

Long Jump: Charles Mayfield (Muir) took the 4A over junior teammate Ed Tave 24-5 to 23-10½ (with Tave getting second on a better second leap over Bob Rust (Kennedy, La Palma) also at 23-10½). Chris Harper sailed 24-3½ for Arlington to win the 3A, and Quincey Frank (Perris) equalled his seasonal wind aided best with a legal 23-11 for the 2A win.

Pole Vault: Another marathon competition with a swirling wind complicating things. Kurt Strasman (Long Beach Wilson) and Greg Stull (Troy, Fullerton) cleared 14-6 in winning the 4A and 3A vault.

Shot Put: Jim Doehring (San Clemente) tossed a state-leading 64-11¾ in winning the 2A, while Scott Garnett (Muir) 64-8¾ took the measure of Bret Holden (Hart, Newhall) in the 4A.

Triple Jump: Charles Mayfield (Muir) again - 50-6 with the top mark over improving teammate Ed Tave who got out to a PR 47-1½.

Los Angeles City High School Track Finals

by Tom Feuer

Although the Howard sisters received the most publicity (deservedly so) for their exploits, the 46th annual LA City High School Track Championships turned out to be more than a family affair. A fine sprint double by Gregory Peppers, a sweep of the horizontal jumping events by Kennedy's Paul Jones, and a seven foot high jump by Greg Denby, also gave an enthusiastic L.A. Valley College crowd something to cheer about on a cold and blustery evening.

Considering the quality of the track (a dirt surface) and the adverse weather conditions, some of the performances were truly remarkable. The Howards, (Tina, Denean and Sherri) with the accompaniment of Sheryl Thompson (400 relay) and Kelly Cook (1600 relay), broke two National records in the 400 and 1600 meter relays for Kennedy High of Granada Hills.

In the sprint relay, it wasn't until the third leg, that Kennedy even found itself in the lead. Southern league rivals Fremont and Manual Arts were fighting it out for first in the early going. However, sophomore Denean Howard brought the crowd to its feet with a sterling third carry, and by the time she handed off to sister Sherri, the race was for second place. Kennedy's aggregate time of 45.82 was .09 faster than Crawford's (San Diego) set at the 1977 state meet on the Tartan track of UCLA'S Drake Stadium.

In the 1600 relay, Denean produced a world class third leg of 51.9 in mowing down Manual Arts' Lori White. Sherri, taking off a little early, still ran a sizzling 52.9 to cap the record 3:39.62 effort. The old National mark was set last year by none other than the Howard sisters when they numbered four and were all attending San Geronio High. However, the graduation of Artra, made the Howard's amazing act this year a trio instead of a quartet.

In individual events, Sherri easily captured the two sprints (11.78, 23.53),

while Denean and Tina went 1-3 in the 400 meters (54.07, 55.86).

It was an exemplary evening for the whole Golden Cougar team as junior Paul Jones upset favorites Anthony Evans and Freeman Miller to win the long and triple jumps respectively. In both events, Jones got off his winning leaps of 23-8¼ and 48-7½ on his final trials.

The city meet was also a special occasion for Washington's Gregory Peppers as he led the Generals to their first city team title in 15 years. Peppers captured both short dashes and contributed legs on Washington's second place sprint relay team and the Generals' winning 1600 meter relay squad.

Peppers started off his high school career as a half miler. Two years ago at Birmingham High he was the city "cee" 880 yard champion and record holder with a best of 1:57.8. However, the prospect of racing Jeff West, David Mack, Tony Brown, and James Jackson during his junior year did not appeal to Peppers, so he dropped down to the quarter mile. At city semifinals last season, Peppers ran a 48.05, one of the fastest Junior class times in the nation. In the finals the following week he was leading Mack when he inexplicably tripped and fell. However, despite that mishap, Peppers later came back to qualify for the state meet by placing second in the 220.

This season Peppers was expected to be a world beater. He transferred to Washington and joined an already awesome array of spring talent that included sophomores Fabian Cooper and Randy Walker. A chronic back injury forced Peppers to curtail both racing and training. Nevertheless, he won the Arcadia 200, but for the city meet he was forced to drop the open quarter.

Grasping his back noticeably after his opening leg on the sprint relay, Peppers nevertheless eschewed the pain and won both the 100 and 200 meters handily in 10.86, and a very quick 21.50. He saved his best for the evening's final event, the 1600 meter relay, as he cruised to a 46.7 on his anchor leg.

Denby won the high jump for the second year in a row clearing 7-0 on his first try. He then made two attempts at a city record 7-2½. Bothered by a bad foot, Denby could not manipulate that height.

After years of running this excellent meet on dirt track surfaces, it is time to the L.A. city schools to emerge from the dark ages, and provide these superb athletes with a quality facility. The city sectional meet is one of the finest sectionals in the state and it should be accorded a decent track to match its stature.

Notes: High jumping exchange student Arne Simonson (Ceres, Sac Joaquin Section) finished second in sections (6-10¾), but returned to Norway where he is preparing for the Olympics as the country's second-leading jumper. He plans to return to California next fall and compete for Modesto Junior College.

Henry Andrade (Johnson, Sacramento) is going to attend U.C. Irvine.

Hughes Stadium in Sacramento has a brand new 10 lane Chevron 440 track which cost \$300,000. It is a metric track and has a red color with white lane markings.