

Graves, Hicks Triumph

"We like being the underdog," smiled Bloom track coach Lonnell Poole, after yesterday's state track meet in Charleston.

By DENNIS MAHONEY

CHARLESTON — Lonnell Poole wasn't the only Trojan smiling, following Bloom's dramatic surge to a tie for the Class AA team championship with heavily-favored East St. Louis.

People like George Carter and Jim Sar-

Welcome Home

Bloom's triumphant track team, including two individual state champions, sprinter George Carter and pole vaulter Jim Sarros, will be officially welcomed home with a celebration scheduled for 1 p.m. today in Veazey gym.

ros and Efrem Stringfellow were also glowing. Their joy was bubbling over.

"Nobody picked me to even place in the 100 or 220," exclaimed Carter. Yesterday he became the state's fastest human, winning the 100 in a blazing 9.6 seconds and later finishing second in the 220.

"LAST YEAR WE were the team who was supposed to win everything — but we were second," Carter continued. "But it was a different story this time. We were relaxed. We weren't picked to win anything. We were the underdog, and it suited us just fine."

Teammate Stringfellow chimed in.

"We showed them," he cried. "Heck, they didn't even have me anywhere in sight in the triple jump, but we changed all that." Efrem was second with a 48-8 1/2 effort.

An elated Poole summed it all up. "All year long we didn't have any pressure on us. We weren't looked at as a state power. I'll tell you what, I don't mind a tie at all."

WHEN THE FINAL race was completed on O'Brien Field at Eastern Illinois university yesterday, Bloom and East St. Louis were deadlocked with 46 team points apiece.

Carter's victory in the 100 and Sarros' state winning pole vault record of 15-2 1/4 set the tone for Bloom's first Illinois track championship since 1959.

In fact, the south suburbs had a banner day. Sandburg's unbelievable dynamic distance duo of Bob Hicks and Tom Graves were awesome, leading the Eagles to a third place team standing, garnering 28 points.

Graves, a junior, successfully defended his two-mile crown, breezing to a brilliant 8:51.87 performance. Afterwards, Tom went to nearby Lantz fieldhouse to rest, thus not attending the awards ceremony. The reason was simple. Graves then came back to take second in the mile run — his 4:09.3 time being second to champion Hicks' 4:08.6.

HICKS WAS never behind in the race. "I don't usually get out ahead and stay there, but that was my plan today," Bob pointed out. "I decided early in the week that I had to go out early and take control." Hicks did, as Thornridge's John Sullivan, second for most of the way, hit the tape third in 4:11.3.

Sarros became Bloom's fifth pole vault champion, dominating his final round field. Mike McCrindle (1976), Tim Johnson (1973 and 1974) and Jan Johnson (1968) were previous Trojan winners.

Carter, like Hicks, was worried all week about getting a quick start. When you're running the 100 and 220 yard dashes, a good start can be the determining factor.

"I won the 100 coming out of the blocks," said George. "Getting away fast was the key for me. All my time has been spent on this facet of the race."

MORTON WEST'S Tony Krainik stopped Carter from a double, as he set a new 220 state time of 21.5, Carter winding up second in 21.9. Lockport's Joe Tucker captured the triple jump in a record leap of 49-7 3/4, Bloom's Stringfellow runnerup in 48-8 1/2. Thornton's Duane Bibbie was seventh.

Additional Trojan points were earned when the 440 relay was fifth, when Dennis Carrabine placed sixth in the 120 yard high hurdles and when Chris Alexander was sixth in the shot put.

Kankakee Westview's Mike Graves covered the 330 low hurdles in 36.9 seconds for third, while area fourths went to Homewood-Flossmoor's Bruce Keene in the 880, Richards' Dave Bensema in the two-mile and Oak Lawn's Mike Lehmann in the shot put.

Hicks, a second place finisher in the mile last year, was a disappointing 13th at last fall's state cross-country meet, a race won by Graves. Ever since, Bob has been pointing toward a strong conclusion to his high school career.

"I was relaxed all spring," he said. "Tom and I have paced ourselves well and pointed toward certain goals. This was a super way to end my career." Graves is only a junior.

INDIVIDUAL FIRSTS went to Quincy's Pat McCulla in the discus, East St. Louis' Darnell Belt in the 440, Lane Tech's Tyrone Williams in the 330 yard low hurdles, Brother Rice's Jim Solus in the long jump, North Chicago's Nate Lundy in the 120 yard high hurdles and Galesburg's Dean McKillip in the shot put. Mendal captured the 440 relay, while East St. Louis took the mile and two-mile relays.

