

Bellarmino sweeps the first five places in the two-mile run

By Mark Tennis
Special to the Times Tribune

In his 16 years of watching the West Catholic Athletic League track finals, Bellarmine Prep coach Terry Ward never had seen anything that matched his team's effort in the two-mile Friday at De Anza College.

The Bells, who were trailing in the team standings at the time, came through in the two-mile with an almost-unheard of one-two-three-four-five finish. Bellarmine went on to earn 154 points, outscoring dual-meet titlist St. Ignatius (136) and St. Francis (117).

Bellarmino senior Shawn Ayers won the two-mile in 9:55.91, and teammates Shane O'Flaherty, Steve Raman and Alex Miraschenicko all finished solidly in the two-three-four positions. Bellarmine sophomore Mark Callon then placed fifth with a strong finish.

"I've never seen anybody get the first five places anywhere," Ward said. "It was especially nice for Shawn because this was the third straight year that he's won the league title."

Bellarmino's dominance Friday was not enough to give the Bells the WCAL title, however. Because S.I. finished second Friday, it still captured the league title.

S.I. finished 6-0 in WCAL dual meets, while the Bells were 4-2. Each team gets one point for every dual-meet victory and one point for every team it outscores in the league finals. As a result, S.I. finished with 11 points to 10 for the Bells. St. Francis, which went 5-1 in dual meets, had nine points.

"We thought we could win the league meet," Ward said. "We're also in good shape next week for the (Central Coast Section) Region I meet. That should be a great meet. Athletes coming from that region will do very well not only in the CCS finals, but also in the Nor-Cal finals."

Hurdler Don Castle and middle-distance runner Keith Allen were

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among the Bells' standouts Friday.

Castle won the 110-meter high hurdles in a wind-aided 14.74, one of the CCS' top times this year. He also broke the tape in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 40.02. Allen, the CCS leader in the 800 with a best of 1:52.1, won his specialty in 1:57.55. He also placed second in the 400 (51.21) and second in the mile (4:24.30).

Neither of those two performers, though, was the standout of the meet. That distinction belonged to St. Francis' Michael Davidson, the defending CCS champion in the 400 meters. Davidson won the 200 (22.06) and 400 (49.12) and also anchored St. Francis' winning 400 and mile relay squads.

"Davidson had a good, solid day," St. Francis coach Tom Tuite said. "He could do anything he wanted to out there."

"Roosevelt Noble also did real well for us. Just two weeks ago, he was running 24 seconds in the 200 and 54 in the 400. Today, he goes 22.96 in the 200 (for second place) and 51.65 in the 400 (for third)."

Athletes from St. Francis, Bellarmine and S.I. took first place in every event except the long jump and mile.

Mitty's Dan Hale won the long jump with a leap of 21-8, and teammates Mike Leonesio (21-7) and Dave Nickerson (21-2) took second and third. Rob Wickstrom ran 4:24.07 to win the mile for Serra, holding off a hard-charging Allen.

In the Girls' Private School League finals, also held Friday at De Anza College, Sacred Heart of Menlo Park earned 78 points to beat Presentation (73) of San Jose for the title.

Presentation's Liz Brennan was a triple winner in the 100, 200 and 400, but Sacred Heart's Cynthia Luce was a double champion in the shot put and discus.

11.6.

400 — 1, Davidson (SF) 50.05; 2, Allen (Bell) 51.01; 3, Noble (SF) 51.6; 4, Awender (SF) 51.8; 5, Giannini (SI) 52.2; 6, Claves (SI) 52.3; 7, Sturtz (Bell) 52.5; 8, Nickerson (Mitty) 52.6.

300 intermediate hurdles — 1, Castle (Bell) 41.3; 2, Rolen (Serra) 41.8; 3, Cabello (SF) no time; 4, Nurisso (Bell) 43.4; 5, Giannini (SI) 43.8; 6, Maitoza (SI) 44.5; 7, Egan (SF) 44.7; 8, Caragher (Bell) 44.8.

200 — 1, Davidson (SF) 22.6; 2, Rolen (Serra) 23.4; 3, Noble (SF) 23.5; 4, Arnold (Bell) 23.6; 5, Taylor (SI) 23.6; 6, Lopez (R) 23.8; 7, Gnecco (SI) 23.9; 8, Bessey (Bell) 24.0.

Long jump — 1, Hale (Mitty) 21-8; 2, Leonesio 21-3; 3, Nickerson (Mitty) 20-10½; 4, Taylor (SI) 20-5; 5, DeSouza (SI) 20-3; 6, Bluford (SI) 20-2; 7, Samiere (R) 20-2; 8, Jackson (Mitty) 20-1.

Triple jump — 1, Bluford (SI) 43-0; 2, Hale (Mitty) 42-7; 3, Pollard (Serra) 42-2; 4, Martire (SF) 41-10; 5, Samiere (R) 41-5; 6, Acosta (SI) 40-11½; 7, Leonesio (Mitty) 40-7; 8, Brinkop (Serra) 40-0.

Shot put — 1, Browner (Bell) 46-5½; 2, Farrah (SI) 46-2; 3, Morello (Bell) 45-4; 4, Aguiar (SF) 45-3; 5, Patapietro (Serra) 43-6; 6, Sorenson (SF) 43-5; 7, Dok (Mitty) 42-0; 8, Giomi (Serra) 41-7.

Discus — 1, Barbaccia (SI) 132-10; 2, Dok (Mitty) 126-2; 3, Chalich (Serra) 125-6; 4, Talesfore (Bell) 124-6; 5, Snyder (SF) 122-10; 6, Stearns (Bell) 121-9; 7, Lang (SI) 121-7; 8, Citanovich (Serra) 119-6.