

San Diego Section

by Tom Shanahan

June 4, San Diego.

Since the start of the year they've taken turns leading the nation in the 800 meters and the 1600. And when they weren't No. 1, they at times had the nation's second best mark behind their rival.

So it was only fitting that University City's Laura Chapel and Grossmont's Darcy Arreola would split two classic middle-distance duels in the San Diego CIF Section Track and Field championships May 29 at San Deigo State.

First, Chapel out-kicked Arreola to win the 800 in a swift 2:08.46 to the Foothiller senior's 2:09.27. Then, Arreola came back to run a superb tactical race, running away from the Centurian senior's kick to win in a meet record 4:47.98 to Chapel's 4:53.40.

"I thought it would be neat if we both won a race," Arreola said. "I would rather win the 1600 because I like that race more. I wanted that race a lot more."

Said Chapel: "I'm a little upset, but I didn't really expect to win both races. I was hoping to, but I'm satisfied."

Until Chapel came along, no one in San Diego had managed to beat Grossmont's Wonder Woman twice in a row.

But after the 800 Chapel's winning streak had not only grown to four, it created another first: Arreola doubted she could win the 1600.

"I went into the 1600 thinking I couldn't win," Arreola said. "I figured she'd beat me. I tried to get the doubt out of my mind, but I couldn't."

The difference was the third lap when Arreola pulled away at the end of the first turn and kept stretching her lead.

"I decided to run behind her the first two laps, even though I get nervous when I'm not running in front," Arreola said. "The 800 is too short, but in the mile you can have more strategy."

The tactics were reversed in the 800, when Chapel stalked Arreola until the backstretch when she could use her superior speed.

"I knew she'd set the pace, so I stayed behind her," Chapel said. "I was going to pass her at 150 (meters), but she was running in the outside of the lane and I had to wait until 100. I felt real good."

Afterward, Arreola said she would drop the 800 to concentrate on the 1600. Chapel considered dropping the 1600 but decided to double. Both gave thought to sticking to one event in separate conversations in nearly identical words: "I'd rather be a state champion on one event than take second in two."

As expected, their duels highlighted an afternoon that included broken records and surpassed milestones.

Southwest senior Tracy Crawford set two records, breaking her own county mark in the shot put by a foot with a prodigious 45-0 $\frac{3}{4}$. Her discus toss of 155-1 not only broke her own meet record, it was enough to upset national leader Lor' Parker of Ramona. Parker, whose best is a county record 162-0, was second at 149-10.

Valhalla senior Mark Dani broke the 9-minute barrier with an 8:54.96 in the 3200 as well as a 19-year-old meet record held by Lincoln's Otis Martin.

"The record was in my mind, but I wasn't thinking of a certain time, except to go under nine minutes," said Dani, who has earned a scholarship to Wisconsin. "I feel pretty good, but I feel I can go faster."

Point Loma senior Michelle Collum cut in half the hurdle reign of Lincoln junior Michelle Outlaw, the defending champion in the 100 and 300 hurdles. In the 100



Tracy Crawford

hurdles, Collum ran 14.10 to break the meet record of 14.30 set by Crawford's Kari Alexander in 1978. Mira Mesa Junior Darla Vaughn was a close second in 14.17 and Outlaw was third in 14.19. The only San Diego girl to run faster than the trio is former Sweetwater All-American Gail Devers, who now runs at UCLA.

"I felt I raced well, but it wasn't my best," said the 6-foot Collum, who is bound for Oregon State on a basketball scholarship. "If I hadn't hit those hurdles and if I'd had a little better start I could have had 13.9 or 13.8. That's what I'm striving for."

Two weeks earlier, Collum's 13.9 made her the first San Diego girl since Devers to join the sub-14 club. Now Outlaw is the first to join Devers in the sub-44 club of the 300 hurdles. The Hornet, who earlier in the day won the long jump with an 18-5 $\frac{1}{4}$, blazed to a 43.96. Vaughn was second again in 44.98.

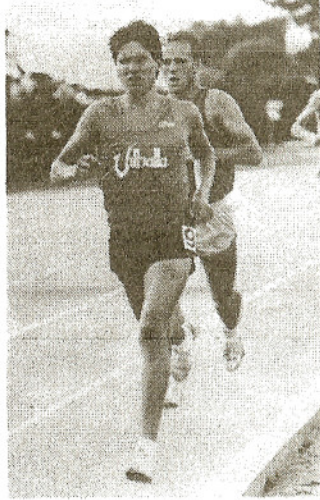
"I'm just happy I'm going to state (in the 100 hurdles)," Outlaw said of claiming one of San Diego's three state berths. "If I would have been fourth, then I would have been mad."

El Capitan senior Brian Boggess had mixed reactions to his double in the weight events. He increased his state lead in the shot put to 60-3 $\frac{1}{2}$, but his discus mark of 179-9 fell short of the meet record 191-3 he set in the prelims. It ranked as the state's second best mark heading into the state meet. Boggess is the first San Diego boy since 1979 to throw the shot 60 feet and only the third ever to crack the 190 barrier in the discus.

Monte Vista's boys won the team title with 44 points to edge some surprising performances by Morse and La Jolla, which tied with 43 points. Monte Vista won with depth since its only win came from Erik Peterson defending his high jump title with a best of 6-7. Teammate Matt Farmer, son of San Diego State coach Dixon Farmer, improved four inches to place third at 6-6.

Morse's Larry Williams upset the field by winning in 1:54.54, even though he hates the event. Williams tried to get out of running the 800 when he eased up to finish fourth in the Eastern League finals to allow teammate Mark Senior to claim the third and final qualifying berth for the San Diego meet. Morse coach Mike Klepper didn't like that, so he gained an available at-large entry for Williams.

Williams responded by running the fastest time of the year in San Diego. Williams later finished second to Lincoln's Patrick Rowe in the 400, another work event, with a 49.03 to Rowe's 48.82. Then he added a 47.7 anchor leg to give the Tigers a come-from-behind win in the 1600m relay (3:19.27).



Mark Dani

"I didn't want to run the 800 and I tried to get out of it," Williams admitted. "But the 800 set the pace for the rest of my day. I still hate it, but I'll run all three at state."

Said a satisfied Klepper: "He can do whatever he wants now."

La Jolla gained surprising wins from sophomore Charles Huff in the long jump (23-4 $\frac{3}{4}$) and Anthony Wolfe in the 110m high hurdles (14.75). Huff's mark was a one-foot improvement and broke a 49-year-old school record.

Morse's girls routed the field to claim the title with 64 points, the highest point total in section history.

Junior Yolanda Flitch was in on four wins, running legs on the 400 relay and 1600 relay and narrowly missing meet records in the 100 (12.09) and 400 (56.17). Teammate Kim Matthews won the 200 (25.10), was third in the 100 and ran both relays.

There also were two freshmen who picked up wins. Vista's Kira Jorgensen won the 3200 (10:50.39) and Grossmont's LaFrancia West the triple jump (37-10 $\frac{1}{4}$). Jorgensen added a third in the 1600 (5:04.37) and West second in the 200 (25.45).

The most disappointing performance came from Mount Miguel's Jackie Anderson. The county triple jump record holder with a leap of 40-3 finished third with a 37-0. She also was third in both the long jump (18-1 $\frac{1}{4}$) and high jump (5-4).