In winning the high jump competition, as expected, Sycamore's Gail Olson eclipsed the 7-3 1/4 barrier, which shattered existing state marks. Peoria Central's Dave Ayoub recorded a sizzling 1:48.86 in the 880, missing the national prep mark by three-tenths of a second.

Kaneland won the Class A title, accumulating 57 points, as sensational Mark Claypool led his team with victories in the long jump, 220 and 440. Providence's Kevin Johnson was fourth in the 100 and seventh in the 220, also helping the 440 Celtic relay crew to a third place position.

State Track

TEAM STANDINGS

Bloom 46, East St. Louis 46, Sandburg 28, Chicago King 24, North Chicago 23, Maine West 19, Springfield Southeast 15, Chicago Mendel 15, Lockport 14, Linerlyville 12, East St. Louis Lincoln 12, Peoria Central 12, Champaign Central 12.

100 YARD DASH

Won by George Carter, Bloom, 9.6. 2. Tony Krainik, Maine West, 9.7. 3. John Delaney, Chicago Kenwood, 9.7. 4. Tony Wilson, Edwardsville, 9.7. 5. Walter Pate, North Chicago, 9.8. 6. Aubrey Campbell, East St. Louis Lincoln, 9.8. 7. Ted Nehrhorn, Rock Falls, 9.8.

440 YARD RELAY

Won by Chicago Mendel (Al Palmer, Tony Sallas, Kevin McKinley, Bob James), 42.27. 2. Springfield Southeast, 42.29. 3. Evanston, 42.3. 4. East St. Louis, 42.37. 5. Bloom, 42.9. 6. Wheaton Central, 43.1. 7. Chicago King, 43.2. 8. Belleville West, 43.97.

TWO MILE RUN

Won by Tom Graves, Sandburg, 8:51.87. (Class AA record. Old mark 9:00.53, Graves, 1976.) 2. Jim Spivey, Fenton, 9:00.3. 3. Doug Diekma, Wheaton North, 9:03.3. 4. Dave Bensema, Richards, 9:13.8. 5. Pete Amann, Libertyville, 9:18.1. 6. Dan Skards, Mundelein, 9:19.9. 7. Rob Savage, New Trier West, 9:20.4. 8. Pat Cross, Sterling, 9:22.5.

DISCUS

Won by Pat McCulla, Quincy, 174 feet, 1 inch. 2. Mike Mestec, Proviso West, 171-11. 3. Randy Melvin, Aurora West, 170-5. 4. Dan Reinhardt, Joliet West, 167-4. 5. Jim Lenzenl, Libertyville, 166-8. 6. Scott Mampre, Oak Park, 165-7. Paul Maxwell, Urbana, 161-11. 8. Melvin Kennedy, East St. Louis, 160-2.

MILE RUN

Won by Bob Hicks, Sandburg, 4:08.6. 2. Tom Graves, Sandburg, 4:09.3. 3. John Sullivan, Thornridge, 4:11.3. 4. Ray Cardinal, Wauconda, 4:12.5. 5. Todd McAllister, Deerfield, 4:12.8. 6. Craig Martin, Willowbrook, 4:13.8. 7. Darryl Robinson, Forest View, 4:14.4. 8. Phil Darrow, New Trier West, 4:15.7.

880 YARD RUN

Won by Dave Ayoub, Peoria Central, 1:48.86. (State and Class AA records. Old mark, 1:49.92, Steve Schellenberger, Forest View, 1978.) 2. Chris Heroux, Maine North, 1:50.1. 3. Dennis Johnson, Chicago Parker, 1:51.5. 4. Bruce Keene, Homewood-Flossmoor, 1:51.92. 5. Larry Thompson, Joliet East, 1:52.9. 6. Marvin Townsend, East St. Louis, 1:53.7. 7. Rich Parker, Peoria Central, 1:55.7. 8. Jeff Brydges, Maine West, 1:55.9.

440 YARD RUN

Won by Darnell Belt, East St. Louis, 48.6. 2. Cedric Walker, Chicago King, 48.7. 3. Mark Collins, Belleville West, 48.9. 4. Mark Schacht, Hinsdale Central, 49.2. 5. Al Baker, St. Ignace, 49.2. 6. Lance Peeler, Chicago Harlan, 49.4. 7. Eric Mickelson, Herscher, 49.4.

