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Class A track

Pioneer, Sexton win titles

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ALMA — It was a day when nice folks finished first.

"Let's go over and congratulate Cass Tech," said a member of the Ann Arbor Pioneer girls track team.

Pioneer (90 points) won its third consecutive Class A girls track and field title, but the runners wanted to give the Technicians, who have been runners-up those three years, a few hugs and encouraging words Saturday.

"I am real good friends with (Cass coach) Bobby Glenn and the girls are real good friends because they compete on the summer track circuit," said Pioneers coach Bryan Westfield. "There is a lot of competition between us."

The Lady Technicians were second with 64 points. Flint Northern was third with 30 and Dearborn Edsel Ford had 29.5.

Lansing Sexton (64 points) won its second straight boys title under coach Paul Pozega.

While Cass and Pioneer were fairly even in sprints, the Technicians could not keep up with the Pioneers' distance runners.

Kris Salt, the distance runner from Dearborn Edsel Ford heading for Clemson, won the 1,600-meter (4:53.6) and the 3,200-meter runs (10:49.07). But Pioneer's Seana Arnold, Danielle Harpell and Gabrielle Brown took the next three spots in both races.

"It was tight," Westfield said. "Our kids are good competitors and so are those from Cass Tech."

Detroit Henry Ford's Cheryl Pruitt broke the state record in the 400 meters (55.6), despite a sore right leg.

"I know I wanted to win, but I didn't think my leg would allow me," said Pruitt. "But I thank the Lord I was able to do it."

KALAMAZOO LOY Norrix was second (50.5) and Ann Arbor Huron third (39) in the boys meet. Sexton won despite losing to Loy Norrix in regionals.

"But I figured we qualified a stronger team to the state finals, although they beat us in regionals," Pozega said.

The Big Reds' victories in the 400-meter (42.2) and 800-meter relays (1:27.92) were fatal to the rest of the field. Another surprise was Sexton's Orlando Scott, winning the long jump at six feet, nine inches.

In one of the most watched races of the day, Sexton's Roget Ware (13.87) defeated Keith Wheeler of Troy in the 110-meter high hurdles. But Wheeler recovered and won the 300-meter hurdles (38.23) and 400-meter run (47.3). Several records were broken. Monroe's Todd Williams broke the 3,200-meter record (9:01.4) after being nipped in the 1,600-meter by Lake Orion's Cliff Dwelle, who set a state mark in 4:12.9. Farmington set a record in the 3,200-meter relay (7:46.5).

Corey Pryor of Jackson set a state record in the 100 meters (10.4) and the 200 meters (21.37).

■ **CLASS D:** Detroit East Catholic won the boys title with 92 while Akron-Fairgrove won the girls title with 63 points in Traverse City. East Catholic's Willy Scott won the long jump (22-10), 110-meter hurdles (14.34) and 300-meter hurdles (39.37). Dave Goodwin of Redford St. Mary won the 100-meter dash (10.96) and Jeff Morris of Servite won the 400 meters (48.99).

The Akron-Fairgrove girls won only one event (3,200-meter relay) and used depth as Robin Aldrich was second in the 800-meter run and third in the 1,600 meters, Jennifer Foster was second in the 100-meter dash and third in the 220 meters, and Angela Beach was third in the discus and third in the 1,600-meter relay for the Vikings.



Lake Orion's Cliff Dwelle crosses the finish line, winning the boys 1,600-meter run in a state-record time of 4:12.9.

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