

Parker's Dedication Pays Off With Title

by Paul Salvoni

Coach Ed Parker doesn't live on the Mills High track. It just seems that way.

Parker, the short fellow with the glasses whose main goal in recent years has been to bring a track championship to the Vikings, just might be the most dedicated prep coach in the entire Bay Area.

So it was hardly unfair that his endless hours of hard work and extreme dedication finally resulted in the accomplishment of that goal last week.

Parker's well-coached army of speedsters and strongmen outran visiting Capuchino in the teams' final dual meet Thursday afternoon, 87-50, to give Mills a perfect 6-0 record and the 1974 Mid-Peninsula League dual championship.

The victory was obviously sweet enough in itself for the Vikings, but it was doubly satisfying because Cap had upset previously-unbeaten Mills and eventually forced the Vikes to settle for a co-title a year ago.

Perhaps the most outstanding tribute to Parker's coaching abilities was the performance of sophomore Ken Vasquez. Vasquez flew 23 feet, 1½ inches in the long jump, a new Central Coast Section best this season.

The meet began on a sour note for Mills. Cap's 440 relay team took the opening event with a time of 45.0 to Mills' 47.1, and the Mustangs held a 5-0 lead.

Which lasted about as long as a drop of water would in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

Mills' Bill Giavia (15.2), Ken

Barranti (15.9), and sophomore Tom Dryden (16.0) swept the 120-yard high hurdles race for 9-5, and the Mills Machine was on its way.

Steve Vasquez then won the 880 with a mark of 1:58.5, with Kurt Joerger finishing third (2:04.8) for Mills.

Vikings Pat Regan (45'5") and Jeff Beese (45'3½") placed 2-3 in the shot put, and Mills led 19-13 after four events.

The Mustangs dominated the 100-yard dash, but Steve Vasquez won the 440 with a time of 51.9, and it was 27-23.

Mills whitewashed Cap in the long jump. In addition to Vasquez's spectacular leap, Clay Bullwinkle (21'5") and Russ Columbo placed 2-3 for the Vikes.

Cap placed first in the discus throw, but Mills maintained a comfortable 40-28 lead at the meet's halfway point.

Martinez won the 2-mile run for Cap with a time of 9:51.4, but Giavia (21.1), Barranti, and Dryden swept the 180 low hurdles for Mills, making it 53-33 after ten events.

Cap's Ashley won the 220 (22.9), but Mills again bounced right back, as Bob Dillard (6-0), Doug Gaffin, and Giavia swept the high jump for 63-41.

The pole-vaulting resulted in another Viking sweep, as Earl Caldwell cleared 13-6,

Dillard cleared 12-6, and Jim Pappas topped 11-6. That widened the margin to 72-41 and clinched the title for the Mills clan.

Fred Warren then won the mile (4:39.3) and Bullwinkle the triple jump (42-9) to put the icing on the cake.

And so it was Thursday, Coach Parker's dream finally becoming a reality.

Mills Downs Cap Varsity

In what was probably their best game to date, the Mills Vikings defeated Cap 1-0 last Friday afternoon at Cap.

Barry Silver, doing the pitching chores for Mills, kept Cap on their heels, striking out 5 and only allowing 4 Tang hits.

Silver's counterpart, Steve Spagia, pitched well in a losing cause. After giving up a pair of hits in the first by Vikes Steve Strathearn and Nick Pappageorge accounting for Mills' only run, Spagia settled down and allowed only one Viking hit the rest of the game.

Last Monday afternoon, the Mustangs clobbered Aragon 9-3 in a game replayed from an early season rain-out.

The Mustangs now post a 5 win 4 loss record in MPL play and are tied for second behind Burlingame with Hillsdale.