

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

THE OAKLAND PRESS Sunday, June 5, 1988 B-7

Southfield captures Class A state track title

By MARVIN GOODWIN
Of The Oakland Press

YPSILANTI — Those from Oakland County had been familiar with Southfield High's powerful boys track team.

The whole state got an eyeful of the Bluejays' awesome speed as Southfield handily won the boys Class A track title Saturday at Eastern Michigan University.

The Bluejays, who scored 58 points, became the first boys team from Oakland County to win a state track title since Pontiac Central did it in 1974. Jackson was second with 34, Kalamazoo Central and Detroit

State track results, B-8

Cooley tied for third with 32 and Rochester and Monroe tied for fifth with 26 points.

In the girls meet, Rochester Adams' Karin Spiers won the 100-meter hurdles and took third in the 300-meter hurdles as Adams finished in a three-way tie for ninth with 16 points. Ann Arbor Pioneer won its fourth straight girls title with 82 points. Detroit Cass Tech was second (60) and West Bloomfield, which set a

state record in the 3200-meter relay, tied for 12th with 15 and Troy was 17th with 13 points.

The Bluejays took hold of the sprint events and literally made it their personal domain. Jeff Reynolds won the 200-meter dash (21.63), Cassidy Wright took third in the 300 hurdles (38.92) and second in the 110 hurdles (14.62) and the Bluejays' 400- and 800-meter relay teams sped away with state titles. Bobby Johnson, Jeff Reynolds, Ron Hairston and Jason Booker comprised both units, which clocked 42.51 and 1:27.41, respectively. Southfield took second in the 1600-meter relay (3:18.9).

"It was a challenge," said Johnson, who ran on all three relays and took sixth in the 100, "because when our times went (into the state for seeding), we weren't the fastest, so it was good for us to win. We felt confident in ourselves."

The victory capped a brilliant season for Southfield coach Tom Eschmann, whose Bluejays went undefeated in dual meets and captured Southeast Michigan Association, regional and Oakland County track crowns.

"We're not surprised, we're just grateful," said Eschmann. "We felt things worked out exactly as we felt they would. I'm real-

ly happy for the kids and I'm happy for the parents, too."

Rochester's Chris Calkin took third in the shot put (54-11¼) and had a personal best of 178-1 in the discus to take second in that event. Teammates Dan Reddan — second in the high jump (6-9) — and Doug Goudie, who took fifth in the 3,200-meter run tallied all of the Falcons' points.

Walled Lake Western's Brian Grosso, who entered the meet with the state's best time in the 3200-meter run, won the event in 9:15.6.

"I came here planning to go under nine (minutes)," said Grosso, who has done 9:01, "but

we went out too fast and actually the race was blown there.

"Coming into the state meet with a 19-second advantage, that was an honor in itself."

Pontiac Central's Chris Denard took seventh in the 800 (1:56.6) for the Chiefs' only points. Waterford Mott's Kirk Brandon was eighth in the 300-meter hurdles, Eric Kelly of Kettering was eighth in the shot put and Lake Orion's Sherman Harris was eighth in the 200. At the girls meet, Central's Angela Williams and Walled Lake Central's Colleen Yuhn were sixth and seventh, respectively, in the 800.