330 YARD LOW HURDLES

Won by Tyrone Williams, Chicago Lane, 36.3. 2. Nate Lundy, North Chicago, 36.8. 3. Mike Graves, Kankakee Westview, 36.9. 4. Ted Carlson, Wheaton Central, 37.0. 5. Mark Rau, Glenbard West, 37.3. 6. Vic Shockey, LaLaGrange, 37.6. 7. Bob Timms, Springfield Southeast, 37.8. 8. John Poe, East St. Louis Lincoln, 38.1.

220 YARD DASH

Won by Tony Krainik, Maine West, 21.5. (Class AA record. Old mark 21.62, Lamar Pickett, East St. Louis, 1978.) 2. George Carter, Bloom, 21.9. 3. Stan Hawkins, St. Lincoln, 22.0. 4. Robert James, Chicago Mendel, 22.1. 5. Tim O'Brien, Glenbard East, 22.4. 6. Brian Greene, Chicago Carver, 22.5. 7. Keith Brown, East St. Louis, 22.8. 8. Nate Lundy, West Chicago, 22.95.

TRIPLE JUMP

Won by Joe Tucker, Lockport, 49 feet, 7 3/4 inches. (State and Class AA record. Old mark 49-7 1/2, Eddie Tate, Bloom, 1976.) 2. Efrem Stringfellow, Bloom, 48-8 1/2. 3. Randy Geary, Rantoul, 48-1. 4. Steve Smith, Chicago DeLaSalle, 48-0 1/4. 5. Bruce Burrough, Zion-Benton, 47-1 1/4. 6. Robert Bolton, Chicago Harlan, 47-5 3/4. 7. Duane Bibbie, Thornton, 47-3 3/4. 8. Vince Davis, Alton, 47-0 1/4.

MILE RELAY

Won by East St. Louis (Ely Burrows, Steve Brown, Lloyd Peltz, Darnell Belt), 3:18.7. 2. Chicago Phillips, 3:20.55. 3. Chicago King, 3:20.57. 4. East St. Louis Lincoln 3:20.9. 5. Urbana, 3:21.0. 6. Waukegan East, 3:21.1. 7. Champaign Central, 3:21.5.

HIGH JUMP

Won by Gail Olson, Sycamore, 7 feet, 3 1/4 inches. (State and Class AA record. Old mark 7 feet, Nat Page, Evanston, 1975.) 2. Bob Cervanka, Downers Grove North, 6-10. 3. Terry Lundy, Ridgewood, 6-8. 4. Cary Colwell, Champaign Central, 5. Brad Webb, Benet, 5-7. 6. Dennis Strickland, Rock Island, 6-7. 7. Bruce Shones, Fremd, 7. (tie) Mark Schmidt, Thornton, and Tom Sigal, Palatine.

POLE VAULT

Won by Jim Sarros Bloom, 15 feet 2 1/4 inches. (State and Class AA record. Old mark 15-1 1/2, Ken Harding, DeKalb, 1975; Bruce Mahlig, Schaumburg, 1975.) 2. Jay Markuson, Batavia, 14-3. 3. Bob Zebe, Champaign Central, 13-9. 4. Jim Rozlich, Oak Park, 13-9. 5. Ross Chamberlin, Glenbrook North, 13-9. 6. Roddy McCloud, East St. Louis Lincoln, 13-9. 7. John Blue, Maine East, 13-8.

LONG JUMP

Won by Jim Solus, Brother Rice, 23 feet, 3 1/2 inches. 2. Kim Gentry, Danville, 23 1/2. 3. Sterlyn Berry, East Moline, 22-10 1/2. 4. Jim Prine, New Trier West, 22-10. 5. Joe Tucker, Lockport, 22-7 1/2. 6. Glen Davidson, Kankakee Westview, 22-5 1/2. 7. Jeff Adams, Glenbard East, 22-3 3/4.

TWO MILE RELAY

Won by East St. Louis (Alex Griffin, Avery Bolds, Sam Plesant, Marvin Townsend), 7:42.9. 2. York, 7:46.1. 3. Maine South, 7:46.5. 4. New Trier East, 7:47.5. 5. Moline, 7:48.1. 6. Wheaton North, 7:51.9. 7. Wheaton Central, 7:53.3. 8. Thornridge, 7:53.8.

SHOTPUT

Won by Dean McKillip, Galesburg, 60 feet, 1 inch. 2. Jim Lenzini, Libertyville, 60-0 1/4. 3. Tom Phia, Morton West, 59-11 3/4. 4. Mike Lehmann, Oak Lawn, 59-11. 5. Eric Kirchner, Chilloicthe, 58-11 3/4. 6. Chris Alexander, Bloom, 58-9. 7. Don Kozek, Oak Lawn, 57-7 1/2.

