



ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL SKIRMISHER



Vol. LXII

NO. 6

April 22, 1977



COACHING CHANGES--Larry Lysell (left) is new athletic director at SJMS, and Larry Mattison is the new football and basketball coach. (Photo courtesy of The Salina Journal.)

Larry Mattison Named Coach

St. John's Military School went for the home-grown boy when they announced Larry Mattison as the new head football and basketball coach at a press conference, April 4 at the School.

Mattison, 27, has lived in the Salina area most of his life. He was born and raised in New Cambria, a few miles east of Salina.

The former All-KCAC football player at Kansas Wesleyan, Salina, takes over the job vacated by Capt. Paul Kellogg Jr., who is going back to Alabama after four years of coaching at St. John's.

Lysell New AD

In another appointment, Lt. Larry Lysell will become the new athletic director at the School, assuming another responsibility held by Capt. Kellogg. Lysell is in his fourth year at SJMS and has been the head wrestling and golf coach. He will be an assistant under Mattison for football.

For the past three years, Mattison has been doing graduate work at KW and has served under football coach Gene Bissell.

"I believe in his philosophy quite a bit," said Mattison, "But I hope to pass more--maybe 20 or 30 percent of the time. Of course, it all depends on the athletes I'll have."

Mattison, who went to high school at Solomon, will go into partnership with his father and farm a quarter mile from where he grew up.

When he learned of Mattison

being named, Wesleyan's Bissell said, "Larry has to be one of the finest young men I have had the privilege of coaching and teaching in my 25 years at the college. I'm very happy for him."

Besides the football and basketball duties, Mattison will also teach physical education, health and driver's education. His previous coaching experience was two years at South Elk and one year at Alma where he was B-team and freshman coach.

"I want to make the sport fun for the kids," he said when asked what he would do to build a winner at the military school.

"I'm not one of those super-strict guys that are always pushing my players. It's going to be a challenge to build the program but SJMS wasn't that far away from having a winning football season last year."

As for basketball, "I'll run a controlled offense--one that will be simple so we can work it in quickly to a game situation."

Kelly Rudolph, who has been at the school five years and is an instructor in the Lower School, will assist Mattison in basketball.

When asked what his goals are for the coming year, he said with a smile, "I just want to win as many as I can."

Town Hall Meeting Set

The SJMS Cadets have been invited to attend a Town Hall meeting Saturday, April 23, at the Church of the Cross in Salina.

The day-long community forum is sponsored by the Institute for Cultural Affairs

and is being organized by local citizens. Needs of the community and possible solutions will be among the items discussed.

The sessions will begin at 9 a.m.

Commencement Plans Being Made, May 20-22

The 1977 Commencement schedule is now in the planning stages.

Activities will begin at 7 p.m., Friday, May 20 with a play given by the Drama department in Salina Community Theater to be followed by a mixer for Cadets, parents, faculty, staff and alumni in the Memorial Plaza area on campus.

Activities on Saturday will include parent-teacher conference from 9 to 11:30 a.m., the Foundation luncheon; Military

Field Day at 2 p.m. on Perkins field; and the Honors Convocation and Senior Dance at Memorial Hall from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday activities, May 22, will be the Senior Communion service at 7:15 a.m.; Senior Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.; Band Concert by the First Infantry Division Band, Ft. Riley at 9:30 a.m. and Commencement exercises beginning at 10 a.m. on Perkins Field.

Cadet Speakers Earn Gold Medals

Gold medals for first ratings were brought home by four Cadets from the State Speech and Drama Festival for Class 2 A schools held April 7 at Cloud County Community Junior College, Concordia.

Ian Snider won two gold medals for his poetry interpretation and informative speech.

The duet act given by Gary Santillanes and Rick Stitt also received a one rank.

The one-act play given by Brian Pratt, Phil Crouch, Santillanes and Mike Davis took a two rating.

Mark Smith qualified for state with his prose interpretation and took a three.

Vocal Groups Are Busy

The vocal music class and advanced vocal music group have and will be busy with a variety of activities.

The singing group sang for the Easter services in Armstrong Chapel, April 10. The group also sang for the sixth grade recognition night at Franklin grade school, Salina.

The annual pizza party will be April 21 after which the Cadets will attend "Premier '77" at Salina Central High school.

Play Cast Selected

"Summer Comes to the Diamond O" is the play selected by the Drama department to be given during Commencement weekend festivities. Mrs. Carolyn Scofield, Drama coach, announced that the cast has been named for the production to be given at 7 p.m., Friday, May 20 at the Salina Community Theater.

The play tells of the depression ranch hands go through when facing a long winter

without much activity. The scene takes place in a bunk house.

Members of the cast are Brian Pratt, Grizzly, a ranch hand; Phil Crouch, Curly, another ranch hand; Gary Santillanes, Cooky, the cook; Perry Skinner, Mr. Houston, the boss; John Mings, Windy, a stranger; Rick Stitt, Stub, a ranch hand, and George Miklos, Tex, a ranch hand.



