

Tigers a perfect 10

WW South wins 10th straight DuPage Valley championship

BY DAVID OBERHELMAN

Daily Herald Sports Writer

Boys track

From a modest goal a dynasty has grown.

"When I took over this job way back in '88, '89," Wheaton Warrenville South coach Ken Helberg said, "my dream was just to have a team that could compete in this conference.

"And this is beyond anything I've ever dreamed of."

His Tigers had just won their 10th straight DuPage Valley Conference boys track title Thursday at Naperville North.

Helberg saw his team score in all 18 events, win five, and double-score in eight.

Victories by Wheaton North's Adam Harris in the 100- and 200-meter dashes plus the 110 hurdles couldn't derail the Tigers. He tied a meet record in the 100.

WW South's Tywon Green and Justin Harrison placed in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes and keyed a winning 400-meter

relay. Harrison added a win in the 400.

A new lineup of Pat Atkinson, Nick Panno, Andy Welker and Tom Cassady won the 1,600 relay.

Field athletes John Wolfe and Brian Livingston achieved personal bests in triple jump and discus, respectively.

"It's not the same kid that steps up week after week after week," said Helberg, whose squad scored 155 points to 90 for Wheaton North and 74 for Glenbard North.

"And that, I think," he said, "is a tribute to them and how they believe in themselves."

Belief starts at home with the Popejoy brothers, senior Mike and sophomore Jon.

First, Jon won the 3,200, biding his time until the last 500 meters when he pulled away from the pack.

Then Mike Popejoy, winning the Gill Dodds Memorial Mile



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Naperville Central's Chris Vasich, left, and Wheaton Warrenville South's Rick Herda run the 110-meter high hurdles Thursday at the DuPage Valley Conference meet in Naperville.

trophy a third straight year, outbid both Joe and Dan Curran of Naperville North and Glenbard North's Joe Gaskill to run his fastest outdoor 1,600 meters, 4:21.6.

"It feels good," Jon Popejoy said, mentioning his brother. "He's been a huge support of mine."

"It's nice for both of us to win in the same year," Mike said.

Good thing for the rest of the DVC that Ken and Karen Pope-

joy's youngest boy is still in fifth grade.

Glenbard East's Derek Walker surprised no one by winning the discus title at 171 feet, 2 inches. Rams teammate John Oakley edged West Chicago's Mike Savegnago to win the high jump, a reversal of the indoor results.

Another Glenbard East athlete, Joe Gajewski, led a very fast 800-meter field at 1:55.2. Bryan Bescher of Glenbard North, Clark Benson of Wheaton North and

Nick Panno of WW South also ran under two minutes.

In pole vault West Chicago's Jeff Raymond fought off WW South's Nick Warrens and Glenbard North's James Ellis to win at 14 feet, 9 inches.

He also fought off the elements, which initially postponed the meet.

"It was fun jumping in the rain," Raymond said. "That was the first time I ever jumped in the rain like this, so it was actually

pretty cool."

Crossing the finish line up winning the 300-meter hurdles a cool 39 seconds, Naperville Central's Chris Vasich pointed finger skyward.

That's where his brother, Greg, who was killed in a car accident April 9, was watching.

"He's always been really competitive with me, and we always raced together," Chris said, "so I envision running against him whenever I run."