in 8.48 seconds, Evans of Country Day bettered Gwen Wilkie's 1985 Class C-D record of 8.59.

SPARTAN RELAYS
girls class A

Team scores (top 10 and tied) — Flint Northern 40, Ann Arbor Pioneer 32, Brighton 38, Ypsilanti 38, Battle Creek Central 37, Central Michigan 28, North Haven 26, Ann Arbor Huron 25, Sibley 23, Valparaiso Livonia 20, St. Louis 19, Pioneer 18, St. Ignace 17, St. Joseph 16, St. Ignace 15, St. Ignace 14, St. Ignace 13, St. Ignace 12, St. Ignace 11, St. Ignace 10, St. Ignace 9, St. Ignace 8, St. Ignace 7, St. Ignace 6, St. Ignace 5, St. Ignace 4, St. Ignace 3, St. Ignace 2, St. Ignace 1.

girls class C-D

Team scores — Detroit Country Day 71, Bath 53, Williamston 50, Flint Northern 40, Ann Arbor Pioneer 32, Brighton 38, Ypsilanti 38, Battle Creek Central 37, Central Michigan 28, North Haven 26, Ann Arbor Huron 25, Sibley 23, Valparaiso Livonia 20, St. Louis 19, Pioneer 18, St. Ignace 17, St. Ignace 16, St. Ignace 15, St. Ignace 14, St. Ignace 13, St. Ignace 12, St. Ignace 11, St. Ignace 10, St. Ignace 9, St. Ignace 8, St. Ignace 7, St. Ignace 6, St. Ignace 5, St. Ignace 4, St. Ignace 3, St. Ignace 2, St. Ignace 1.



Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD
Fowler's Teresa Feldpausch lets the shot fly in the Class C-D girls' shot put competition Thursday in the Spartan Relays at Jensen Field House.

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