

Northern girls return to throne in Mott Relays

□ Carman-Alsworth wins Invitational, C5.

By LEN HOYES
Journal sports writer

No wonder George Dedrick likes the Mott Relays.

Winning almost is a rite of spring for Northern High's girls, who cruised to a 10th championship Friday in the 21st annual track meet at Houston Stadium.

The Lady Vikings' reign actually is 10-for-15 because the meet was restricted to boys until 1976.

They accumulated 78 points by scoring in 10 of 12 events for a 20-point margin over Central in a 14-team field. Only three firsts escaped the Flint duo.

"We like to compete in the Mott Relays because we get a good early-season test," said Dedrick, whose team ended a one-year hiatus from the championship by winning for the fourth time in the last five years.

Central also was runner-up in a 17-team boys field where Saginaw High claimed its first championship by a 60-50 margin. Beecher was third with 48, Swartz Creek was fifth with 30 and Northern sixth with 26. Northwestern and Southwestern Academy shared a three-way tie for eighth with 20 points.

NORTHERN'S GIRLS won five events and were second to Central in two others.

The quartet of Marjona Howard, Danine Hodges, Rosetta Kirkland and Jackie Hodges shattered the meet record by more than 2.4 seconds with a time of 1:02.06. The previous mark of 1:04.5 was set by another Northern team in 1984.

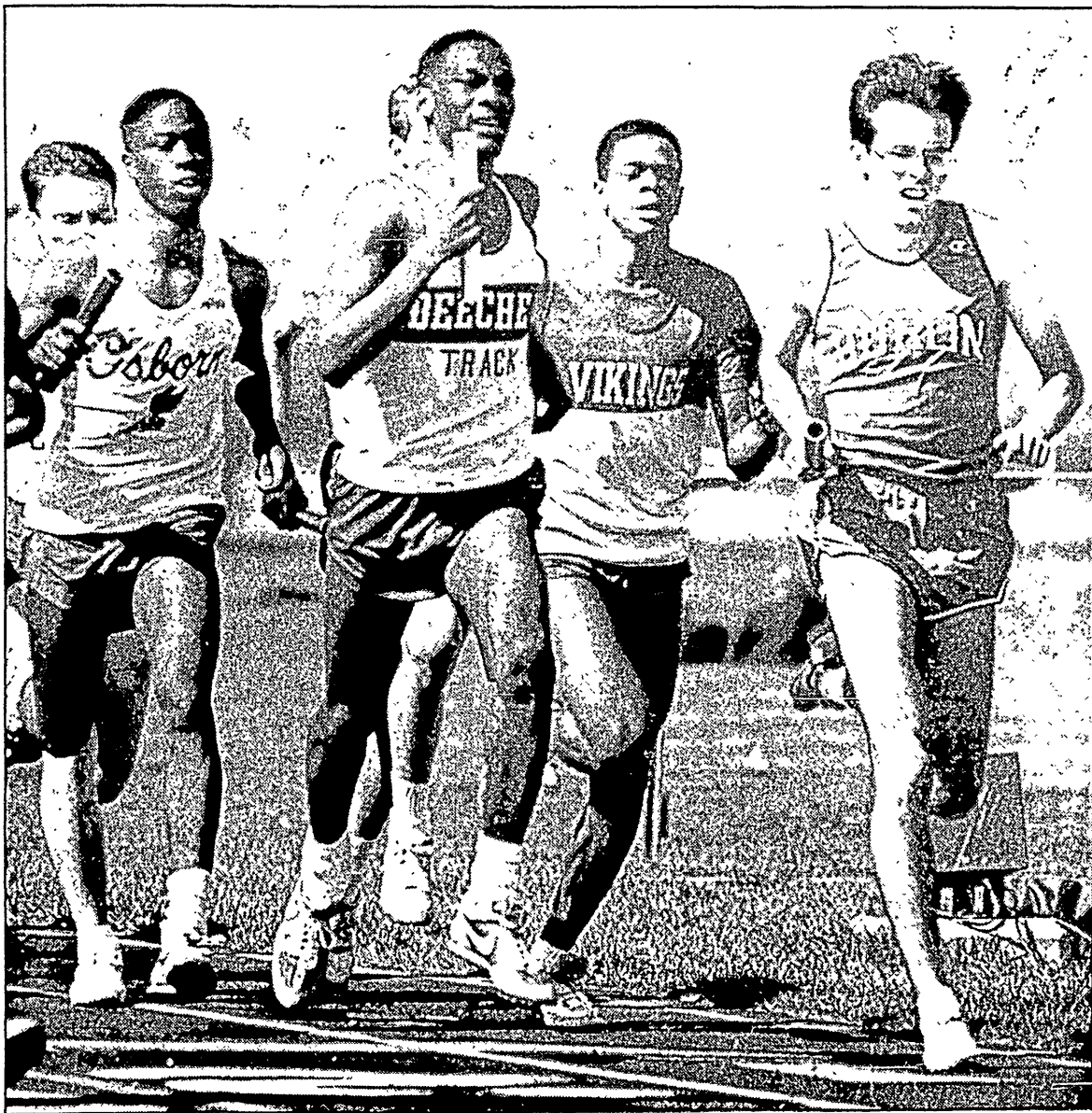
The only other record went to Southwestern Academy's foursome of Marcus Watkins, Dwayne Hollins, Phil Johnson and James Hollins in the 4x200 relay. Their time of 1:28.6 bettered the record of 1:29.22.

Danine Hodges also cleared 5-2 to lead a Northern victory in the high jump at 10-2.

She capped an excellent performance by helping Howard, Tawana Thompson and Tina Boxley take the 4x400 relay in 4:09.1.

State champion Latoyna White sparked two oth-

Please see NORTHERN — C5



PHOTO/RANDY EDMONDS.

Runners are off in the 4x1,600-meter relay Friday afternoon at Houston Stadium.