Haskell wins team championship

Arana and Kennevan claim titles

By SCOTT NOVAK
Daily News Sports Editor

Never before has anyone or any team from Laredo Junior College of Laredo, Texas won a national championship, that is until Loreto Arana captured the individual title Saturday morning in the NJCAA National Marathon Championships.

Arana outdulled defending champion Eric Stuber, of Lansing Community College, for the first 18 miles and then had to hold off Denny Becourt of Haskell Island Junior College for the victory.

The Laredo JC freshman wanted to break the record but because of the windy and rainy conditions had to settle for a time behind Arana and was clocked at 2:26.54.

Greg Wolf of Golden Valley Lutheran was third and Southwestern Michigan College sophomore Steve Wroblewski was fourth. Wolf finished with a time of 2:29.31, while Wroblewski, who was 19th last year, cut more than 12 minutes off of his1984 time to earn All-American honors.

Rounding out the All-American team for the men were Dennis Fabian of Macomb Community College (2:31.54) and Michael Scott of Gloucester Community College (2:34.57).

"I am very, very happy," said Arana following the race. "I wanted to win the race and I worked hard for this race. Now I want to try and win the race next year and run a better time."

Arana and Stuber went head to head for the first 15 miles before the defending champion, who did not finish the race, took over the lead. Stuber then lost the advantage somewhere between the 16-and 19-miles, never to regain it. From there on out Stuber lost ground and finally fell into the ditch just past the 22-mile marker.

The Mexican native was never headed after that although Belcourt stayed within striking distance. Arana, who is from Cufican Sinaloa, Mexico, likes running the long distance and has finished with a 4:17.28 in San Antonio, Texas and 2:20.9 in the 1984 Boston Marathon.

Arana also ran track for Laredo and qualified for the NJCAA Outdoor Track Championships held earlier this spring. Arana now plans on concentrating more on the marathon next year in hopes of becoming the first man to ever win two consecutive championships.

Haskell Island Junior College, led by Belcourt, captured the team championship for the second straight year. Before last year’s title, Haskell had never won a national championship in any sport. Joining Belcourt on the winning team were Wendell Chino (12th) and Richard Black Elk (13th).

Monroe Community College of Rochester, N.Y., was second with 18 points while Oakton Community College of Des Plaines, Ill., was third and Macomb Community College was fourth. The Macomb women’s team captured its second straight team championship, although they were the only school with a full team.

Wroblewski finished what must have seemed like an eternity Saturday morning as he completed something he started last year following his first marathon. The Michigan City native wanted to gain All-American honors and did so by running a very smart race. Wroblewski finished with a time of 2:31.00.

The women’s individual title was won by Vera Kennevan of Frederick Community College, Frederick, N.Y. Kennevan finished the 26-mile, 385-yard course in 3:00.21, while Ada Wolf of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio was second with a time of 3:07.14. Both women earned All-American honors.

The race came off smoothly again this year, although the weather didn’t cooperate for fan support. The cold, wet and windy Saturday morning kept most people inside, although the runners didn’t mind the cool and wet air. A new record, however, was kept from the books by a strong head wind the runners experienced from the 17-mile mark on.

Gunn praised the work of the volunteers and the marathon committee for another well organized race. He did note a bit of disappointment that the entries were down this year. Of the 45 entries, just 41 runners started the race and by day’s end, just 32 crossed the finish line in downtown Dowagiac.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Loreto Arana, Laredo JC, Laredo, TX ....................................................... *2:26.54
2. Denny Becourt, Haskell Island JC, Lawrence, KS ................................ *2:26.54
3. Tom Meris, Golden Val. Lutheran, Golden Val., MN ...................................... *2:29.31
4. Steve Wroblewski, S.W. Michigan Coll., Dowagiac, MI .................................... *2:31.54
5. Dennis Fabian, Macomb CC, Warren, MI .................................................. *2:34.57
6. Michael Scott, Gloucester CC, Sewell, NJ .................................................. *2:34.57
7. William Badger, Monroe CC, Rochester, NY .............................................. 2:35.14
8. Mitchell Kopczynski, Willmar Wright Coll., Chicago, IL .............................. 2:35.31
9. Carl Stuber, Lansing CC, Lansing, MI ...................................................... 2:37.06
10. Mike Raas, Lansing CC, Lansing, MI ...................................................... 2:37.54
11. Don Spreull, Cayuga CC, Auburn, NY ...................................................... 2:37.54
12. Wendell Chino, Haskell Island JC, Lawrence, KS ......................................... 2:39.29
13. Richard Black Elk, Haskell Island JC, Lawrence, KS .................................. 2:41.35
14. Mike Raas, Lansing CC, Lansing, MI ...................................................... 2:42.02
16. Dave Kelly, Cuyahoga CC, Cleveland, OH ................................................ 2:53.31
17. John Chris, S.W. Michigan Coll., Dowagiac, MI ........................................ 2:53.40
18. David Alvarado, Monroe CC, Rochester, NY .............................................. 2:55.02
19. Tony Vedrick, Oakton CC, Des Plaines, IL ................................................ 2:56.37
20. Tom Polak, Oakton CC, Des Plaines, IL .................................................... 2:56.39
21. Vera Kennevan, Frederick CC, Frederick, MD ............................................. *3:00.21
22. Douglas Horan, Monroe CC, Rochester, NY ............................................. 3:01.13
23. Patrick Brister, Monroe CC, Rochester, NY ................................................ 3:02.24
24. Dan Kuhn, Oakton CC, Des Plaines, IL ..................................................... 3:03.20
25. Ada Wolf, Cuyahoga CC, Cleveland, OH .................................................... 3:07.14
26. Tom Archibald, Macomb CC, Warren, MI .................................................. 3:07.56
27. Joel Dunn, Macomb CC, Warren, MI ...................................................... 3:09.43
28. John Castillo, Parkland CC, Chicago, IL .................................................... 3:11.33
29. Angie Mejia, Macomb CC, Warren, MI .................................................... 3:15.19
30. Renee DeChambenoit, Macomb CC, Warren, MI ...................................... 3:19.43
31. Miriti Suri, Henry Ford CC, Dearborn, MI ................................................ 3:23.23
32. Matti Suhi, Henry Ford CC, Dearborn, MI ................................................ 3:23.37

FIRST WOMEN’S MARATHON

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TEAM RESULTS

MEN
1. Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS ......................................................... 10
2. Monroe CC, Rochester, NY ................................................................. 11
3. Oakton CC, Des Plaines, IL ................................................................. 26
4. Macomb CC, Warren, MI ................................................................. 27

WOMEN
1. Macomb CC, Warren, MI ................................................................. 6