

"It's Been Done Before"

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Parker Bids For State Title Triple

BY B. JERRY CAMPBELL
N-M Sports Editor

"It's been done before." That was the phrase which crept into the praise for Sprinter Steve Parker at Tuesday's Ross high school Spring Sports banquet. The reference was obvious to the great Glenn Davis who single-handedly won the state track championship for Barberton high school.

Parker will have the opportunity this week to compete in three events at the Class AA state tournament. He will also have the opportunity to establish himself beyond a doubt as the greatest sprinter ever produced at Ross high school.

The annals of Ross track pro-

duce only one challenger to this distinction at the present time — Jim Tiller. Tiller in the mid 1950s won the state 100-yard dash championship. Until Parker came along he also was the sole holder of the record in this event.

At the present time the Ross school track record book shows Parker shares this record with Tiller. The record-tying effort was a :09.8 clocking at the Regional meet last Saturday at Mansfield Malabar.

Prior to this time Parker had established school records in the 220-yard dash, :21.3, and 440-yard run, :49.3. The 440-yard mark was established a year ago in the state meet where

Parker finished fifth. He ran the 220 time, which is the second fastest run this year in Ohio, during the Marion Night Relays.

Parker will go to Columbus today and Saturday in a bid for a title in the 100-yard, 220-yard and 440-yard dashes. He won the 220 at the Regionals, finished second in the 220 and third in the 440.

When asked this week if he could take them all at Columbus, Parker simply replied, "I sure hope so." Earlier he had indicated his goal was to break the 48 second mark in the 440-yard dash at Columbus. Such a mark should win the state title for the distance.

In addition to the Ross school records Parker also holds the Harmon Stadium marks for the 220-yard dash, :22.5; 440-yard dash, :50.2, and ran the anchor on the Mile Relay team which ran 3:32.4. In the final meet of the year he established a Port Clinton stadium record of :51 for the 440. Other Parker records include the district 100-yard dash, :10.1; Buckeye Conference 440-yard dash, :49.8, and a tie for the regional 100-yard dash, :09.8. His name will not go in the book for the regional mark since he was picked second as he and Willard's Chuck Barrison swept across the finish in identical times.

Sandusky high school has had a nasty habit of dominating events with Ross in recent years. Parker has been an exception to this and the Blue Streaks should be happy to see him run down the pike to graduation. Parker was a triple winner against Sandusky in dual meets each of the past two years.

It is a tough assignment in a state meet to try and score a triple. However, if Parker can at least equal his personal low times, he stands a strong chance to be a contender in all three events. These lows are :09.8 in the 100, :21.3 in the 220 and :49.3 in the 440.

Saturday, May 25, 1968 Fremont News-Messenger

Parker Leads Field Into State 440 Finals

Fremont Ross' Steve Parker suddenly emerged as the favorite in the Ohio state track championships Friday. The senior sprinter missed out in bids to qualify for the finals in the 100-yard dash and 220-yard dash, but was the talk of the stadium in the 440 run.

Parker won his heat of the quarter mile preliminaries with a time of :48.4. This is a new Ross high school record, cutting nine-tenths of a second from Parker's previous fastest. This former Ross record was set at :49.3 by Parker last year in placing fifth in the state meet.

Adding to the lustre was the fact Parker in his Friday preliminary run beat the defending state meet champion, Denny Dicke of Upper Arlington, and the man who beat him in the Mansfield Regional, Dave Mayher of Cleveland John Marshall. Dicke and Mayher both were timed at :48.7.

Parker's :48.4 was the second fastest 440-yard time run this year in Ohio. The fastest was :48.3 by State Champion Dicke who Parker must beat again in the finals today.

In the 100-yard dash Parker

was fifth in his heat with a :10.5 clocking. He was fifth at :22.5 in the 220-yard dash. The 220 was run less than 45 minutes after the 440 Friday. Ross Coach Rod Lash commented, "The 440 took too much out of him to come back in the 220—he really ran hard."

Among area teams in the preliminaries Oak Harbor qualified both its mile and 880-yard relay teams for today's finals. Tom Nation of Bellevue qualified for the finals of the 220-yard run.

Cleveland Glenville and Kent State High were solid favorites

today to capture the Class AA and Class A titles respectively in the State high school track meet.

Glenville, getting a stellar performance from dash star Bob Ware in Friday's qualifying preliminaries, was bidding for its fourth straight title and seemed likely to get it.

Kent, behind the power running of Gary Lindstedt, was in a threatening position to make shambles of the small school competition.

