

# Bina, Williams set tone for Waubonsie Valley

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One of the last places you want to be in a thunderstorm is 14 feet in the air, dangling from a fiberglass pole.

So as the skies became threatening at the West Aurora Class AA boys track and field sectional on Friday night, they didn't waste any time dismantling the pole vault competition area.

The decision to halt competition and eventually postpone the track sectional seemed the only thing that could stop Waubonsie Valley pole vaulter Mike Bina.

"I felt so good tonight," Bina said.

Bina was already the event winner and the only vaulter left in competition that also saw Naperville North's Mike Beese qualify for the state meet as well as both Wheaton Warrenville South vaulters, Brett Jackson and Nick Warrens.

"I love jumping with the Wheaton South kids," Bina said. "They are awesome competition. The last time we vaulted against them, I went 15 feet."

## Boys track

Bina cleared 14-6 Friday, and he hoped he could resume jumping after the storm to see how high he could go. That never happened. The storm hit as Bina's teammate Durrell Williams was in the process of winning the 800 meters.

The athletes went into West Aurora High School, where they filled hallways throughout the school. The meet was officially postponed at 9:30 p.m. Events resume at 11 a.m. today where they ended Friday. The first event is the 800-meter relay.

Bina and Williams were just part of a solid Waubonsie Valley opening day to what is now a two-day meet.

"We're pushing the competition because we think not a lot of people think Waubonsie Valley is a good track school," Bina said. "I think we're changing a lot of opinions. We're going to qualify as many people as we can."

Naperville Central hurdler Chris Vasich had two things to

be pleased with Friday. First he won the 100-meter high hurdles. And second he didn't feel he ran his best race.

"It was a good race and everything," Vasich said. "But I know I have more in me. We'll just keep working on my technique. I know there's a lot more I can do."

Naperville North's Dan Curran might have finished second in the 3,200 meters, but he was second to Glenbard South's Eric MacTaggart, one of the fastest runners in the state.

So when MacTaggart surged two-thirds of the way through the race, Curran let him go. Then again, Curran was happy to have stayed with MacTaggart that far. And by finishing second, Curran automatically qualified for the state meet as well.

"This week I wanted to go with him and see what happened," Curran said. "I went out in my mile a little too fast. Next week I'm sure he'll go out fast again and it'll pay off and I'll be there and be able to hang with him better."



MARY BETH NOLAN/DAILY HERALD

Naperville North's Mike Beese celebrates after qualifying for next weekend's state meet in the pole vault Friday at West Aurora.