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Pontiac Central's Tim Parker (center) clipped a hurdle in the semifinals, but still won his heat as well as the final of the 110-meter high hurdles

Central wins at West Bloomfield

Pontiac Northern finishes second; Adams takes third in girls meet

By BRIAN MURPHY

Special to The Oakland Press

When asked if he was surprised that the Detroit Cass Tech and Detroit Cody boys track teams decided to bypass this year's West Bloomfield Track and Field Invitational, Pontiac Central coach Dave Edwards responded slyly: "No, I'm not terribly surprised. I'm extremely happy."

Edwards was happy indeed, and for good reason. With defending meet champion Cass Tech absent from the 28-team field on Saturday, the Chiefs captured the boys title 60½-47 over crosstown rival Pontiac Northern. Birmingham Brother Rice finished third with 44 points.

Ann Arbor Pioneer's girls team, the Class A state titlist eight of the last nine years, successfully defended its West Bloomfield title, roaring past the 22-team field by 27 points over second place Cass Tech (66). Rochester Adams (39) finished a strong third.

Central had the boys crown in hand with an event to spare. The Chiefs placed in the top six seven times while capturing first place in two events.

Sophomore Dante Robertson leaped a stunning 22¼ to win the long jump, nearly a foot past Brother Rice's Jack Manning, and teammate Timothy Parker took the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.84.

For the senior Parker, it was a bit of redemption after earlier

falls at Eastern Michigan University's Huron Relays and the Spartan Invitational at Michigan State.

"Yeah, it felt good this time," said Parker. "Coach Edwards made sure I was ready, and I knew what I had to do."

It also helped that Parker's father, Harold, was in the stands for the first time this season. Both of Central's dual meet victories have been at Saginaw Heritage and Saginaw High.

"In fact, both of my parents were here. You can't lose in front of the family. They'll never let you live it down," Parker joked.

Edwards said winning the West Bloomfield Invitational will boost the Chiefs' confidence after top-10 finishes at both EMU and MSU.

"We've got a lot of underclassmen, and it gets discouraging when you continually finish second and third, so this should be a lift for them," he said. "Today, everything came together. Hopefully, that will be the case for the remainder of the season."

Adams rode a wave of consistency to finish third after failing to qualify in the top 20 last year at West Bloomfield. Adams took three second places in the 3,200-meter relay; the sprint medley relay and the shuttle-hurdle relay. Christina Moskel captured the Highlanders' only field points of the day, finishing third in the discus at 99-1.

Afterward, Highlanders coach Gary Inman was understandingly elated.

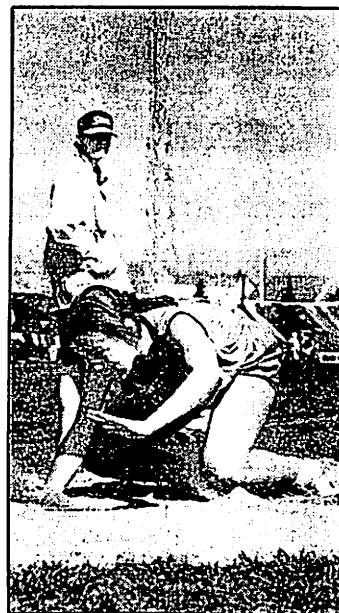
"With this kind of competition, we ran extremely well," Inman said.

■ Pontiac Northern finished first in three events. The 1,600-meter relay team, which consisted of Gaven Herring, Jerome Rodgers, Pinklon Thomas and Edwin Watson clocked 3:25.8 to runnerup Southfield's 3:27.4. Andreas Vickers replaced Rodgers for the 800-meter relay, which Northern won in 1:29.0. Henry Lee, Fred Hunt, Thomas and Watson combined to run the 400-meter relay in 43.6, nosing Detroit Mumford by four one-hundredths of a second.

■ Pontiac Central senior Nafatari Sharpton won the 100-meter hurdles in 15.51, besting her time of 15.8 a year ago. She finished third (47.29) in the 300-meter hurdles behind Pioneer's Haley Wilkens (47.26) and winner Sharol Omar (46.62) of Cass Tech.

■ Oakland County girls cross-country champion Chrissy Garst was part of Troy's 3200-meter relay team that finished first in 9:49.84. Also running were Tracy Taylor, Rachel Broser and Amy Stansel.

■ Waterford Mott's Jeff Ferrell, continued lowering his performances in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs. Ferrell, the Class A state individual cross country champion, won the 1,600 in 4:25.7 and the 3,200 in 9:41.9, both Oak-



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Southfield's Mwanza Russell took first in the long jump

land County bests.

Toledo Rocket Relays

Cameron Binion took first place in the 110-meter hurdles (15.3) and Kyle Baldwin was runnerup in the high jump (6-2) as the Eaglets took fifth with 37 points. Detroit Benedictine won the meet title with 96 points.