

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SHARED BY EAST ST. LOUIS LINCOLN AND LYONS TOWNSHIP OF LA GRANGE

Thornton's Bid Falls One Point Short

By Ken Kite

Both LaGrange and Lincoln totalled 16 points in their quests for the coveted State track title and therefore ended as co-champs. The last time the state title was shared was in 1961 when another Lyons team tied Rock Island with 14 points. By winning, Lyons and Lincoln ended Evanston's three year hold on the state crown. Evanston finished 13th with 6½ points.

Thornton, a premeet favorite, ended third, only one point back with 15 markers.

Lincoln was led to its share of the title by its senior speedster, Mike Monroe who ran second in both the 100 and 220 yard dashes clocking 9.6 and 21.3 seconds respectively. Mike also added valuable points as he anchored Lincoln's winning 880 relay. Ironically, Mike passed Lyons' Mike Penn in the stretch drive to gain that win. If Penn would have been able to hold off Monroe's challenge, the team race would have been different. Other members of the winning relay were Steve Wells, Luthern Jones and Bob Bridges.

Hubert Butler grabbed Lincoln's final two points as he grabbed fourth place in the pole vault with a fine leap of 14'0".

Lincoln's head coach, George Holliday, enthusiastically accepted the team trophy. His immediate reactions were those of pride. "I'm very happy," Coach Holliday admitted, "We believed from the very beginning that we could win. We started talking about it in January. We were disappointed in one or two places, but it's beautiful. We still won it."

Lyons was paced by junior Ron

Sterrenberg who nearly matched Monroe's performances. Ron ran third in an extremely close high hurdle race, running 14.1. Ron also won the lows in 19.2. Ron ran lead-off on Lyons' second place 880 relay team. John Long, Gary Olzsanowski and Mike Penn were the other members of the sprint relay. Penn, Olzsanowski and Long joined Kurt Schwappach as members of Lyons' mile relay squad.

After Dave Allen ran fourth in the mile, 4:16.0, Lyons trailed Lincoln by only one point with the mile relay the only event remaining. Lyons ran fourth until the final few yards when Long was overtaken by Harlan's Reginald Johnson, despite running a good leg.

Lyons' head coach Max Armer, was equally as pleased and proud of his boys as was Coach Holliday. Coach Armer expressed his feeling this way, "We knew we had a shot from Friday on. We brought quality down here, not quantity. We knew the kids all had a shot when they came down. Our second miler missed qualifying by 0.3 seconds so that would mean all eight district qualifiers had a shot to do something. I am very happy!"

Thornton finished third on the basis of two wins and a third place. Charlie White won the 880, unchallenged in 1:51.0. He also brought the mile relay into the lead. Max Tolen ran third in the 440 and anchored the mile relay to its second straight title. Nick Bratcher and Brad Borgwardt were the other members of the winning quartet that clocked 3:17.7.

VIRGIN, McFARLAND SET RECORDS

Parker's Mike McFarland was the only

double winner as he dominated the sprints. Mike ran first in the 100, clocking 9.5 seconds. This equals the state mark, but will not go into the record book because of a strong wind. Mike also clocked 20.9 in the 220, bettering the state mark of 21.1 and the wind cooperated, blowing below the allowable 2.0 meters per second.

Lebanon's sensational distanceman, Craig Virgin ran 8:42.6 to totally destroy Dave Merrick's state two mile record of 8:48.9. Craig, unfortunately, fell short of his goal, 8:41.5, Steve Prefontaine's national mark.

Several other pre-meet contenders had problems and finished farther back than expected.

Morton West, the Des Plaines Valley League champion, for example, qualified five individuals and their mile relay for the finals, but only managed to score four points. Gary Reimus was fifth in the shot and Paul Proffitt leaped third in the discus.

Bloom advanced four individuals and their 880 relay but they also scored only in two events. Tim Johnson won the pole vault and Rich Schefdore ended second in the shot put for a ten point total. Their 880 relay which had been highly rated all year, dropped the baton on their first exchange and failed to place. This misque was especially painful for Bloom as it not only ended their chances for the title, but it marked the second year in a row that Bloom brought a quality 880 relay to the state meet only to have it eliminated by poor baton handling.

York, the West Suburban Conference and district champ, came up empty

handed despite qualifying four individuals for the state finals. Included in this group were Brian Smith and George Muschler, two high jumpers who had been ranked first and second in the state several times during the year.

Parker, on the other hand, scored 12 points and finished fifth despite qualifying only one runner in two events.

Fortunately for Parker, their lone qualifier was Mike McFarland who won two events.

TEAM TOTALS

1. EAST ST. LOUIS LINCOLN and LYONS TOWNSHIP16
3. Thornton15
4. Glenbard West13
5. Parker12
6. Bloom, Englewood, Granite City and Lebanon10
10. Proviso East, Lane Tech8
12. Fremd7
13. Evanston6½
14. Wheaton Central, East St. Louis Sr., Naperville, Champaign Centennial, Peoria Manual6
19. Calumet5
20. St. Ignatius, Mt. Morris, Morton West, Oak Park, Springfield Southeast, East Peoria, Harlan4
27. Stillman Valley, ABL, Rock Falls, Richards, Rockford Guilford3
32. Champaign Central2½
33. Wheeling, Alton, Mascoutah, Phillips 2
37. Centralia, Wheaton North, Carver, East Moline, Rantoul, Hinsdale Central Rockford West, Downers Grove South, Elk Grove1
46. Downers Grove North, Addison Trail½