

Appel Sets Record

Nealy Leads Owls To LL Track Title

By WOODY ANDERSON

SOUTHINGTON — Hartford Public snared six first places — two by hurdler Jim Nealy — to claim its 20th outdoor class track title and along with top scorer Bernie Vogel of Glastonbury, weightman Karl Swanke of Newington and record-setter Ken Appel of Amity highlighted Saturday's first Class LL state track and field championships at Southington High School.

Hartford Public swamped a field of 30 scoring high schools by posting a team total of 80 points, nearly double that of second place Newington's 42 1/3 total.

This is the first year the state has been divided into four classes instead of three. The top 12 performers in the field events from the four class meets and 24 from the track events (seven each from Class LL and L, six from M and four from S) qualify for next Saturday's State Open Meet at Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield.

Hartford Public got all its points in the 10-event track portion of the meet and nothing from the seven-event field events.

The Owls scored 32 points in the two hurdling events won by junior Nealy. He won the 120 highs in 14.5 and the 330 intermediates in 39.5. He also anchored the Owls 4x110 relay win.

"Last year when I was here I didn't know what I was doing," said Nealy who has only been hurdling for the past year. He (coach Lindy Remigino) thinks its always going to be a close meet. We like to surprise him."

Walter Oates placed fourth in the 120's and Jerry Dudley placed second to Nealy in the 330's for the Owls' 32 points.

The Owls also won the mile relay, mile run and 100 dash.

It was the 10th time in the last 11 years that the Owls have won a state class track meet outdoors.

Vogel, a junior speedster, was the top individual scorer with 28 points. He won the 220 dash in 23.4 and the 440 in 49.6 and placed second in the long jump with a 21 8/16 performance. Scoring is given on a 10 for first, eight for second place, six for third, four for fourth, two for second and one point for sixth.

"He has the most natural ability of any athlete I've coached," said Glastonbury coach Carl Peterson of Vogel.

"It's a pity Edwards (New Britain's Rich) couldn't run in the 220 or the long jump," said Vogel. Edwards, who has run 21.1 in the 220 and long jumped over 23-feet indoors, tried to compete with a muscle pull suffered on May 11. But he could manage only a fourth in the long jump and pulled up limping in the semi-final heat in the 100 dash.

Swanke, a senior, won the shot put with a 57-9 and the discuss — his specialty — with a sub-par 163-7. He also placed fourth in the javelin.

"My arm was hurting after the javelin," said the 6-6 Swanke. "I don't care much for the javelin. But in the discuss there was a cross-wind. Nobody threw well.



Appel's Way

Ken Appel of Amity High School in Woodbridge easily clears the bar in the pole vault en route to a state record in Saturday's Class LL state track and field championships at Southington High School. Appel eventually cleared 14-6 1/2 (Courant Photo by Carolyn Pelkey).

I'm not happy with my shot put."

Earlier in the season Swanke threw his career best of 59-7 at Southington High School. His career best in the discuss is 178-4.

Appel, a senior, beat his own state record in the pole vault with a 14-6 1/2 leap. His previous mark was 14-1 set last year. He missed at 15-1 1/2.

"I wasn't driving my knee up high enough and I should have been taking off at a higher angle," said Appel who has cleared 15 1/2 indoors and 14-8 3/4 outdoors.