

## Meet-record leap leads Cass Tech to Class A girls title at CMU relays

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**MT. PLEASANT** — With temperatures in the low 40s and periodic rain, Friday was not a day for meet records to be broken at the 49th annual Lyle Bennett Chippewa Relays. But Detroit Cass Tech's Trinetta Johnson found a way.

Johnson leapt 19 feet, 1½-inches in the long jump, breaking a 12-year-old record by 2½ inches.

"It was kind of hard to do well out there because it was so cold," said Johnson, the defending Class A state champ. "When it's like this you have to make sure you're stretched out well and your muscles are real warm. But if you're a good athlete, you'll do anything in any kind of weather."

Johnson's winning jump was almost six inches shorter than her personal best of 19-7, which she did in a dual meet with Ann Arbor Pioneer. She has signed a national letter of intent with Florida State.

Johnson strained a groin and was forced out of the 100-meter sprint and the 400-meter and 800-meter relays. Cass Tech's team took another jolt when DarChelle Ross suffered a cramp during the 800-meter relay preliminaries. It came after Ross easily posted the best time in the 110-meter hurdles preliminaries.

But the Technicians overcame the loss of Johnson and Ross to win the girls Class A team title with 50 points. Traverse City finished second with 49 and was followed by Flint Central (39), Detroit Mumford (39) and Detroit Cody (38).

"To lose those two and still win this means we've got a lot of good runners," said Cass coach Ron Phillips. "Ahyanna Crosby winning the discus and Tonya Wilkerson finishing second in the discus and winning the shot put really helped."

Detroit Murray-Wright won the Class A boys title with 49 points. Detroit Cooley was second at 43, followed by Lansing Sexton (37), Cass Tech (26) and Mumford (18).

Murray-Wright trailed Sexton and Cooley entering the final event, the 1,600-meter relay, and won it to win the meet.

"We knew we had to win the 1,600 relay and this was our best time (3:23) of the year," said Pilots coach Larry Jones. "We'd never been under 3:30 all year. A big thing was moving our sprinter, Reuben Butler, to the relays, and it paid off."

Clare won the Class C boys championship with 65 points. Lake Fenton was second at 56, followed by Charlevoix (46), Orchard Lake St. Mary's (37) and Detroit DePorres (36).

Morley-Stanwood won its third straight Class C girls title with 58 points, followed by Detroit Dominican (46), Shelby (34), Clare (32) and Montague (26).

Morley-Stanwood's Renee Underwood won the discus and Katina Kilbourne captured the 100 meter dash. It also got first places in the 3,200-meter relay and the sprint medley relay.

"We're a very young and inexperienced team," said Stanwood coach Fred Jaeger. "The weather has been bad and we've been struggling to find ourselves. Today we found ourselves, and now we can say we're back."

One of the best races of the day came in the Class A boys 1,600-meter run, won by Dearborn Fordson's Marcelo Ortiz. Detroit Southeastern's Steve Dean started fast and held a seven-second lead over Ortiz after 800 meters.

"I wasn't worried about him going out so fast because I knew he'd come back to me or I'd catch up to him," said Ortiz.

Dean's lead grew to 50 meters entering the final lap, but Ortiz turned on the afterburners and passed him with about 200 meters left. Ortiz held off teammate Dan Kramer, who won the 3,200-meters in the morning, and Dean finished to fourth.

"To tell the truth, I usually don't start my kick until 200 meters left," Ortiz said. "But I started it at 300 meters because I kept waiting for him to come back to me and he wasn't coming."



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