

Misunderstanding all cleared up
Saginaw High star Charles Rogers said he'll return for county and state track meets.

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Saginaw High senior Charles Rogers said he wasn't mentally prepared to run four events in the Saginaw Valley League track championships on Wednesday, but that he would get ready for whatever events he needs to run in county and state meets next week.

The league record-holder in the 100- and 200-meter dashes was scratched from the lineup Wednesday after a heated dispute with coach Lee Arthur, who wanted Rogers to run the 400 dash or a leg of the 1600 relay in order to score more points for the team.

"He wanted me to run four events and I felt mentally ready to run three ... it was a misunderstanding, so he scratched me," Rogers said.

Rogers is qualified in three events at the state finals on Saturday, June 3, at Rockford High School.

The three-sport star said he has begun to focus on the 100 and 200 dashes and the 800-meter relay after a failed attempt to help qualify the Trojans' 1600 relay team for the state finals.

Rogers and Arthur began their disagreement at the Division 1 regionals last weekend when Rogers wanted to focus on the 100, 200 and 800 relay, but skip over the 400-meter run. He eventually ran a 400-meter leg of the 1600 relay.

"I started to intervene (Wednesday) but then I said, 'No, I won't,'" said Saginaw High Athletic Director Marshall Thomas. "It was a learning experience for both sides. I even left the meet so no one would come up to me and ask me to intervene."

Thomas said he could've straightened out the dispute at the time, but decided to let Rogers and Arthur work it out.

"He might've run (had I inter vened), but the problem would still be there," Thomas said.

Thomas expects both sides to come to an agreement before Tuesday's county meet.

However, in the state finals, Arthur may still ask Rogers to run the 400-meter relay, a team that qualified without Rogers. According to the

rules, Arthur could put Rogers in the 400 relay lineup, but the runner still is not sold on the idea.

"I feel like my teammates can handle themselves in the four-by-100, they can do it without me," said Rogers, who has run the race once this year.

Rogers is the defending 400-meter state champion but won the 100 and 200 as a sophomore. He would like to reclaim those crowns.

"All the hard work, everything I accomplished could be for nothing if I don't win the state finals," he said.

Rogers, a three-time Associated Press All-State football player, was one of the top high school football recruits in the country before signing with Michigan State University.

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