

McNamara gets better of MacTaggart — this time

Wheaton Warrenville South wins DuPage County title easily

BY DAVID OBERHELMAN

Daily Herald Sports Writer

The 1,600-meter race between Eric MacTaggart and Sean McNamara on Friday at Wheaton North was all it was cracked up to be.

Better yet is the prospect that they have unfinished business.

Glenbard South's MacTaggart and York's McNamara, who finished fourth and seventh in the 2003 Class AA 3,200, thrilled the crowd at the 72nd annual DuPage County Meet.

"It definitely was just a tuneup for the weeks to come," said McNamara, whose time of 4:12.77 Friday bested MacTaggart's 4:14.91.

The Iowa-bound MacTaggart took off at the gun, McNamara in close pursuit. They ran the first lap in 62 seconds.

The two leaders widened their lead over Wheaton Warrenville South's Jon Popejoy and York's Mark Fruin, completing the next two laps in about 1:05 each.

Boys track

As the leaders rolled out of the final curve, McNamara, a junior, swept by on the outside and outsprinted MacTaggart down the homestretch.

"I just tried to hold on as long as I could. I was fortunate to outkick him," McNamara said.

"It was awesome that we could run such a fast time," he added, "so I'm just thankful that he helped me that much."

McNamara said the 1,600 is his favorite event, but the 3,200 his best. As such, he'll undoubtedly see MacTaggart again in Charleston.

"It's going to be probably one of the best 2 miles in awhile," MacTaggart said.

"The past three years it's just been one guy out in front, it's pretty obvious who's going to win," he said. "But this year it's going to be a little more up in the air, and people will look forward to it."

There was plenty to look forward to at a county meet

Glenbard North coach Eric Manuel suggested was the best ever.

Wheaton Warrenville South's Justin Harrison, helping the Tigers to the meet title with 120.5 points to 74 for Wheaton North, tied a meet record in the 400-meter dash at 47.4.

Glenbard North set a meet record in the 800-meter relay at 1:27.91, and in the night's last race, the Panthers' Quintin Bailey outlasted Harrison for a Glenbard North win in the 1,600 relay.

Glenbard South's Lee McGinnis set a record with his triple jump of 46 feet, 5 inches and also won long jump at 22-1.

Wheaton North's Adam Harris, a week after participating in just one event at Glenbard West, won the 110-meter high hurdles, the 200 dash and the 100 dash, the latter in a meet record-tying 10.4 seconds.

"It's kind of hard running one after another like that, the 100s and the 110s," he said. "I tried it and it was really hard. But I did it."



PAUL MICHNA/DAILY HERALD

Naperville North's Dwight Carter runs the 100-meter dash Friday at the DuPage County Meet in Wheaton.