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Grand Blanc's Gwen Wentland wins 100-meter hurdles, one of her four victories.

C-A, Kearsley rule Big 9 track

By BRUCE JOHNS
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Beecher's track reign in the Big Nine Conference ended Thursday night at Kearsley High. Carman-Ainsworth succeeded the Bucs as boys' kingpin while the host Hornets ruled the girls' competition.

But it was one individual who stood out the most in a team sport.

Grand Blanc's Gwen Wentland, one of the nation's best schoolgirl high jumpers, demonstrated her talents in other events.

Wentland not only defended her Big Nine titles in the high jump (5-7) and long jump (17-9 3/4), she also swept to championships in both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles.

That brilliant four-victory performance accounted for 40 points alone which outscored four other entire teams.

But it was Kearsley's overall depth that helped the Hornets unseat Beecher in the girls' division. Coach Dave Thiel's team, 5-0 in dual meets, amassed 134 points in Thursday's event to end Beecher's six-year run on the throne.

Grand Blanc finished second with 84 points while the young Lady Bucs were third with 72.

The boys' title went down to the final event, the 1,600-meter relay. Carman-Ainsworth already had the point total for the night locked up and captured the last race to finish with 125 points.

Beecher had to place ahead of Kearsley in the relay to get at least a share of the title since it entered the meet with a 5-0 dual record compared to Carman-Ainsworth's 4-1 log. When Kearsley's Mark Funches lunged at the finish line for second place, Beecher lost out on the championship for only the second time in the past 11 years.

Carman-Ainsworth built a huge lead in the field events, scoring 69 points. Scott Faculak won both the shot put (55-4) and discus (162-8) with personal high throws, teammate Jon Runyan, a sophomore, was runner-up in each event.

"I thought we should score at least 48 points in the field events," said Cavs Coach Kenn Domerese. "We must have got at least 60 and that helped.

"But the four kids who really did it for us were Jeremy Hulbert (fifth in the 3,200), Gary Elam (fourth in the long jump), Mac Wiggins (fourth in the shot) and Rofael Jackson (fourth in the 200). They scored points we weren't expecting."

Domerese was expecting points from Chad Petterson and Kendrick Ellison and they came through. Petterson repeated as 800 champion, also won the long jump and ran legs on the victorious 1,600 and 3,200-meter relay units.

Ellison was also a member of those quartets and whipped the field in the 400 in 50.26 seconds.

"Petterson was just outstanding," Domerese said. "And Ellison had a fine night."

The Cavs' boss also admitted he knew what was at stake head-

ing into the final race: An outright championship or a title share.

"We just wanted to win the race," he said. "That was a great finish between Kearsley and Beecher. It was really a great night of track for the Big Nine, to have three teams locked up for the whole night."

Kearsley, normally strong in field events every year, scored just eight there.

"What we'd get, 104 points in the winning events?" Coach Don Marsh correctly asked. "We just didn't get anything in the field events."

The Hornets did get an outstanding effort from ace Marc Brown. He swept to both hurdles crowns, winning the 110 highs in 14.05, five-one hundredths off the Big Nine record, and the 300 lows in 38.72.

Brown was also second in the 100 and ran a leg on a second-place relay team to personally tack on 30 points to the Hornets' total.

Other winners in the boys' division were Flushing's Greg Pattee in the pole vault (14-6), Beecher's Marcus Tipton in the long jump (20-6 3/4), Grand Blanc's Ellis Smith in the 100 (11.01), Swartz Creek's Dave Gibson in the 1,600 (4:34.7), Beecher's Derrick Johnson in the 200 (22.37) and Kearsley's Gary Kinnee in the 3,200 (10:11.94).

Joining Ellison and Petterson on Carman-Ainsworth's 3,200 relay unit were Chris Rucks and DeMarcus Duncan. Rucks also formed the winning 1,600 unit along with Feronda Smith.

Beecher's Michael Jones, Terry Alexander, Jimmy Lacy and Johnson captured the 800 relay. Swartz Creek's Ron Smith, Andy Barosky, Scott Cunningham and Kurt Woodyard won the 400 relay.

While Wentland was the girls' individual star, Kearsley's overall quality was outstanding. The Hornets scored in all 16 events and won four.

"No stars; tons of depth," Coach Dave Thiel said. "I would have been very disappointed if we didn't win this tonight. We have an outstanding dual meet team, but you know what can happen in a big meet like this."

Like Carman-Ainsworth in the boys' bracket, Kearsley used the field events to spring to a quick start. Tracy Walton won the shot put (34-1 1/2) and teammate Carrie Young was second for 18 points.

