



**Marvin
Goodwin**

Greatest meet in the history of the world

Time has a curious way of shaping events. The ticks of the clock, the pages flipping past on the calendar are marvelous molders of what we've experienced.

Now, folks who weren't at the Oakland County track and field meet two years ago may not believe it, but those who were there know what I'm talking about. It was probably the best prep track and field meet in the history of the world.

Well, that may be stretching the truth a bit, but those who were there at Lahser High that warm evening would agree it was somewhere between good and great.

Two performances particularly stand out.



**Torn Dorin
earned his place
in the historic
county meet**

One involved Bloomfield Hills Andover junior Laura Matson, who had already run the best 1600-meter run times of a prep runner in Michigan.

Matson took off like she normally did, taking the lead immediately as she ran unchallenged. By the third lap, the spectators, and even other athletes who were warming up for their events had stopped and focused their attention on the race. By the time Matson headed into the home stretch, she led by more than 200 meters. The crowd, now following her every stride, responded with generous applause. Matson hit the finish line in 4:39.4, a national girls prep track record and eight seconds better than her previous best.

In that same meet, you couldn't ask for a better climax. Pontiac Northern and Lakeland were each two points behind Southfield with the final event, the 1600-meter relay, remaining.

The winner of the event would win the meet, and all three had pretty good relay teams.

Entering the anchor leg, the Huskies, with Reggie Wynns, led comfortably. Lakeland, anchored by Dan Baenziger, was in fourth and Southfield, anchored by Torin Dorn, was in fifth.

Baenziger took off smoothly. Dorn took the baton as if shot out of a cannon.

Both began narrowing the margin, but Baenziger with about 180 meters left in the race, shifted gears and began seriously reeling in those ahead of him. On the final stretch, Baenziger, who had already made up a staggering amount of ground, continued passing runners until he nipped Wynns at the wire. He had just run about a 46.5 400, the same as Dorn, who had brought Southfield into third place.

By now, the crowd was in a frenzy after witnessing those electrifying anchor legs.

Wynns, who had run the race of his life according to former Northern coach John Osler, was so disgusted he angrily tossed his baton, a no-no in track and field. Northern was disqualified and lost the meet title.

Southfield was moved up to second place in the event and instead of Lakeland winning the title outright, the Eagles finished tied for first with Southfield for the meet title.

Southfield coach Tom Eschman felt a bit relieved, Lakeland coach Randy Wilkins was a bit disgusted himself, but neither couldn't deny that the meet was exciting.

Friday's Oakland County meet at Hazel Park may not match it. But only time will tell.

(Marvin Goodwin is an Oakland Press sports writer. If you've got a sports-related opinion, call The Oakland Press at 332-6597 each evening and see your comments in each Wednesday's Sports Phonefare column.)