120 YARD HIGH HURDLES

Won by Nate Lundy, North Chicago, 13.8. 2. Jerome Brown, Chicago King, 14.0. 3. John McCoughan, Elk Grove, 14.0. 4. Bobby Timms, Springfield Southeast, 14.1. 5. Ralph Boyd, East St. Louis, 14.2. 6. Dennis Carrabine, Bloom, 14.3. 7. Gary Gunderson, Palatine Fremd, 14.5. 8. Steve Brown, East St. Louis, 14.7.

History does repeat itself. At least Coach Jan Grzetich and her Rich South girls hope so as they aim for their second straight state softball championship.

And lightning does strike twice in the same place. Just ask Coach Pat Adcock and her talented but snake-bitten Thornwood crew.

A year ago, the Thunderbirds blew leads of 5-0 and 7-3 in a sectional tournament loss to Rich South, which went on to win the state championship.

THE THORNWOOD girls vowed that it wouldn't happen again this time. But sure enough, in Thursday's sectional title match at Shepard, it was the same nightmare all over again.

Deja vu? Perhaps.

On this occasion, Thornwood was in complete control through the first five innings, coasting along with a 4-0 advantage. But then the lightning struck again.

Thornwood ace Linda Dahlberg fell victim to another attack of wildness and Rich South capitalized to the tune of five sixth-inning runs. The T-Birds did come back to tie it in the seventh, but that merely prolonged the agony until the Stars dealt the seemingly inevitable death blow in the eighth.

BUT A fan leaving early, say after five and a half innings, would find that final score unbelievable. Thornwood totally dominated the action until its sixth inning collapse.

Unawed by Rich South ace Bonnie Kraemer, who pitched the Stars to the 1976 state crown single-handed. She had blanked the T-Birds 7-0 in a meaningless exhibition match earlier this season, but this time the South Holland crew came out swinging.

Donna Kuiken, Linda Spagnolo and Diane Gross ripped solid singles off Kraemer as Thornwood took a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

In the third, Spagnolo took aim at the Tri-State tollway and deposited a Kraemer offering some 300 feet away in dead center field for an easy round-tripper.

IN THE fifth frame, the T-Birds picked up another run with a string of singles by Kuiken, Donna Faulkner and Dahlberg. That, at the time, seemed to be just an insurance tally the way Dahlberg was mowing down the Stars on the mound.

So awesome was Thornwood's act during the early going that Rich South seemed resigned to finishing second in this sectional.

shook," Grzetich said. "It was a surprise to them to see a team hit the ball like that. You're not supposed to hit Bonnie Kraemer the way Thornwood was hitting her."

And, when the T-Birds weren't doing it at the plate, they were cutting down the state champions with sparkling defensive plays and clutch mound work by Dahlberg.

GROSS, THE T-Birds' catcher, cut down three Rich South runners on the base paths. And Spagnolo at second base and Kuiken in center field, among others, turned in a couple of great plays.

And so it went. In the fifth, South had the bases loaded with one out. Dahlberg, however, struck out Diane Malito on four pitches and got Sue Moretz

wood leading 4-0, it appeared to be all over except for the shouting. The Rich South bench was in stunned silence, as if waiting for the impending doom.

But suddenly, it turned around. As Dahlberg lost control of her pitches Thornwood lost control of the ball game. Given new life, Bonnie and her jets did not fail.

THERE WAS no grand slam home run, like the one Peggy Monachino hammered to strike down the T-Birds last year at the H-F sectional.

This time, for all practical purposes, the Stars won it in a walk. Dahlberg gave up three passes and hit a batter as South used singles by Pam Potaczek

Spagnolo at second base and Kuiken in center field, among others, turned in a couple of great plays. And so it went. In the fifth, South had the bases loaded with one out. Dahlberg, however, struck out Diane Malito on four pitches and got Sue Moretz

at that point and walked home the lead run before putting out the fire. Singles by Kuiken and Gross made it 5-5 and sent the game into overtime. Marcy Jung, however, singled home the winning run with two out in the bottom of the eighth to send Rich South winging on to Pekin for its second state title bid Thursday and Friday.

"It's going to be a fight all the way," Grzetich said of the state tournament. But if last year's results are any indication, the Stars have already cleared their tallest hurdle by rallying past the T-Birds.

Thornwood closed its 1977 season with a record of 16-5, while Rich South moved on with a 17-5 ledger.



It's over and it's another heartache for the faces of Jan Wroblewski and Linda Dahlberg after the loss to Rich South in sectional at Shepard. (Photo by Dave V)

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