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# New Haven, Clare take different routes to titles

By Don VanderVeen

AUBURN, Mich. — There was strength in numbers for the Clare girls track team, and New Haven's boys made the most of what they had.

Both emerged as champions at Saturday's Class C Michigan High School Athletic Association track and field state finals at Bay City Western High School.

Clare used its placing power among the 10 girls the Pioneers brought to the meet to take the first state title in the school's history

## CLASS C TRACK

with a total of 48 points. Reading was second with 29 points, followed by Muskegon Catholic and Shepherd, who tied for third with 28.

New Haven, meanwhile, won the boys event with a team of four. The foursome of Fred Jamison, Billy Chenault, Greg Bryant and John Mack edged Breckenridge 46-43.5 for the championship. Napoleon was third with 34 points.

Detroit Benedictine, led by Marvin Savage and Dezron Prater, won the 400 relay (44.23) and finished

third in the 800 relay to tie Carson City Crystal and Newaygo for sixth place with 26 points. Savage placed second in the 100 (11.45) and Prater seventh in the 400 (51.03).

In 1993, New Haven was led by those same four athletes to a runner-up finish in Class C.

"It's quality, not quantity," New Haven Coach Frank Reed said. "I made a change from last year by moving Mack out of the long jump and putting him into the 200."

That change made the difference for New Haven as Mack, who placed eighth in the long jump as a

freshman in '93, won the 200 with a time of 22.50. Mack also won the 400 in 48.89 and led New Haven's 1,600 relay team to victory in 3:25.55.

"If you've got a horse that can run, you put in a race he can win," Reed said.

Breckenridge junior Casey Ward reached unprecedented heights in Class C and nearly took the Huskies with him. Ward, who set a state record of 14 feet, 9 inches to defend his individual state championship in the pole vault, also finished second in the 100 hurdles, but it

wasn't enough to put the Huskies over the top.

"My goal was to set a state record," Ward said. "But my main goal was trying to win state, and we had a couple of bad breaks."

Clare's girls did not win a single event until they already had the championship won. Their 1,600 relay team of Katie Cole, Kylie Schultz, Dana Cole and Audrey Jelenek made the finish even sweeter by winning the final event of the meet.

■ Don VanderVeen is a free-lance writer.

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Clare's girls track team...