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Off and running

By David Oberhelman Daily Herald Sports Writer
 Posted Saturday, March 20, 2004

The usual suspects delivered the usual super results Friday at the DuPage Valley Conference Boys Track Indoor Invitational.

Wheaton North's Adam Harris won three events in Glenbard East's field house in Lombard. Harris won the 55- and 200-meter dashes and the 55 high hurdles.

Wheaton Warrenville South's Justin Harrison set a new meet record in the 400. His Tigers teammate Mike Popejoy ran his best mile ever.

Joe Gajewski of Glenbard East set a new field house record in the 800 and came a tenth of a second from tying the DVC Indoor record.

While they all tore up the track, Naperville North won a sprinkling of events and doubled up in several others to capture the whole meet.

The Huskies unseated 2003 conference champion WW South with 96 points to the Tigers' 81. Wheaton North took third with 77 points.

Naperville North sprinter Dwight Carter placed second to Harris in the 55 and third in both the 200 and 400.

The Huskies went 1-2 in the long jump behind Scott Pavel and Geoff Rynex, and 2-3 in the triple jump with Mac Scarle and Rynex.

Naperville North's distance twins, Joe and Dan Curran, paired Joe's first in the 3,200 - the Huskies' Dan Walters took second - and Dan Curran's second-place 1,600, pushing Popejoy to 4:23.6.

As he was watching his kids, Naperville North coach Jack Wright didn't realize how good their cumulative results were.

"It would be a surprise," Wright said when told of the impending victory, "because we weren't really thinking about where we placed.

"Dwight Carter had a terrific night ... and the fact that they all ran better than their previous best, that's what we're focusing on," Wright said.

A couple of the winners were focused on replacing others' records with their own.

Harris, who won the hurdles and the 55 dash within a five-minute span, sought to outdo older brother A.J.

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He did with a DVC indoor record 6.1 seconds in the sprint. Harris, Carter and Tywon Green each ran faster than the prior meet record, 6.4.

"I know in this event he got a 6.3," Harris said of his older brother, a former all-state hurdler, "and I just got 6.1."

Justin Harrison, who will accept a track scholarship from Kentucky "for sure," was out to nix the meet record of 51.4 in the 400 set last year by Harrison's former rival, Chris Purifoye of Glenbard North.

Harrison won in 50.9.

"It's good to have gotten that, because last year Purifoye beat me in that," Harrison said. "He came from third to beat me in that."

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