

# Hartford Cops State Open Track

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The Hartford Courant (1923-1993); Jun 10, 1973; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant pg. 4C

## Franco Paces 5th Straight Win

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By WOODY ANDERSON  
Courant Sports Writer

FAIRFIELD — Superlative Pablo Franco fought through a choking time schedule, and along with everyone else competed in stifling 90-plus degree weather, to win two events and anchor a relay victory to lead Hartford Public to its fifth straight State Open track title Saturday at Roger Ludlowe High School.

Franco, a six-foot, 180-pound senior, who will be the lone state entry in next Saturday's Golden West meet in Sacramento, Calif., won the 100-dash in :09.8 seconds and the 220 in a slow :22.6 seconds. Both dash wins were sandwiched around his nifty anchor leg run in the 880 relay. He received the baton six yards behind Bob Keroack of Norwich and won by less than a stride.

There were no state records set.

The smoothly-run meet was completed in less than three and a half hours which meant Franco had little time for rest. After his 100-dash win, Franco had less than 10 minutes before anchoring the relay and a half hour later he had to run a semi-final heat in the 220-dash. Less than 20 minutes later, he clipped Keroack by one-tenth of a second for the 220 title.

Franco twice ran :09.4 in the 100 and once ran :20.9 in the 220 this year. But Saturday's burning temperature and soft, sponge cake track slowed all running events. Franco was the only competitor to score points in three events. He is the first to win the 100-dash title four straight years.

He was pooped afterward. "I've never been this tired after a meet," Franco said. "But considering the conditions, I'm happy with the results." It was his goal to break his own state records in the 100 (0.9.5) and 200 (:21.4) which he set last year.

Hartford Public, coached by former Olympic Gold Medal winner Lindy Remigino, easily won the team title by amassing 31 points. West Haven was second with 22 points, followed by Norwich with 20, Windham 13, Greenwich 12 and Bacon Academy of Colchester 12.

Several other central Connecticut athletes won events.

Gary Desjardins, of Maloney in Meriden, captured the mile in 4:13, exactly the same time he won the Class A title last week. He was taking aim on the state record of 4:10.8 but again ran a 66-second third lap that nullified any hopes for a record.

Richard White, of South Windsor, won the discus with a 168-foot, seven-inch heave and placed second in the shot put to Mark Serrichio of Rippowam. Serrichio threw the shot 59 feet, 9½ inches and White threw 57 feet, 16 inches.

Windham sophomore Pete Witkowski won the long jump with a 22-foot, 1¼ inch leap and placed fourth in the triple jump. George Cagle of Norwich, won the triple jump at 46 feet, nine inches and Curt Iverson, of Hartford Public, was second.

Bruce Fiori, of Farmington, took the half-mile lead at the 440-mark and went on to best Pedro Martinez of Hartford

Public with a 1:56.9 clocking. Martinez ran 1:57.4.

Herb Davis, of Bacon Academy in Colchester, captured the 330-intermediate hurdles with a :39.6 clocking. He was the lone winner from a Class C school. Norwich won the mile relay in 3:25.2.

Franco talked about his date with the top sprinters in the country next Saturday. "I still have to improve my starts in the 100 but I'll tell you if I hit it right, no one will beat me." Franco, notorious for getting out of the starting blocks late, had trouble Saturday but was confident he could iron out his problems before next Saturday.

"I want to win," he said. "I think I will."

300 INTERMEDIATE HURDLES: 1) Herb Davis (Bacon Academy); 2) McLeod (Torrington); 3) Polvin (Windham); 4) Clayton (West Haven); 5) Ors (Hartford Public). Time: 40.7.

LONG JUMP: 1) Pete Witkowski (Windham); 2) Selover (Danien); 3) Davis (Bacon Academy); 4) Slope (Valley Regional); 5) Lefevre (Greenwich). Dist: 22' 1/4".

120 HIGH HURDLES: 1) Paul Murphy (Stamford); 2) Clayton (West Haven); 3) Freeman (Fitch); 4) Patvin (Windham); 5) Rogers (Coginchaug). Time: 14.9.

880 RELAY: 1) Hartford Public (Francis Payne, Les Black, Daryl Brown, Pablo Franco); 2) Norwich; 3) Wilbur Cross; 4) Danbury; 5) Brian McMahon. Time: 1:29.4.

100 DASH: 1) Pablo Franco (Hartford Public); 2) Tomlin (Brian McMahon); 3) Goodman (Plainville); 4) Richardson (Farmington); 5) Williams (West Haven). Time: 9.8.

440 DASH: 1) Mike Rice (Greenwich); 2) Garvey (Glastonbury); 3) Stribino (New Milford); 4) Belfey (Staples); 5) Douglas (Hamden). Time: 50.5.

JAVELIN: 1) Russ Fox (Kennedy); 2) Kostek (South Catholic); 3) Eckles (Notre Dame of Bridgeport); 4) Perkins (Waterford); 5) Mills (Bristol Eastern). Dist: 201' 4".

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800 RUN: Bruce Fiori (Farmington); 2) Martinez (Hartford Public); 3) Lyman (Greenwich); 4) Floyd (Bristol Eastern); 5) Ringston (Wilson). Time: 1:26.

220 DASH: 1) Pablo Franco (Hartford Public); 2) Keleoch (Norwich); 3) Williams (West Haven); 4) Deacher (Bunnell); 5) Tomlin (Brian McMahon). Time: :24.

TRIPLE-JUMP: 1) George Cagle (Norwich); 2) Iverson (Hartford Public); 3) Davis (Bacon Academy); 4) Witkowski (Windham); 5) Flachsen (New Canaan). Distance, 46 feet, 9 inches.

TWO-MILE: 1) John Foran (New Canaan); 2) Clark (East Hampton); 3) Flora (Ledyard); 4) Kishimoto (East Hartford); 5) Dunleavy (Brookfield). Time, :9:26.

DISCUS: 1) Richard White (South Windsor); 2) Gawryszczuk (New Britain); 3) Angel (Southington); 4) Meglin (Platt); 5) Borders (Ridgefield). Distance, 168 feet, 7 inches.

MILE RELAY: 1) Norwich (Brown, Rice, Gillman, Pemberton); 2) Hartford Public; 3) Bristol Eastern; 4) Greenwich; 5) South Windsor. Time, 3:25.2.

POLE VAULT: 1) Dave Appel (Amity); 2) Onnis (Coventry); 3) Coughlin (West Haven); 4) Johnson (Barlow); 5) Rogers (Farmington) Height 13 feet, 6 inches.

Team Totals  
Hartford Public 31; West Haven, 22; Norwich, 20; Windham, 13; Bacon Academy, 12; Greenwich, 12; South Windsor, 11; Farmington, 8; Maloney, 8; New Canaan, 7; Danbury, 6; Stamford, 6; Brian McMahon, 6; Kennedy, 6; Bristol Eastern, 6; Rippowam, 6; Southington, 6; Amity, 6; Platt, 5; Glastonbury, 4; South Catholic, 4; Danien, 4; Xavier, 4; East Hampton, 4; New Britain, 4; Coventry, 4; Torrington, 4; Windsor Locks, 3; Fitch, 3; Wilbur Cross, 3; Plainville, 3; New Milford, 3; Notre Dame, Bridgeport, 3; Ledyard, 3; Staples, 2; Waterford, 2; Valley Regional, 2; East Catholic, 2; Bunnell, 2; East Hartford, 2; Barlow, 2; Sheehan, 1; Coginchaug, 1; Hamden, 1; Bloomfield, 1; Wilton, 1; Ridgefield, 1.