

Sexton boys place second

By AMY MIDDLETON
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Tradition can be a powerful thing.

The Sexton Big Reds didn't win Saturday's Class A Spartan Relays at Jenison Field House, but they did finish second in their first meet with coaches Brian Murley and Anthony Norris.

"Sexton has always had a good track program," Norris said. "As a coach you do think about that, and it makes you want to do a really good job."

Murley and Norris took over the boys' track program following Sexton coach Paul Pozega's retirement last June after 26 seasons with the Big Reds.

One of the benefits of following Pozega, Norris said, is that he left a strong base of talent. Although Sexton was missing a significant chunk of its team Saturday because of spring break, the Big Reds got wins from state champ Matt Beard in the shotput and Octavius Long in the 55-meter dash.

The sprint medley team of Saddi Washington, Darius Cunningham, Octavius Long and Jason Husband placed third, and an experimental mile relay team of Husband, Chris Moore, Sterling Armstrong and Washington pulled off a sixth-place finish.

Like Sexton, most area teams were missing a good number of athletes who had headed for warmer places over spring break.

East Lansing boys coach John Plough said he told his athletes that Cancun was more important than Spartan Relays.

"The kids were a little confused, but they went," he said with a laugh.

The Trojans sent only one girl, Eileen Fleck, and a handful of boys to the relays. Alone, Fleck pulled off a tie for 10th place, the highest local finish in the girls' competition. She won the mile and placed fourth in the two-mile to score all 14 of her team's points.

The Trojan boys finished 21st, with six points from sprinter Randy Kinder's third-place finish in the 55-

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meter dash.

The Grand Ledge boys were the second-highest area finishers, edging into a four-way tie for ninth.

Pole Vaulter Micha Guadio had a personal-best vault of 14 feet-seven inches for the win, and the shuttle hurdle relay team of Guadio, Darren Brendahl, Jeff MacNoughton and Doug Larner placed second.

"This is just kind of a warm-up for the season," said coach Jim Brandt. "But it's nice to start the season with a first and a second."

The meet's highlight for 14th-place Lansing Eastern was when Mark Anderson propelled himself 21 feet, 9½ inches through the air to win the long jump.

The lowlight came when sprinter VaShawn Williams pulled a muscle in the 55 hurdles and coach Keith Pochert was forced to make substitutions in two relays.

The distance medley team didn't place, but the 800 relay team of Mario Porco, Kenny Farrow, Anderson and David Miller rose to the occasion and took fourth.

Waverly picked up 16th place in the girls' competition, scoring eight points on Rachael Mays' second-place shotput performance.

Waverly coach Robert Lurie said his team was short-handed Saturday because of the break, but added that he's more concerned with good efforts than high placing.

"It's a real competitive meet and we come for the experience," Lurie said. "My whole distance team is in Florida."

Holt was right behind in 17th, although assistant coach Jim Campbell predicted that hurdler Cloe Parker would be the Rams' only scorer.

True to her coach's words, Parker placed third in the hurdles, scoring all six of Holt's points.

Spartan Relays:

BOYS

Class A Team Scores—Traverse City 27, Lansing Sexton 27, Detroit Pershing 26, Ann Arbor Pioneer 26, Detroit Mumford 25, Detroit Osborn 23, Walled Lake Western 22, Detroit Cooley 19, Grand Ledge 18, Troy 18, Port Huron Northern 18, Taylor Center 17, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 16, Lansing Eastern 14, Flint Northwestern 14, Brighton 10, Ypsilanti 9, Jackson 8, Flint Northern 8, Farmington Hills 8, Oak Kimball 8, East Lansing 6, Battle Creek Central 6, Grand Blanc 6, Monroe 5, Mount Pleasant 4, Royal Oak Dundero 4, Romulus 4, Pinckney 4, Swartz Creek 4, Livonia Central 4, Webberville 2, Redford Catholic 2, Detroit Central 2, Greenville 2, Detroit King 2, Detroit Cass Tech 2, Dearborn Fordson 2, St. Johns 1, Flint Southwestern 1.

Shuttle Hurdles—1. Troy, 31.59; 2. Grand Ledge (Gaudio, Brendahl, MacNaughton, Lerner), 31.66.

Distance Medley—1. Brighton, 10:56.

55 Hurdles—1. Thomas (Kalamazoo Loy Norrix), 7.64.

3200 Meter Run—1. Crosby (Walled Lake Western), 9:36.75.

55 Meter Dash—1. Long (Lansing Sexton), 6.46; 3. Kinder (East Lansing), 6.55.

4 x 800 Relay—1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 8:20.9.

Sprint Medley—1. Detroit Mumford, 2:29.18; 3. Lansing Sexton (Washington, Cunningham, Long, Husband), 2:31.10.

4 x 200 Relay—1. Detroit Pershing, 1:33.74; 4. Lansing Eastern (Porco, Farrow, Anderson, Miller), 1:35.70; 7. East Lansing (Boettcher, Walker, McMillan, King), 1:36.74.

1600 Meter Run—1. Crosby (Walled Lake Western), 4:30.34.

4 x 400 Relay—1. Detroit Mumford, 3:26.64; 6. Lansing Sexton (Husband, McMillan, Armstrong, Washington), 3:36.86.

Long Jump—1. Anderson (Lansing Eastern), 21-9.

High Jump—1. Powell (Port Huron Northern), 6-8.

Shot Put—1. Beard (Lansing Sexton), 37-10.

Pole Vault—1. Gaudio (Grand Ledge), 13-0; 5. McCarty (Webberville), 13-0; 6. Meade (St. Johns), 12-6; 7. Boettcher (East Lansing), 11-6.

GIRLS

Class A Team Scores—Ann Arbor Pioneer 68, Detroit Cass Tech 39, Brighton 31, Greenville 23, Plymouth Salem 18, Romeo 18, Monroe 16, Wyandotte 15, Lansing 14, Plymouth Canton 14, Battle Creek Central 13, Flint Southwestern 12, Detroit Northern 11, Detroit King 10, Wave Hill 6, Jackson 6, Livonia Ladywood 6, City Central 6, Ann Arbor Huron 6, Pinckney 6, Farmington Hills Harrison 6, Boynton 3, Flint Northwestern 2, Flint Northern 2, Redford Union 2, Ypsilanti 1, Grand Pointe Northern 1.

Shuttle Hurdles—1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 35.75.

Distance Medley—1. Detroit Cass Tech, 12:56.85 (new record).

55 Hurdles—1. Mustonen (Greenville), 8.75; 3. Parker (Holt), 8.89.

3200 Meter Run—1. Green (Brighton), 12:17.49.

55 Meter Dash—1. Nelson (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 7.26.

800 Meter Run—1. Mann (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 2:24.46; 4. Fleck (East Lansing), 2:25.70.

Sprint Medley—1. Detroit Cass Tech, 2:50.57 (new record).

4 x 200 Relay—1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 1:47.03.

1600 Meter Run—1. Fleck (East Lansing), 5:31.70.

4 x 400 Relay—1. Detroit Cass Tech, 4:03.21.

Long Jump—1. Benford (Detroit King), 10-1/2.

High Jump—1. Bailey (Wyandotte Farmington Hills), 5-5-1/2.

Shot Put—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 41-10.

Pole Vault—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 12-6.

Shot Put—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 41-10.

Pole Vault—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 12-6.

Shot Put—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 41-10.

Pole Vault—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 12-6.

Shot Put—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 41-10.

Pole Vault—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 12-6.

Shot Put—1. Bollenger (Romeo), 41-10.

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