

Homestead track team captures Blossom Hill Relays

SAN JOSE — A lot of faces were different but the results were about the same Saturday as Homestead High School captured the team title in the Blossom Hill Relays at Leigh High for the second straight year.

The steady if not spectacular Mustangs used team depth to pile up 39 points. Leigh, losing mainly underclassmen, finished a surprising second with 31.

Top individual marks came from Gunn's Tom Birtwhistle and Fremont's Russ Royal.

Birtwhistle, who has thrown the discus farther than any prep in the nation this year with a 195-4 effort, tossed a wooden discus 180-1 to set a meet and stadium record Saturday.

Birtwhistle was flinging a rubber discus when he set his prep record but switched to the wooden one because he felt it would add distance.

The Gunn senior will be back to the rubber discus when

league, Central Coast Section and state meet competition is underway.

His winning toss Saturday sailed out of the measured area of 180 feet and hit the concrete retaining ring hard enough to chip a piece of the wooden platter.

Royal, who goes higher as the weather gets warmer, soared to a height of 15 feet in the pole vault. That mark is the second best in the state and third in the nation as well as being a stadium and meet record.

Homestead captured just one first place—the two mile relay—but the Mustangs grabbed three seconds, a third and three fourths to take home team honors.

The results:

440 RELAY — Cupertino 44.3; Saratoga 4.5; Sunnyvale 44.2; Homestead 44.8; Westmont 45.1.

2 MILE RELAY — Homestead 8:11.3; Leland 8:18.5; Lynbrook 8:19.2; Woodside 8:19.7; Fremont 8:19.8.

OPEN 2 MILE — Larson, (Fremont) 9:37.0; Ferguson, (Homestead) 9:38.3;

McCarthy, (St. Francis) 9:43.2; Flynn 10:29.

880 RELAY — Woodside 1:31.8; Aver 1:31.8; Leigh 1:32.2; Wilcox 1:32.7; Sunnyvale 1:33.1.

4 MILE RELAY — Wilcox 18:27; Homestead 18:38; Riordan 18:39.5; Cupertino 18:46.9; Mt. Pleasant 18:56.

SHUTTLE HURDLES — Gunn 60.9; Westmont 61.8; Saratoga 63.1; Santa Clara 63.5; Sunnyvale 63.8.

100-YARD DASH — Braboy (Riordan) 10.0; Fowler (Cupertino) 10.1; Brown (Sunnyvale) 10.1; Gillick (Bellarmine) 10.2; Anderson (Santa Clara) 10.3.

MILE RELAY — Leigh 3:28.2; Prospect 3:30.1; Wilcox 3:30.8; Westmoor 3:31.6; Lincoln 3:32.8.

OPEN MILE RELAY—Lynbrook 3:31.5; Westmont 3:27.1; Homestead 3:35.5.

PENTATHLON — Swann, (Serra) 369 pts.; Pluckebaum (Los Gatos) 369; Norberg (Gunn) 368; Follett (Branham) 362; Ogilvie (Branham) 361.

Blossom Hill Relays crown

DISCUS—Birtwhistle (Gunn) 180.1; Covey, Schott (Homestead), 160.9; Allen (Saratoga) 159.10; Waller (Homestead) 159.2; Bassoni (Camden) 159.9

LONG JUMP — Buser (Leigh) 23-1¾; Freeman (Santa Clara) 23-0; Martin (Ayer) 22-9½; Anderson (Gunn) 21-1½; Mounon (Hill) 21-11.

POLE VAULT — Royal (Fremont) 15-0; Green (Woodside) 13-0; Groat (Leigh) 12-11¾; Smith (Leland) 12-6; Brown (Bellarmine) 12-6.

HIGH JUMP — Landman (Blackford) 6-4; Ogden (Lincoln) 6-4; Goecher (Camden) 6-3; Wyrick (Mt. Pleasant) 6-3; Anderson (Gunn) 6-1.

TRIPLE JUMP — Freeman (Santa Clara) 47-3¾; Moulton (Hill) 45-8¼; Miller (Leigh) 45-2¼; Brown (Westmoor) 44-5; Bourdeau (Westmont) 43-10½.

SHOT PUT — Himan, Barry (Leigh) 56-6¼; King (Mt. View) 54-3¼; Himan, Brian (Leigh) 52-10¼; Bernal (So. San Fran.) 51-8½; Callero (Riordan) 51-8.

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After missing once at 14-3, he made 14-6, and then his winning vault of 15-0 on first attempts.

"That was the best jump I've had all year," he related. "I felt I was over about eight inches."

Royal is gunning for a 16-foot vault in the State Meet, a mark he claims will win the event. "Then I want to make the 1972 Olympics," he added.

Only one other meet record was topped and that came in the pentathlon where juniors Vince Pluckebaum and Lynn Swann tied for first with 369 points. Pluckebaum of Los Gatos scored heavily in the shot put and 880 while Swann was at his best in the long jump and 100-yard dash.

Swann, a two-time All-Central Coast football player for Serra and an All-West Catholic League basketball star, recorded a long jump of 23-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ —a mark which would have tied him with Leigh's Jim Buser in the open long jump.

Homestead Cops 'Bloss

By CHET WOOD

Mercury-News Sports Writer

After proving they are the area's best in their respective events, Tom Birtwhistle and Russ Royal are changing weapons in an effort to become the best in the state.

Both reaffirmed their lofty positions Saturday in the sixth annual Blossom Hill Relays at Leigh.

