

Sweet Repeats

■ **Lower Peninsula** — Wheatley takes four individual titles; all four girls teams successfully defend crowns.

One athlete almost earned the 1990 Class B Michigan High School Athletic Association Lower Peninsula Track and Field Final team championship all by himself.

Dearborn Heights-Robichaud junior Tyrone Wheatley captured four individual event titles in the meet at Jackson-Northwest to account for 40 points. With a little help from his friends, the Bulldogs won the team championship by notching 49 points to edge Three Rivers, which recorded 47.

MHSAA track records date back to 1978 and no other male athlete in that time frame has won four state titles. Four females have accomplished the feat, with the last being in 1987.

Wheatley successfully defended his titles in the 100-meter dash (:10.8) and long jump (23-10). He also won the 110 hurdles (:14.85), despite being bumped, and the 200 (:21.90).

"Overall, I'm satisfied," said Wheatley. "I couldn't be more satisfied — except in the long jump. I've been going 24 (feet) all year. I'm not disappointed. I'm happy I won. That's all I've been going for — four.

"I was exhausted. That's where it comes to psychology. Coach (Leit) Jones always said mind is more powerful over matter."

The championship was Robichaud's third. The Bulldogs were also Class B champs in 1974 and 1979 under Jones, who returned to coaching in 1990 after a hiatus of several seasons.

Three Rivers was one step behind the Dogs. Wildcat senior, Sam Brown, was second to Wheatley in the 100 and 200 in addition to anchoring the first place 400 and 800 relays. Also on the relays were Mike Shea, Dennis Posey and Mark Thurman.

The only Class B record came in the 300 hurdles, where Darrell Kellogg of Redford-Thurston chalked up a time of :38.1.

Pontiac-Northern won its first-ever Class A boys championship with 48.5 points. Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix was second (37) in the meet at Midland Stadium.

Northern's first-places were recorded by Damon Gandy in the 100 (:10.69) and the 1,600 relay of Jamell Humphrey, Marcus Steed, Dionne Finney and Gandy (3:17.73). Gandy was also second in the 200 and third in the long jump. Humphrey placed second in the 300 hurdles.

Two-event individual champions were Marcelo Ortiz of Dearborn-Fordson in the 800 (1:52.73) and 1,600 (4:14.04), along the Ali Shakoor of Jackson in the 200 (:21.80) and long jump (22-10 1/2).

Middleton-Fulton, like Northern, emerged as a state champion for the first time. The Pirates, led by event champs Chad VanConet in the 100 (:11.42) and Mike Pfeil in the high jump (6-7), earned the Lower Peninsula Class C crown with 41 points, two ahead of Edwardsburg in the meet at Wyoming Park.

In the Class D boys meet at Hillsdale College, Reading won the championship with 84 points. Defending champion Detroit-Lutheran West was second (73).

Todd Richards led the champions by winning individual titles in the long jump (22-2.5), high jump (6-7) and 300 hurdles (:39.46, a Class D Lower Peninsula record). He also ran on the first-place 400 relay. The Rangers won the 3,200 relay as well.

Ann Arbor-Pioneer took its sixth-straight Class A girls championship with 64 points. South Central Conference rival Ypsilanti was second (56) and Detroit-Cass Tech placed third (48).

The Pioneers, coached by Bryan Westfield, got individual championships from Bridget Mann in the 1,600 (5:04.79) and 3,200 (11:08.30). The Pioneers edged Ypsilanti for first in the 400 relay, but the



Naheed Irani (left) paced Onsted to its second straight Class C Lower Peninsula girls crown by winning three individual titles. Shown in the 100-meter high hurdles finale, Irani nipped Peggy Evans of Birmingham-Detroit Country Day by one hundredth of a second.

FOUR FOR FOUR



Tom Laudpoche, Dearborn Heights Press & Guide

Dearborn Height-Robichaud speedster Tyrone Wheatley accomplished a perfect four at the 1991 Class B Lower Peninsula Finals, taking four individual event titles, a feat not accomplished since MHSAA formal records began being tabulated in 1978. Wheatley repeated in the 100-meter dash and the long jump.

Braves returned the favor in the 800 relay. Ypsilanti's Nicole Wilson, who was on both sprint relays, beat out Shamekia Dunwoody of Cass Tech in 100 (:11.98) and 200 (:24.82) to place first. Dunwoody was on the first-place 1,600 relay.

Another two-event champion was Marjona Howard of Flint-Northern, who won the 100 (:14.43) and 300 (:43.46) hurdles. Gwen Wentland of Grand Blanc set a meet record in the high jump with an effort of 5-10.

Detroit-Saint Martin dePorres ran to its third straight Class B girls championship at Jackson-Northwest with 54 points. Corunna was second (38).

The Eagles' top performer was Nicole Embry, who won the 100 (:12.01) and ran on the winning 400 and 800 relays. The 400 relay set a Class B Lower Peninsula record of :48.95. Atemia McClure, who was seventh in the 100, was also on both relays.

Onsted repeated as Class C champs by earning 52 points in the meet at Wyoming Park High School. Buchanan was a distant second (31).

Junior Naheed Irani led the champions by finishing first in the 100 hurdles (:15.62), 300 low hurdles (:44.49, a Class C record) and 200 dash (:25.80), successfully defending titles in the latter two events. Another Onsted title was earned by Abbie Schaefer in the high jump (5-7).

Lynn Beutler of Erie-Mason set a meet record in the 400 (:57.87) and was on the winning 800 relay. Elizabeth Clark of New Haven won the long jump (18-4.5) and was on the first-place 400 relay.

Fowler won the Class D girls Lower Peninsula championship with 65 points, despite not winning any events. Detroit-Lutheran West was second (57).