"We got off to a big boost with that 1-2 in the shot," Thiel said. "That's 18 points we didn't think we'd get."

The Hornets also got victories from Nessa Eddy in the 100, Andrea Cantu in the 800 and Kathy Adas in the 200.

Beecher also won four events, including three relays. Chantilla Byrd, Kita Williams, Rhoda Read and Lisa Walker formed the 800 and 1,600 quartets. Walker, Read and Williams were joined by Trina Hawks on the 400 relay team. Byrd also won the 400 run.

Swartz Creek's Belinda Pertler won the discus, Flushing's Jennie Kline the 1,600 and teammate Karen Coe the 3,200. Owosso's foursome of Michelle

Wheeler, Trissa Rowell, Jennifer Michael and Jennifer Cleveland captured the 3,200 relay.

Boys' results

Legend and team scoring: Carman-Ainsworth (C-A) 125, Kearsley (K) 112, Beecher (B) 108, Swartz Creek (SC) 60, Grand Blanc (GB) 49 1/2, Davison (D) 21, Flushing (F) 20 1/2, Clio (C) 11, Owosso (O) 8, Powers (P) 2

Shot put — 1 Scott Faculak (C-A) 2 Jon Runyan (C-A) 3 Leon Louie (B) 4 Mac Wiggins (C-A) 5 Dave Fletcher (GB) 6 John HoField (O) D—55.4

Discus — 1 Faculak (C-A) 2 Runyan (C-A) 3 Fletcher (GB) 4 Jason Adkins (K) 5 Doug Rogers (SC) 6 Mitch Haynes (GB) D—162.8

Pole vault — 1 Greg Pattee (F) 2 Craig Mitchell (C-A) 3 Scott Huber (SC) 4 Tony Fuhr (B) 5 Terry Staley (O) 6 Greg Arrowood (GB) H—14.6

Long jump — 1 Marcus Tipton (B) 2 Rob Maskaitis (O) 3 Ellis Smith (GB) 4 Greg Elam (C-A) 5 Cunningham (SC) 6 Manny Marsh (F) D—20.6 3/4

High jump — 1 Chad Petterson (C-A) 2 Lomal Kirland (B) 3 Jimmy Lacy (B) 4 Mark Griwatsch (SC) 5 (tie) Maskaitis (O), Chris Rucks (C-A), Brad Price (C) H—5.11

3,200 relay — 1 Carman-Ainsworth (Rucks, Kendrick Ellison, DeMarcus Duncan, Petterson) 2 Kearsley 3 Beecher 4 Davison 5 Clio 6 Flushing T—8:13.43

110 highs — 1 Marc Brown (K) 2 Darreck Johnson (B) 3 Lance Forrath (K) 4 Obie Perry (B) 5 James Todd (P) 6 Charard Kenney (C-A) T—14.05

100 — 1 Smith (GB) 2 Brown (K) 3 Kurt Woodyard (SC) 4 Michael Jones (B) 5 Burt Saffold (C-A) 6 Kelly True (K), T—11.01

800 relay — 1 Beecher (Jones, Terry Alexander, Lacy, Johnson) 2 Carman-Ainsworth 3 Kearsley 4 Grand Blanc 5 Davison 6 Flushing T—12:32.4

1,600 — 1 Dave Gibson (SC) 2 Gary Kinnee (K) 3 Glenn Holveac (SC) 4 Bill Garant (K) 5 Todd Lindstrom (C) 6 Shane Dean (D) T—4:34.7

400 relay — 1 Swartz Creek (Ron Smith, Andy Barosky, Cunningham, Woodyard) 2 Beecher 3 Kearsley 4 Carman-Ainsworth 5 (tie) Grand Blanc, Flushing, T—44.45

400 — 1 Ellison (C-A) 2 Marcus Funches (K) 3 Smith (GB) 4 Marcus Tipton (B) 5 Damon Harrison (GB) 6 Feronda Smith (C-A) T—50.26

300 hurdles — 1 Brown (K) 2 Johnson (B) 3 Coson Craft (D) 4 Pattee (F) 5 Arrowood (GB) 6 Forrath (K) T—38.72

800 — 1 Petterson (C-A) 2 McKinley Tipton (B) 3 Rene Vega (D) 4 Gibson (SC) 5 Darhun Sanders (B) 6 Mike Burba (F) T—2:00.6

200 — 1 Johnson (B) 2 Woodyard (SC) 3 Maskaitis (O) 4 Rafael Johnson (C-A) 5 True (K) 6 Harrison (GB) T—22.37