Gunn's Birtwhistle, the nation's leading prep discus thrower with a 195-4 effort this season, hurled his wooden platter 180-1 to set a meet and stadium record.

And Royal, who Friday went 14-9 in a dual meet for Fremont, cleared 15 to up his leading Central Coast Section mark. The effort, which is second best in the state and third in the nation, also established meet and stadium standards.

Immediately after each winning effort, the victors announced a change in tools.

But Homestead refused to change and used the same formula—depth—it relied on last year to capture a second straight Relays championship. Leigh unleashed its talented underclassmen to finish a surprising second with 31 points,

only eight behind the winners.

Birtwhistle fired his nation-leading 195-4 with a rubber discus but switched to a wooden platter, which is supposed to add distance.

"But it bothered the flight," Birtwhistle related. "I just haven't been able to do well with it. I have small hands and just can't control this wooden disc."

Even if he had been successful with the wooden platter, Birtwhistle would have had to change following the Blossom Hills meet. The throwing area is

only 180 feet and his winning toss sailed onto the concrete ring surrounding the track and a chunk was chipped out of his discus.

Birtwhistle believes once he gets back to using the rubber discus he can reach his goal of 205 before the State Meet. "Then I don't care what I throw in the State Meet as long as I win."

Royal also cited a state championship as his reason for switching to a new pole Monday.

"This pole is bending too much, I'm going to get a catapult," Royal said.

Blossom Hills Relays

Winners and local placers: 440 rel — Cupertino 44.3; 2 mile rel — Homestead 8:11.3, 4. Woodside 8:19.7; 2 mile—Larson (Fremont) 9:37.0, 3. McCarty (St. Francis) 9:43.2; 880 rel — Woodside 1:31.8; 4 mile rel—Wilcox 18:27; 480 HHR — Gunn 60.9; 100 — Braboy (Riordan) 10.0, 4. Gillick (Bellarmine) 10.2; Mile rel—Lynnbrook 3:26.5; Pentathlon—tie between Swann (Serra) and Pluckebaum (Los Gatos) 369 pts., 3. Norberg (Gunn) 366; Dis — Birtwhistle (Gunn) 180-1; LJ — Buser (Leigh) 23-1 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4. Anderson (Gunn) 21-11 $\frac{1}{2}$; PV — Royal (Fremont) 15-0, 2. Ogren (Wood) 13-0, 5. Brown (Bell) 12-6; HJ — Landman (Blackford) 6-4, 5. Anderson (Gunn) 6-1; TJ — Freeman (Santa Clara) 47-3 $\frac{3}{4}$; S P — Himan (Leigh) 56-6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

TEAM SCORES (leaders): Homestead 39, Leigh 34, Wilcox 20, Woodside 18, Gunn 18.

FROSH-SOPH: Woodside placers: 880 rel — 3. 1:36.4; Dis Med Rel — 5. 11:20.4; Mile rel — 1. Fuller, Legg, Murphy, Sanvidotti 3:37.5.

Buser's mark, the best in the CCS this year, was one of three first place finishes by Leigh. Barry Himan produced one of the wins with a 56-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ effort in the shot while the Longhorns' mile relay quartet recorded the other with a 3:28.1 clocking.

Homestead managed only one first place, in the two-mile relay where they notched an 8:11.3 effort. But, the Mustangs posted three seconds, a third and three fourths to nab meet honors.

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OPEN 2 MILE — Larson, (Fremont) 9:37.0; Ferguson, (Homestead) 9:38.3; McCarthy, (St. Francis) 9:43.2; Flynn (Homestead) 9:43.2; Davis (Prospect) 10:29.

880 relay — Woodside 1:31.8; Ayer 1:31.8; Leigh 1:32.2; Wilcox 1:32.7; Sunnyvale 1:33.1.

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DISCUS — Birthistle (Gunn) 180-1; Covey, Schott (Homestead), 160-9; Allen (Saratoga) 159-10; Waller (Homestead) 158-2; Bassoni (Camden) 149-9.

LONG JUMP — Buser (Leigh) 23' 1 $\frac{3}{4}$; Freeman (Santa Clara) 23-0; Martin (Ayer) 22-9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Anderson (Gunn) 21-11 $\frac{1}{2}$; Moulton (Hill) 21-11.

POLE VAULT — Royal (Fremont) 15-0; Green (Woodside) 13-0; Groat (Leigh) 12-11 $\frac{7}{8}$; Smith (Leland) 12-6; Brown (Bellarmine) 12'6.

HIGH JUMP — Landman (Blackford) 6-4; Ogden (Lincoln) 6-4; Goecher (Camden) 6-3; Wyrick (Mt. Pleasant) 6-3; Anderson (Gunn) 6-1.

TRIPLE JUMP — Freeman (Santa Clara) 47-3 $\frac{3}{4}$; Moulton (Hill) 45-8 $\frac{1}{4}$; Miller (Leigh) 45-2 $\frac{1}{4}$; Brown (Westmoor) 44-5; Bourdeau (Westmont) 43-10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SHOT PUT — Himan, Barry (Leigh) 56-6 $\frac{3}{4}$; King (Mt. View) 54-3 $\frac{1}{4}$; Himan, Brian (Leigh) 52-10 $\frac{1}{4}$; Bernal (So. San Fran.) 51-8 $\frac{1}{2}$; Callero (Riordan) 51-8.