Howard County JC Wins Third Straight NJCAA Track & Field Title

By TOMMY HART
Sports Editor, Big Spring Daily Herald

L.L. (Red) Lewis’ HCJC legions, showing great strength in the hurdles and weights, swept to their third straight victory in the 22nd annual National Junior College Track and Field Meet, racking up a total of 113 points.

In running away with first place, the Jayhawks exceeded their point aggregate last year.

Four meet records fell in the two-night cinder show and two others were tied. Standards overhauled included the mile run, discus throw, shot put and pole vault. Both hurdles records were tied.

Phoenix, Arizona, was second in the chase, with 66, beating out Victoria by a mere point. Fourth was Schreiner Institute of Kerrville, which wound up with 46 points. All four teams earned trophies.

High point man of the meet was HCJC’s Mike Hill, who scored a total of 24 points. He beat out Schreiner’s brilliant Keith Owen by a mere quarter of a point.

Two of the most thrilling events of the night occurred in the relay events. The Big Spring collegians won both races—the sprint and the mile relay.

Terry Williams, the Hawks’ lead-off man in the sprint relay, appeared to slip at the starting gun but he recovered fast. Tommy Wise, Tommy Yarbo, and Don Carter took the baton in that order and the Hawks finished all alone in 42.1 seconds.

In the mile event, which ended the show, Owen of Schreiner appeared ready to overtake Carter in the back stretch but the gritty Jayhawk refused to quit. He ran the Mountaineer into the ground around the turn and brought the baton home several yards in front of Owen. The HCJC foursome was clocked in 3:19.5.

Tommy Wise and Kenneth Windham of the Hawks finished 1-2 in the low hurdles and reversed that order in the highs. Wise tied the meet record in the lows Saturday night after Windham had equalled the record in the Friday night prelims of the highs.

Howard County won five first places to two each for Victoria and Schreiner and one each for Blinn, San Antonio, Spring Arbor, Michigan; Phoenix, Lubbock Christian, Hutchinson and Wharton.

The Hawks’ blue ribbons came in the mile relay, sprint relay, the two hurdles and the discus.

HCJC began to show its muscles in Saturday afternoon’s finals when it picked up 24 points in two field events.

Mike Hill, the 222-pound sophomore from Libertyville, Ill., cut loose with a record-breaking throw of 170 feet 1 inch in the discus throw and had a surprising third place finish in the javelin.

Mike hurled the spear 190 feet 3 1/4 inches.

Gary Walker, also of HCJC and the defending champion in the event, broke the discus record, too, with his second place finish. His throw was a robust 166 feet 6 inches, his best effort this season.

First place in the javelin went to Dick Carpenter of Hutchinson in a mild upset. Carpenter’s toss was 207 feet 3 inches, which lacked an inch tying the meet record.

Victoria, making its best showing in the meet since it ruled the roost in 1958, shot into the lead Friday night in the final events staged.

The Pirates, coached by Monroe Northcutt, won the sprint medley in the sizzling time of 3:29.9; had a fourth place finish in the high jump, a third place finish in the broad jump and a fourth place in the shot put.

One record fell Friday night when Rox Jacobsen of Schreiner Institute, Kerrville, Texas, pushed the shot 52 feet 3/4 inch. The old record had been on the books 23 years.

Kenneth Windham of HCJC tied the meet record of 14.6 in the preliminaries of the high hurdles.

A sudden shower which dumped .38 of an inch of moisture on the track about daybreak Saturday caused semifinals to be postponed until late in the afternoon and forced tournament director L.L. (Red) Lewis and his co-workers to “bend to,” in frantic efforts to dry out the racing oval. It proved to be quite a job, because much of the track was under water after the rain.
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Signed: John S. Oelkers, track coach Tulane University and head coach USA . . . Russia, Poland vs USA 1962

JUCO REVIEW - SEPTEMBER, 1963