

Fast-Healing Bailey Sparks Owls to Title

By TOM YANTZ

SOUTHINGTON —

Bouncing back from a hobbling hamstring pull on Monday, Hartford Public's Gary Bailey won the long jump and anchored the 4x110 relay team to spark the Owls to the Boys CIAC State Open Track and Field team championship Saturday at Southington High School's Fontana Field.

Bailey injured his right hamstring in Monday's Class LL meet and was listed as "extremely doubtful" for the State Open by Hartford's head coach Lindy Remigino.

But the diligent Bailey had other ideas.

"I really wanted to run in this meet because I am a senior and this one was it," said the 5-foot-9-inch Bailey. "I rested all week and used heat on the injury all week. Thank God for the heating pad. I used one every night."

The Owls, winning their seventh State Open crown in the past nine years, outdis-

tanced the field with 49 points. Wilbur Cross and Guilford followed Hartford with 30 and 25 points, respectively.

Hartford's 4x110 relay squad of Mike Lewis, Tony Camby, Charles Bumpers and Bailey scored all the points for the winners and won its race with a time of 43.6.

Wilbur Cross of New Haven made a strong challenge to catch the fleet-footed Owls, as Charlie Moore and Greg Ralls won the 440 and 120 hurdles, respectively. But these two first places were not enough to stop Hartford.

"The big event for us was winning the long jump, when Gary (Bailey) jumped 22 feet, 5 inches," said Remigino. "We put ice and heat on the injury all week and it came around. It was a miracle because on Monday he could just about walk."

While Hartford was scoring points, two of the most exciting races of the sunny

afternoon occurred in the mile and two-mile runs. Pat Wild of Bethel ran a 4:18.2 mile to defeat rival Terry Perrault of St. Paul of Bristol. Perrault had beaten Wild at the tape in the Class M championship meet on Monday.

In the two mile, Dan Anderson of Notre Dame of West Haven flew past Kevin O'Keefe from E.O. Smith of Storrs during the last 220 yards to grab first with a time of 9:19.3

Fraser Pehmoeiler of host Southington High School used his "home ring" advantage to capture the shot put in the field event competition. "All week I worked on the discus (where Pehmoeiler finished fifth) and not the shot," said the 6-foot-7-inch, 250-pound Pehmoeiler. "Some of the guys didn't like our throwing ring for the shot. I thought it was great and when I threw the shot 54 feet, 9 inches on my first toss in the finals, the rest of the guys couldn't adjust to the ring or to my throw."

Hartford clinched its Open title when Bumpers (22.6) and Camby finished first and second in the 220. "We (Lewis, Camby, Bailey and Bumpers) are only four guys, but that is all you need for a meet like this," said the junior Bumpers. "We knew we had it when Tony and I finished one-two in the 220, but Gary's performance still was the spark for Hartford today."

"Coach Irv Black of New Britain joked to me that I must have sprinkled 'holy water' on Bailey's bad leg," said Remigino. "Holy water didn't do it though. It was just rest, heat, ice and a lot of heart."