

Cooley's 1st title

GRAND RAPIDS — Detroit Cooley had to sweat out its first state boys championship while Ann Arbor Pioneer was breezing toward its seventh straight girls title.

Cooley Coach Gene Ballard knew all his team needed was to win the final event of the day and the school would have its first state boys track and field title.

And with one of the best 1,600-meter relay teams in the country, it was just a matter of time — 3:16.5 to be exact. That time was good enough for first place and it gave Cooley 48 points. Lansing Sexton finished second in the 1,600 relay (3:17.04) and second in the team standings with 42.

"I'm especially proud of this team," said Ballard, in his sixth season at Cooley. "We've done it on the field and in the classroom."

The mile relay team of Robert Adams, David Norman, Raphael Johnson and Marco West are unbeaten this season. Their best time was a 3:15.86. West anchored the relay team, won the 400 (48.15) and finished second in the 200.

At Pioneer, Bryan Westfield has built a dynasty in girls track and field, and the tradition continued Saturday as Pioneer dominated the Class A meet at Houseman Field by

outdistancing Detroit 95-52.

The race for the boys was much closer. Four teams won four points with three events remaining.

Heather Brown of Pioneer won both the 100 and 200 (24.9). Her time of 11.9 in the 100 was a tenth of a second ahead of her teammate, Nelson. Brown ran the second leg of both the winning 400 and 800 relays. Nelson anchored both and the winning 800 relay. She said winning the state title yet again has been a combination of hard work and strong belief.

"It has to do with prayer," said senior sprinter Nelson. "It's not a tradition as it is hard work. I practice two hours a day six days a week. It helps to have her (Brown) by my side. It's great competition. We've been chasing each other all year."

The Pioneers became the first girls team in school history to win all three sprint relays.

"All my dreams have come true," said Brown, who will attend Indiana University on a full scholarship.

All season, the Pioneers have worn a T-shirt bearing a quote from Frederick Douglass: "Without a struggle there is no progress." The shirt helped to symbolize their dedication and togetherness.

Reading edges Lutheran West by point

GRAND RAPIDS — Reading's boys defended their Class D track title, edging Detroit Lutheran West 69-68 Saturday at Forest Hills Northern High School.

Lutheran West, which also was second in last year's meet, won the 1,600-meter relay, the meet's final event, but Reading finished second to secure the championship.

Reading's Todd Richards won the

long jump at 21 feet, 7 inches and the high jump at 6-6.

Lutheran West's Damon Butler won the 100 in 11.66 and ran a leg on the winning 800 relay that clocked 1:31.18.

Fowler finished third with 47 points and Litchfield fourth with 44. Tom Becker of Fowler won the 800 and 1,600.

Joel Robinette of Litchfield won the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles.

Wheatley bows out with 3 more titles

■ **Dominating:** Hamstring injury prevents U-M-bound senior from winning four events.

By Jim Spadafore
THE DETROIT NEWS

WYOMING — Tyrone Wheatley, one of the greatest athletes in Michigan high school history, said Saturday he wants to be remembered most as a "nice person."

Nice — and tremendously gifted and tremendously humble. Wheatley, the University of Michigan's prize football recruit, won three events Saturday in the state Class B track and field finals at Wyoming Park High School.

The Dearborn Heights Robichaud senior probably would have won four events as he did in last year's final, but he was pulled from the 200 meters, his last of four events, because of a hamstring injury.

Even on one good leg, Wheatley set an unofficial Class B record of 13.70 in the 110 high hurdles.

One other finals record was broken. Erik Welch of Oxford tied the Class B 400 record of 48.40 set in 1989 by Latony Triggs of Flint Beecher.

Welch also anchored two winning relays in leading Oxford to the team championship. Oxford finished with 40 points. Wheatley's Robichaud team was second with 31, Jackson Lumen Christi third with 30, and Bloomfield Hills Andover fourth with 29.

Oxford's Welch also helped his school to first-place finishes in two relays — 800 (1:29.99) and 3,200 (8:01.38). Vidal Fragoso also doubled on the two winning relays.

In the girls competition, Otisville-Lakeview relied on depth and first-place finishes by Karri Kuzma in the shot put and Laura Bell in the 1,600 to win the team trophy with 62 points. Defending champion Detroit De Porres, led by double winner Atermia McClure, finished second with 38 points.

There were two double winners in the girls meet: Rita Harden of Robichaud and De Porres' McClure. Harden won the 100 hurdles in 15.4 seconds and the 300 hurdles in 45.20. Harden also placed third in the 100 dash. McClure placed first in the 100 in 12.33 seconds and the 200 in 25.33. She also ran on the winning 400 relay (50.61).

Wheatley now has set three state Class B records: 10.5 seconds in the 100 in 1989, 23-10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in the long jump in 1989 and the high jump in 1989.

"Tyrone could have definitely set two records if it wasn't for the hamstring," Robichaud Coach Shelby Johnson said. "But I always teach my kids if they feel pain in a race to shut down. You don't want to risk a serious injury. We weren't going to take a chance."

Wheatley won the long jump Saturday with a leap of 23 feet and, in his third event, he won the 100 in 10.67 seconds, despite suffering the cramp in his right hamstring halfway through the race.

Wheatley was forced to coast the last 20 meters. Wheatley was shooting for the overall record of 10.40 set in 1987 by Corey Pryor of Class A Jackson.

"I was hoping for a 10.1," said Wheatley, who already is co-holder of the Class B record of 10.5 (1989) with Andreas Laut of Dexter (1980). "But my leg cramped up right in the middle of the race."

In the 110 hurdles, Wheatley had trouble with the last few hurdles but still set an unofficial state Class B record of 13.70 seconds.

Because the automatic timing system malfunctioned, the time is based on a hand-held stopwatch and will have to be reviewed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association for record purposes.

"Wheatley was probably so far in front it caused the timing device to malfunction," said Blake Hagman, a meet referee. "All the runners were in the picture but him."

Wheatley's time broke the mark of 13.9 set in 1984 by Mike Miller of Eaton Rapids and was one-tenth of a second off the overall record of 13.6 set by Thomas Wilcher of Detroit Central in the 1982 Class A final.

Wheatley's distance in the long jump — his first event — was 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches off his record but he was happy with his performance. Each long jumper is allowed six jumps, but Wheatley used only one to beat the field. Wheatley exceeded the second-best jump by almost 18 inches.

Because of lifting weights for football, playing baseball and studying, Wheatley missed several track meets and practices this season. And since football season, he has added 15 pounds and grown to 220 pounds.

"My previous best jump (this season) was 22 feet, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, so 23 feet was great for me," Wheatley said. "I've been lifting a lot. I'm a running

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