Tigers a perfect 10

WW South wins 10th straight DuPage Valley championship

BY DAVID OBERHELMAN

Daily Herald Sports Writer

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 double-score in eight.

Victories by Wheaton North's Adam Harris in the 100- and 200meter 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 the Gill Dodds Memorial Mile DVC that Ken and Karen Pope-

Boys track

relay. Harrison added a win in the

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 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

outbid both Joe and Dan Curran grade. of Naperville North and Glenall 18 events, win five, and tribute to them and how they bard 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

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

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

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.

trophy a third straight year, joy's youngest boy is still in fifth Nick Panno of WW South also ran pretty cool." 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.

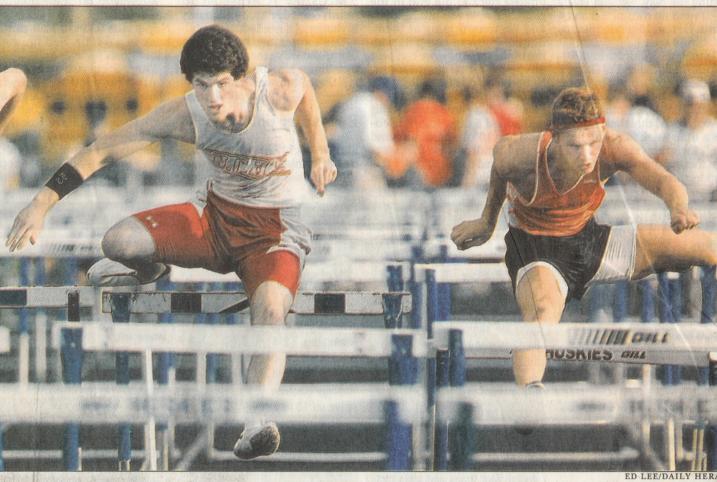
He also fought off the elements, which initially postponed the meet.

"It was fun jumping in the rain," Raymond said. "That was the first time I ever jumped in the Benson of Wheaton North and rain like this, so it was actually whenever I run."

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

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

"He's always been really con petitive with me, and we alway raced together," Chris said, "s envision running against hi



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.**