

# Oxford wins 'B'; PNH takes 4th

By MARVIN GOODWIN

Of The Oakland Press

**GRAND RAPIDS** — The Oxford boys track team took three first places and one third in capturing the 1991 state Class B track and field championships Saturday at Wyoming Park High School.

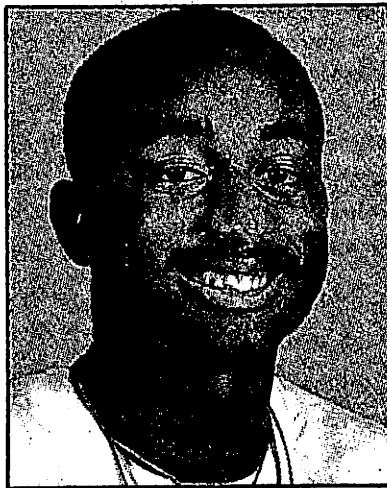
The Wildcats registered 40 points, well ahead of Dearborn Heights Robichaud which had 31. Bloomfield Hills Andover finished fourth with 29 points.

Oxford's 3,200-meter relay and 800-meter relay teams each took first place, as did Erik Welch in the 400-meter dash in a time of 48.40. Mark Goodfellow, Kurt Stephenson, Lee Fragoso and Welch made up the 3,200-meter team, while Fragoso, Steve McCracken, Cliff Wells and Welch made up the 800-meter team.

Andover's Andy Schoelch won the 200-meter dash in a time of 22.15.

Meanwhile, defending Class A state track champion Pontiac Northern held on to its state title as long as it could, but the Huskies finally lost their grip.

Speed-laden Detroit Cooley, amassing most of its points in the final events, wrested the crown away from the Huskies by scoring 48 points to capture the title at Houseman Field.



Jamell Humphrey

Lansing Sexton was second with 42 points, East Kentwood was third with 40 points.

Pontiac Northern finished fourth with 39 points, snapping the string of consecutive Class A state track titles by Oakland County schools at three straight. Ann Arbor Pioneer scored 95 points to win its seventh straight girls Class A crown. Detroit Cass Tech was second with 52 and Troy finished in a three-way tie for eighth with 16 points.

"I thought we performed well," Northern coach Jim Nelson said. "Our goal was to be in the top five. We could've scored about five

more points (but) I'm satisfied. We did scare 'em. We're still among the elite in the state."

Indeed, the Huskies were still in contention for the state title until the last couple of events.

They started the running events with a victory in the 3,200-meter relay (7:53.36) and Jamell Humphrey capped an unbeaten season in the 110-meter hurdles by winning the state crown in 14.5 seconds. The 20-point spurt put the Huskies quickly among the leaders. Marcus Steed, who joined Ernest Sledge, Gavin Herring and Dionne Finney on the winning 3,200-relay, took seventh in the 400 and Humphrey returned to take second in the 300-intermediate hurdles and seventh in the 200.

But the Huskies, who needed a victory in the 1,600-relay for the best chance to keep its crown, finished fourth in 3:20.7 and the reign was over.

Steed, a sophomore who ran on the 800- and 1,600-meter relays, took home four medals as did Humphrey, who also ran on the 1,600-relay.

Finney needed a strong kick on the final straight to stave off challenges from East Kentwood and Sexton for Northern's victory in the 3,200-relay.

"I was scared," Finney said. "Then I heard the crowd and my teammates. I knew it was time to

kick."

Humphrey, who was beaten in his preliminary race in the 110-meter hurdles, made up for a slow start in the finals and nipped runnerup Jack Mainguy of Port Huron Northern in the finals.

"They pulled away a bit and about the fifth hurdle, I started coming back," said Humphrey, who remained unbeaten in final races of the 110-hurdles this season. Pontiac Central's Eric Thompson, who's duelled with Humphrey for the past two seasons, finished fourth in 14.8. He also paid Humphrey the ultimate compliment.

"He's one of the best competitors I've ever come across," Thompson said.

Other area competitors also fared well at state.

Dean Rugh of Lakeland took third in the 800 (1:54.35) and anchored the Eagles' sixth place 3,200-relay, which finished in 8:05.6

John Cowan of Brother Rice took second in the 1,600-meter run (4:15.9). Brian Hyde of East Kentwood took first in 4:12.74, breaking the state record of 4:12.9 set by Lake Orion's Cliff Dwelle in 1987.

# Central's Mayo soars to high jump crown

By MARVIN GOODWIN

The Oakland Press

**GRAND RAPIDS** — As his losses piled up during the season, Pontiac Central's Stephone Mayo remained undaunted. Mayo, who wasn't the best high jumper in Oakland County before Saturday's Class A state meet, became the best high jumper in the state when he captured the state title Saturday at Houseman Field.

Mayo, who finished third in the county meet recently, jumped 6-11 to win the title, beating county rivals Tad Smith of Waterford Kettering and Jim Boos of Milford in the process.

"I hadn't beaten those guys all year," Mayo said. "(But) we're good friends."

Mayo, whose previous best was 6-10¼, cleared 6-11 on his second attempt. His victory wasn't secure until Adrian's Mario Patterson missed on his second attempt at 6-11. Mayo threw his cap and a cup of liquid in the air and jumped around like a bouncing ball.

"It's fantastic, I'm really happy for him," said Central coach Dave Edwards.

Smith, who had a best of 6-10½ coming into the meet, finished seventh at 6-5 and Boos took third with a jump of 6-7.

Mayo, after securing first, missed three attempts at 7-0. Each effort was progressively worse, but it didn't seem to bother Mayo, who was grinning after each jump.

"I wasn't focused," he said. "I wasn't tired, I was too geeked up. I knew nobody was going to jump after me."

Mayo was nearly ousted at 6-5. He missed his two attempts — three misses at one height and you're eliminated — but nailed his third jump at 6-5.

"I really didn't maintain focus. Like the coach said, I was trying to look pretty."

After clearing 6-5, he moved to 6-6 and then moved up by increments of an inch until he reached the winning height.

Mayo also could've used more rest. He attended Pontiac North-

"I wasn't tired, I was too geeked up. I knew nobody was going to jump after me."

— **Stephone Mayo**

ern's senior prom Thursday and Pontiac Central's Friday.

The Chiefs got into Grand Rapids at about 4 a.m. Saturday according to Edwards.

"Me and my teammates, we didn't get that much sleep."

Mayo, a starter on Central's basketball team, was discovered as a 16 year old when assistant coach Bobby Kaiser saw the youngster win a slam-dunk contest in an adult basketball league at Jefferson Junior High.

"I asked him had he ever tried high jumping," Kaiser said.

He took eighth in last year's state meet, which made him work harder this season.

"I knew I had to better than eight, but I didn't know I'd take first."

■ Brother Rice's Jason Penzak took fifth in the shot put (53-9) and second in the discus (167-6). Waterford Mott's Jayeson Fougner tied for fifth in the long jump (21-8½) and Troy's Beth Gould was sixth in the long jump (16-4½).

■ Central's quartet of Kahn Powell, Kareem Styles, Eric Thompson and Eldren Milton took fourth in the 800-relay (1:28.99) despite prom night activities.

"It affected us," said Milton. "I was up at 9 in the morning (Friday) and had been going ever since. Plus the long ride up here."