

Section 5 champions turn up heat

East's Kim Batten, McQuaid's Paterson among the winners

By John Moriello

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There was 50 percent more action yesterday, even if the temperature was 20 degrees cooler.

One day after the Section 5 Class C and D track championships were held in unrelenting heat at Brockport State, the boys' and girls' AA, A and B meets began in downright cold temperatures and a brisk wind at the same site.

So the hop, skip and jump routine wasn't restricted to the triple jump. It was the way to stay warm.

But, by day's end, the athletes warmed up faster than the weather.

Six team champions were crowned. The Fairport boys and East girls won the Class AA titles, which were awarded for the first time as the section expanded from four to five divisions.

In Class A, the winners were Victor's boys and Newark's girls. In Class B, the winners were Caledonia-Mumford's boys and East Rochester's girls.

"I would have liked it a little warmer and a lot calmer," McQuaid runner Scott Paterson said after winning the boys' AA 3,200 race with a superb burst of speed over the last 600 meters. He was timed in 9:29.7, and his sentiments about the weather reflected the feelings of most competitors.

"It felt like the worst 9:30 I ever ran," stressed Paterson, who kicked in the final 100 meters of the 800 to edge Tom Clark of Brighton for another victory.

Paterson also took second in the 1,600.

There was one dissenting opinion on the climate, from Sodus' Julie Darling.

The weather "was no problem," Darling said after winning the girls' Class B 400 hurdles and putting on her sweats and a jacket that rated somewhere between a windbreaker and the proper attire for Anchorage in mid-January. "It doesn't matter to me . . . Actually I'd rather have it cold than hot."

In an ironic twist, Sodus athletes wore the more ventilated jersey tops belonging to the cross country team in order to beat the heat, which never arrived.

The hurdles victory, in 1:08.4, was the second of the day for Darling. Earlier, she upset top-seeded Michele Galganski of Alexander in the long jump, taking the lead in her final attempt.

Less than an hour later, Darling pulled away with a strong kick over the last 200 meters and won the 800.

She knew beforehand that the three-event routine was a challenge.

"I need time," she said after the 800. "Last week I did the same thing and I was exhausted."

Yesterday, she was exhausted and victorious.

"I had to take them all," Darling said of the allowed four long jump attempts. "I got a 16-3 on the last try. I put everything into it."

That everything resulted in a personal best. In yet another irony, her personal best in the 400 hurdles, a sectional record 1:04.26, was surpassed yesterday by Kim Batten of East.

Batten, who missed two days of school last week because of the flu, won the Class AA race in 1:03.0. She also won the triple jump in 35-11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

"Early today I was feeling weak and tired, but then I started getting psyched thinking about the meet . . . As the day went on, I started feeling better.

"I wanted another record (in the hurdles), but I thought maybe, because I was sick. I couldn't do it."



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McQuaid's Scott Paterson passing Brent Yost en route to winning the Class AA 3,200-meter race.

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