William Meidell

Meidell to Give Commencement Address

William "Bill" Meidell will address the seniors and those attending at the 89th Commencement Exercises at 9:30 on Sunday, May 22, on Perkins Field.

Meidell is a graduate of SJMS, Class of 1954. He is an executive with the Western Auto Corporation and lives in Ripon, Wisconsin. He attended Wichita State University after graduating from St. John's and had a long career in sales before joining Western Auto four years ago.

As a St. John's Cadet, Meidell teamed with Dean Hargrove '55, in producing Saturday night skits that have become a legend at the School. Hargrove has had a successful career in Hollywood, California, as a screen writer and producer. He is the executive producer of the Columbo series.

Meidell last visited the St. John's campus for the 1975 Commencement and entertained at the Alumni reunion.

"While he is remembered as a humorist, Bill Meidell can be expected to leave the graduating seniors with some serious thoughts about what faces them in the future," said one of Meidell's former instructors.

Among Meidell's former teachers and staff members who will greet him on his return to the campus are Lt. Col. and Mrs. Russell Guernsey, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Virgil Loy, Mr. and Mrs. John Fonck and Col. and Mrs. Keith G. Duckers.

Meidell will be accompanied by his wife, Judy, and his three children. His mother, Mrs. Louise Meidell, is also expected.

Fires Perfect Score

Jeff Mackey fired 100 of a possible 100 in the prone position during a rifle match with Abilene, April 1. The Cadet team also won the match 965-957. The Abilene group is an adult rifle team.

Safe Spells Sense . . . Use That Thinker

It's an old story. Perhaps you have even said it yourself: "I'd lost my head if it wasn't attached."
But some people lose them even when their heads are attached. They lose them because they stop thinking.
Well, doesn't everybody at one time or another?
Yes.

Everybody does certain things based on habit. Most people do not have to think about brushing their teeth or taking a shower or dressing each day or even blinking and breathing. These are natural processes and habit has relieved humans from the need to think.

But the head is a finely tuned instrument, designed to think when you are driving a car or working on the job, particularly if any kind of equipment or tools are necessary.

Still . . . wham!

"It happened because I wasn't thinking."

And one more human error is responsible for higher insurance rates and — much more important — injuries to self and to others.

So think! Safety first, second, and always at home, at work, at play helps insure a long, healthy life.

Use your thinker! Think safety!

New Materials Are In Library

New materials have been added to the Clem Library according to Mrs. Martha Lohmann, Librarian.

The 1977 edition of the "Encyclopedia Americana" has been added to reference materials. All of the 1976 issues of "Boy's Life" can be found bound in book form.

Numerous paperbacks include "How Children Learn", "What Do I Do on Monday?", "Hooked on Books", "An Empty Spoon", and some westerns and other fiction.

"Consumer Advertising" and "Consumer Choice" are two kits with sound filmstrips, games and tests.

New sound filmstrips include "Energy Crisis: What We Can Do", "Math Skills for Business" and "Introduction to Musical Notation".

Discs and tapes include "Old Yeller", "Julie of the Wolves", "A Graveyard of Ghost Tales", "Lassie Come-Home", "The Year Without a Santa Claus" and "Sherlock Holmes Cassette Library".



"Now, once more and let's hear it this time! The leg bone's connected to the hip bone, the hip bone's connected to the . . ."

Daylight Savings From Franklin

It was Benjamin Franklin who first proposed the establishment of daylight saving time.

The idea came to the American genius when he was serving as U. S. Minister to France. Franklin, who knew a penny saved is a penny earned, figured that in the spring and summer time, Parisians unnecessarily burned candles for 1,281 hours.



Brig Gen. Daniel French

ROTC Head Visits Campus

Brig. Gen. Daniel W. French, the new commander of the Third Reserve officer training Corps Region, visited the St. John's Military School campus, Thursday, April 7.

He was greeted by an Honor Guard when he arrived on campus at 10 a.m. After a visit with Col. Keith G. Duckers, Superintendent, he viewed the slide show, "The St. John's Story."

General French was a guest of the Cadet Corps for lunch in Nichols Dining Hall and spoke briefly. Following lunch, he spoke at the weekly meeting of faculty and staff in the Clem Library before leaving campus.

As commander of the Third Region, headquartered at Ft. Riley, General French is responsible for supervising the ROTC programs in eight states — Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This includes SJMS.

Within these states Junior ROTC programs are taught in 208 high schools, with the program designed to instill a sense of citizenship in high school students.

General French will also supervise 64 colleges and universities which offer Senior ROTC instruction. He was commissioned through the ROTC program at the University of Oregon, in 1950, where he received a B.S. degree in psychology and sociology. He later earned an M.S. in international relations from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

A graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff college and the National War College, he has spent the past five and a half years in Europe. His most recent previous assignment was as assistant division commander of the Third Armored Division, Germany.

PROMOTIONS

Several promotions have been made since the March issue of "The Skirmisher".

Promoted to:

SECOND LIEUTENANT — Rafael DelMoral..

STAFF SERGEANT — Scott Furlong, Jerry Mischel.

SERGEANT — Ken Strickland, Brian Reintjes.