For the champion Eagles, the 400, 800 and 3,200 relays were second and 1,600 relay was third. Nicole Hair placed second in the 800 run.

■ Upper Peninsula — The repeat beat includes a boys-girls sweep by Pickford, the second in the school's storied track history.

Upper Peninsula teams defended their titles in four out of six classes at the 1990 MHSAA Track and Field Finals at Marquette High School.

Marquette and Newberry girls won Class A-B and Class C titles, respectively, for the second straight year, as did Pickford's boys in Class D. Kingsford was the lone winner in boys Class A-B after tying with Gwinn the year before.

Despite dominance by those schools in several events, Pickford outdid everyone

Maple City-Glen Lake's Marnie Peplinski won the long jump (17-2 1/4), 300 hurdles (:46.10) and was on the winning 1,600 relay. Also on the relay was Theresa Proost, who won the 400 (:59.71). Lawton's 3,200 relay set a Class D record (9:51.03). Mary Lantinga of Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central was a double winner. She took the 1,600 (5:20.20) and 3,200 (11:48.77) runs.

—Joe Slezak
Dearborn Heights Press & Guide

by sweeping the girls and boys Class D championships. The Panther girls lost the title in 1989 to Iron Mountain-North Dickinson after winning it five years in a row. Pickford then pulled off the first Class D sweep since Cedarville did it in 1981. Pickford's only other Class D sweep was in 1976.

"I thought we would do well, but I didn't expect anything of this magnitude," Pickford boys coach Sam Lightfoot said.

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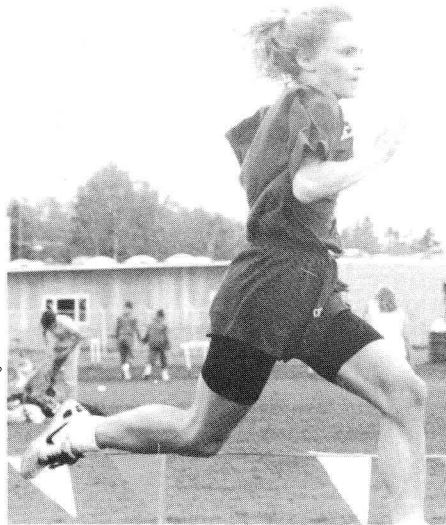
"I never expected to beat almost everybody by 40 points."

The Panthers plan to be strong again in 1991. Their girls graduated four athletes, and Kara Rutledge was the only one of the four to place in an individual event last year. The Panther boys graduated defending discus champion Larry Hatfield and former champion sprinter Dave Bush, among others, but hope to return 25 athletes from their 30-member team.

While Pickford strives to regain its powerhouse status, girls teams from Marquette and Newberry have established themselves. Marquette breezed by second-place Gladstone by 25 points. The Red-women took the 400, 1,600 and 3,200-meter relays and did their thing in their specialty — the 3,200-meter run. Carla Johnson, Anne Goodwin and Bobie Rodriguez pulled off a one-two-three sweep.

Rodriguez and Goodwin also placed first and third, respectively, in the 1,600 run. In the 800 run, Marquette's Kristen Davis was second and Rodriguez fourth.

Newberry defeated Eastern U.P. rival St. Ignace by 12-1/2 points and also had



Sault Ste. Marie Evening News

Kara Scherer of Cedarville won the 100, 200 and 400 dashes in the Class D portion of the Upper Peninsula meet, setting a record in the 200 of :26.3.

a strong showing in the distance events. Christie Nutkins, a sophomore last year, won titles in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 runs. She also anchored the Indians' winning 3,200 relay.

Kingsford was only a four-point winner over Ironwood in Class A-B, and third-place Marquette finished only six points back. Although the boys Class C meet was close too, the team scores were not nearly as tight. The top six teams in A-B finished within 14 points of each other.

Ishpeming-Westwood won boys Class C with 48 points, followed by Ontonagon with 40.

In addition to Newberry's Nutkins, the only other triple winners of the day were Ontonagon's Jerry Cleary in the boys Class C 100, 200 and 400 dashes, and Cedarville's Kara Scherer in the girls Class D 100, 200 and 400 dashes.

Double winners were Gladstone's Desi Schultz in the boys Class A-B 100 and 200 sprints, Sault High's Lisa Corbiere in the girls Class A-B and 300 hurdles, Gladstone's Jennifer Ostlund in the girls Class A-B 100 and 200 dashes, St. Ignace's Darren Sorenson in the boys Class C 110 and 300 hurdles, Ishpeming four-time champion Tracy Holoppa in the girls Class C 100 and 200 dashes, Bessemer's Jody Erickson in the girls Class D 100 and 300 hurdles, and White Pine's Gary Spolarich in the boys Class C 800 and 1,600 runs.

U.P. records fell in the boys A-B high jump (6-8 by Menominee's Bret Nerat) and 400 relay (:45.07 by Kingsford), girls A-B 3,200 run (11:53.70 by Johnson of Marquette) and 100 hurdles (:15.67 by Corbiere), boys Class C 100 dash (:11.6 by Cleary), girls Class D 200 dash (:26.24 by Scherer) and boys Class D 300 hurdles (:42.16 by Pete Avena of Crystal Falls-Forest Park).

Of those standouts, Nutkins (junior), Scherer (sophomore), Corbiere (senior), Schultz (junior), Erickson (senior), Spolarich (senior), Nerat (junior), Johnson (senior) and Avena (senior) will be returning in 1991.

—Linda Locey
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News

The Pickford boys and girls track teams celebrate their second sweep of Upper Peninsula Class D titles at the 1990 meet. The Panthers took both titles in 1976.



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