3,200 — 1 Kinnee (K) 2 Garant (K) 3 Ken Rockwell (C) 4 David Raska (B) 5 Jeremy Hulbert (C-A) 6 Chris Walker (F) T—10:11.94

1,600 relay — 1 Carman-Ainsworth (Rucks, Petterson, Smith, Ellison) 2 Kearsley 3 Beecher 4 Grand Blanc 5 Swartz Creek 6 Flushing, T—3:26.68

Girls' results

Legend and team scoring: Kearsley (K) 134, Grand Blanc (GB) 84, Beecher (B) 72, Owosso (O) 62, Carman-Ainsworth (C-A) 52, Clio (C) 43, Swartz Creek (SC) 21, Flushing (F) 19, Davison (D) 5, Powers (P) 4

Shot put — 1 Tracy Walton (K) 2 Carrie Young (K) 3 Tabi Van Pelt (O) 4 Nikku Williams (B) 5 Leanne Bloss (C) 6 Stacey Seeley (C-A) D—34.1 1/2

Discus — 1 Belinda Pertler (SC) 2 Jennifer Sargent (C-A) 3 Bloss (C) 4 Walton (K) 5 Debbie Domingue (C) 6 Van Pelt (O) D—103

Long jump — 1 Gwen Wentland (GB) 2 Shandra Taylor (K) 3 Shakira Greenlee (C-A) 4 Tina Ellridge (O) 5 Cindy Cahill (GB) 6 Thao Nguyen (GB) D—17.93 1/2

High jump — 1 Wentland (GB) 2 Yeshimra Gray (C-A) 3 Darci Brosier (C) 4 Marnee Krueger (O) 5 Jenny Thompson (K) 6 Lisa Walicki (F) H—5.7

3,200 relay — 1 Owosso (Michelle Wheeler, Trissa Rowell, Jennifer Michael, Jennifer Cleveland) 2 Kearsley 3 Clio 4 Grand Blanc 5 Carman-Ainsworth 6 Swartz Creek T—10:09.26

100 hurdles — 1 Wentland (GB) 2 Jennifer Mowery (K) 3 Karen Stearley (O) 4 Lokecia Funches (K) 5 Stacie Whitlock (P) 6 Rowena Velasco (O) T—16.48

100 — 1 Nessa Eddy (K) 2 Nguyen (GB) 3 Traylor (K) 4 Rhoda Read (B) 5 Angie Campbell (O) 6 Cherylann Rawlins (GB) T—12.87

800 relay — 1 Beecher (Chantilla Byrd, Kita Williams, Read, Lisa Walker) 2 Carman-Ainsworth 3 Kearsley 4 Grand Blanc 5 Swartz Creek 6 Powers T—1:46.51

1,600 — 1 Jennie Kline (F) 2 Wheeler (O) 3 Sherrie Schotter (K) 4 Karan Coe (F) 5 Liz Smith (D) 6 Rena Palmer (GB) T—5:27.83

400 relay — 1 Beecher (Walker, Read, Trina Hawkins, Williams) 2 Owosso 3 Grand Blanc 4 Carman-Ainsworth 5 Kearsley 6 Powers T—52.18

400 — 1 Byrd (B) 2 Gray (C-A) 3 Kathy Adas (K) 4 Thompson (K) 5 Amy Miller (SC) 6 Cori Palmer (C-A) T—58.72

300 lows — 1 Wentland (GB) 2 Williams (B) 3 Roxanne Tandu (K) 4 Sarah Maxwell (F) 5 Jill Sice (GB) 6 Becky Schultz (C) T—46.48

800 — 1 Andrea Cantu (K) 2 Walker (B) 3 Daneyette Schott (C) 4 Cleveland (O) 5 Michelle Moody (SC) 6 Becky Krause (GB) T—2:26.23

200 — 1 Adas (K) 2 Byrd (B) 3 Gray (C-A) 4 Eddy (K) 5 Traylor (K) 6 Jennifer Shepard (O) H—26.30

3,200 — 1 Coe (F) 2 Rena Palmer (GB) 3 Wheeler (O) 4 Jennifer Kline (C) 5 Heather McLellan (D) 6 Smith (D) T—12:00.63

1,600 relay — 1 Beecher (Byrd, Williams, Read, Walker) 2 Kearsley 3 Grand Blanc 4 Swartz Creek 5 Clio 6 Owosso T—4:08.60

Gibson begins comeback at Albuquerque