Lindstedt figured in Friday's only record performances, bolting the 440 in 49.1 to equal the state mark set by Dennis Boyd

of Newbury in 1967. He also anchored Kent's mile relay four-some that sped the distance in 3:24.7, eclipsing the old record of 3:27.6 set by Aurora a year ago.

The Statesmen had an entry in the mile run today and two in the shot put to go along with Lindstedt in the 440 and in the 100-yard dash where he finished first in his heat in 10 seconds flat.

Ware, the Tarblooders' deluxe dashman, sped the century in 9.7, just one-tenth of a second off the record set in 1966 by famed Jesse Owens. He also

won his heat in the 220 in 21.8 and anchored Glenville's swift 880-relay combo that qualified in 1:28.6.

Jeff Mills, who paced Kirtland to the Class A crown last year, finished second in his heat in the 120 high hurdles with a 14.9.

Defending AA mile relay titleholder Cleveland John Kennedy turned in a 3:19.2 effort which was equalled by Cleveland John Adams.

Field events start today's 15-event program in the morning with running events scheduled for a 2 p. m. start.



440-YARD DASH — Steve Parker, Fremont Ross, second from left charges on the leader in the first turn of the 440-yard dash finals in the State High School Championship meet Saturday at Columbus. Before he cleared the turn Parker had caught Trent Harris.

Columbus East. Coming up from behind after the staggered start are the eventual one-two finishers — Defending Champion Dennis Dicke, Upper Arlington, runnerup, and Jim Harris, Dayton Roth, eventual champion in a time of :47.4. (News-Messenger Photo)

Parker Fifth In 440 Run, Oak Harbor Relays Place

By B. Jerry Campbell
N-M Sports Editor

COLUMBUS—Steve Parker of Fremont Ross ran the second fastest time of his career but it was good only for a repeat of fifth place in the Ohio High School Track Championship 440-yard dash. Parker, running in an outside lane, appeared in strong contention until the runners rounded the final curve into the straightaway.

The Ross runner could not match the strong finish of Day-

ton Roth's sensation Jim Harris. Parker needed a final spurt to protect fifth place in a clocking of 49 seconds. This was three-tenths of a second faster than his time a year ago when he also was fifth in the state finals.

Friday in the state preliminaries Parker ran his fastest time ever with a :48.4. This beat Denny Dicke, Upper Arlington, defending state champion, and Dave Mayher, Cleveland John Marshall, who beat

Parker in the regional meet.

In the state finals, Dicke, Mayher and Cleveland John Adams' Bryan Jones finished ahead of Parker. They all trailed the :47.4 winning time by Harris.

Parker and Oak Harbor's relay teams gained the only state meet points for area schools. The Rockets placed fourth in the 880-yard relay and fifth in the mile relay of the Class A competition. The team of Dave Kratzer, Kurt Greiger, Jim Benadom and Randy Strausbaugh was fourth with a time of 1:32.2. This trailed the winning time of 1:31.8 by Cincinnati Lincoln Heights. In the Mile relay it was Greiger, Benadom, Keith Herbert and Randy Strausbaugh fifth with a time of 3:29.6. Winning mile relay time was Kent State High's 3:25.7. Kent State had set a new state meet record of 3:24.7 in the preliminaries.

Clyde's Rich Dickman in Class AA and Danbury-Lakeside's Chuck Gdovicak waited too long to make a move in distance finals. Dickman finished in the pack behind the first five finishers in the Class AA 880-yard run. Gdovicak was coming strong at the end but couldn't make a place in the Class A mile run.

In the field events of Class A neither Old Fort's Ken Weichert nor Elmore's Rex Durdell made the finals.

Sandusky Falls Short Of State Title By One

COLUMBUS — Two protests, one which was upheld by the meet referee and one which was not, could well be the difference between first and second in the Ohio High School Track Championships Saturday. The first protest dated back to the Regional finals and the second redeemed a point and the fourth consecutive state title for Cleveland Glenville.

In the regional finals Sandusky lost Jon Jackson when finish judges picked him fourth in the hurdles. Most finish line observers had Jackson finishing at least third. Protests by Blue Streak Coach Wes Harstook fell on deaf ears and Sandusky went

were posted they did not have Reeves placed.

Glenville protested and the meet referee checked with the judges. It was determined that a mixup in numbers had awarded fifth place to Nation, rather than Reeves. Nation confirmed with the judges that he had not placed and the decision was reversed.

Glenville got its other first place when Reeves and Ware combined with Ken Kuhn and James Biggorn to win the 880-yard relay.

Most of 11,000 fans in Ohio State Stadium thought the meet had ended in a three-way tie with 16 points each for Glen-

American League Roundup

Detroit Physically Limp From Oakland Battlefield