Haskell Indian JC Wins Team Title; Chino, Hansen Take Individuals

By SCOTT NOVAK
Daily News Sports Editor

For the fourth straight year Haskell Indian Junior College of Lawrence, Kan. won the team title at the National Junior College Athletic Association Marathon Championships. This time, however, Haskell took home an individual champion as well.

Wendell Chino, who finished 12th in 1985, broke away from Southwestern Michigan College's David Lawhorn around the 24-mile mark to capture the national championship with a time of 2:42:00.

Mercer Community College's (Trenton, N.J.) Tina Hansen was the women's winner as she posted a time of 3:43:54 to nip the only other woman runner, Brenda O'Connor, of Oakton Community College (Des Plaines, Ill.).

Chino was the lone male runner with previous marathon experience entering Saturday's race. That paid off as he outran Lawhorn over the final two miles. Lawhorn managed to hold on for second as he crossed the finish line with a time of 2:48:03.

The two runners broke away from the pack midway through the race. Chino and Lawhorn ran elbow to elbow for several miles until the veteran Haskell runner made his move. Lawhorn, who was running a very even pace at the 20-mile mark, was unable to go with him.

The team races were almost as exciting as the individual duel that took part during the 14th annual event. Haskell claimed the top spot to take an early lead, however, SMC had Lawhorn in second and Kent Hatterey third to put the pressure on the defending champions. Haskell then had Marty Pretends Eagle come in fourth to tie the team score at five apiece. Haskell then, however, had four more runners come in before Southwestern had its third runner cross the line. In the team standings, only three runners are counted.

Hatterey also earned All-American honors as he crossed the line with a time of 2:48:06. Eagle earned All-American kudos with a time of 2:50:23. Also picking up All-American honors were Aldric George, of Haskell, with a time of 2:52:53 and John Wospeyti, of Haskell, with a time of 2:55:07. The top six finishers are named NJCAA All-Americans.

Haskell ended up with 10 total team points, while Southwestern finished with 14. Monroe Community College, of Rochester, N.Y. was third with 29 points.

Hansen, a native of Denmark, didn't have much competition Saturday as she toured Cass and Van Buren Counties in the hot and humid weather. Hansen broke out early on O'Connor who never could keep pace. O'Connor finished with a time of 3:50:11.

Other participants who finished the race included: Dave MacAuley of Macomb, Julius Pitra of Haskell, Dwayne Antonio of Haskell, Brad Town of Lansing, Brian Scott, Young of Monroe, Boyd Seghers of Oakton, Ross Goss of Wisconsin-Sheboygan, Tony Saviano of Southwestern and Dan Goodwin, Tom Murphy and Jose Silvera of Monroe.

Despite the fact the weather was very hot and humid, only three people had to drop out of the race. Kenneth Walls of Haskell was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital where he was treated and then released.