CORPORAL — Sean Lynch, Randy Mason, Arthur Stewart.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS — Brian Autry, Tim Barrett, Shawn Leavers.

OLD BOY PRIVATE — Todd Clemence, Jim Nickelson, David Schaff.

Key Clubbers Attend State Convention

The Key Club state convention held in Wichita, March 26-27 was attended by three SJMS members. They were John Livingston, Jeff Turner and Kevin Williams.

The Club won the second place Achievement trophy indicating that the SJMS club is second most active in the state according to Lt. Dale Pierson, sponsor. Livingston received a Leadership award.

The Key Club members helped with the St. John's invitational track meet on April 9 by assisting with equipment changes. The club will help with the Cancer door-to-door drive on April 16.

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Gentlemen:

I asked that we be given a section of The Skirmisher to report happenings revolving around various alums. So get pen in hand. Tell us where you are, what you are doing, and if you know the whereabouts of your fellow classmates. Is it really that hard to take a few minutes out of your day to keep in touch? Sure, there are a few we already know about from my particular era. Fellas like Ely, Fox, Bigler (Roger, that is), Salmon, Browning, Hargrove, Rice, Conard, Ransom, Sweigart, Herb Soukup, etc. Also those out of your era that I see reporting in regularly through the Skirmisher. But how about those of you who haven't kept in tune with what the school is doing and vice-versa. Sure, we hear lots of rumors but never directly from the source. Some reports are factual and others are not. The fact remains we'd like to hear from you.

How many of you who didn't attend heard about our last "Get Together" two years ago or the one before that five years ago? How about our next scheduled bash (and they are) in '78? Food for thought. That's a year away, but what in heaven's name is wrong with planning. If you plan now to attend, the chances of something else interfering are much less than if you wait till the last minute. Make yourself a pledge—"I'm going in May of '78 come Hell or High Water" and you'll do it! As soon as you have finished wading through this litany drop us a line and simply say, "I'll be there". No class distinction. Last time, two years ago, we

had classes there all the way from 1925 or so on up. We had older, but they didn't stick around as late as the rest. Fun, you bet! Interesting, to say the least.

Take Earle Fox for instance. He still hasn't forgotten how to have a good time and still get you in trouble. I was with him -- I know! No details on that at this time. Suffice to say, we found a very uncooperative wedding party, complete with pink champagne and the works. The home movie king, Gary Conard -- boy, has he got home movies! Note: he also narrates! I've mentioned but a couple of the side events which transpire over the course of a weekend. In the process I've left out one of the most important ingredients, the faculty. Some new and some old. Local business people, etc.

We've doubled in attendance from our first get together five years ago to two years ago. I wish it were we could double again. No one gets lost in the shuffle. No wall flowers. And mind you, the big bash doesn't take place till after commencement events are over. Stuff -- Not on your bippy!

So, how about it out there? Let's hear from you! Not next week, not next month -- Now! Plan to get back, meet guys you haven't seen or heard from in years. Let your hair down and if for only a few days, once again be a part of something that way down inside yourself you think of and reminisce about often.

Remember, no class distinctions! It's up to you to prompt your own group back. You've got the ball -- now let's move downfield. Don't settle for a field goal -- go all the way.

See you in the papers!

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Fencers Square-Off In Combat Method

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in The Salina Journal March 17. It was written by Journal reporter Gayle Giesecke).

A former method of combat - fencing - is a sport at St. John's Military school.

Weekday afternoons, the Rev. Loyd Holifield and a dozen cadets meet in the school's long and narrow fencing room adjacent to the basketball court for one to 2-hour varsity practices.

More than 40 military school students are involved in Fr. Holifield's fencing program. Students as young as 3rd graders may participate in intramural fencing taught by the school's chaplain.

"Fencing is a method of combat that's been refined to an art," Chaplain Holifield said. "It's the oldest continually practiced contact sport."

One of a handful

St. John's is one of a handful of Kansas schools which offer fencing as a sport. The activity is recognized as a varsity sport at SJMS with permission of the Kansas State High School Activities association.

Cadets learn basics of 3 types of fencing (based on weapons used) - foil, epee and saber.

Fr. Holifield described foil as basic to both men and women fencers, as they can compete against each other. Foil rules are delicate.

"Foil has a limited body contact area, that part covered

by a metallic vest," he said. Epee competition, lacking rules, is scored electrically. The entire body is a target.

Slash or hit

Saber fencing is an outgrowth of the old cavalry weapon used on horseback, Fr. Holifield said. Waist and the upper torso are target areas and competitors may slash or hit with the side of their weapons.

Sophisticated electronic devices to score saber are extremely expensive. Therefore, the cadets' program focuses on epee and foil.

"Most fencing words are derived from the French," Fr. Holifield said. "But I don't teach a lot of the technical language, I just want the kids to be aware of it. Using the language in competition sounds phony."

The chaplain, whose educational background includes several years of fencing, has developed a coaching philosophy.

"Athletics is an extension of the chaplaincy because it teaches values, self-respect, pride and confidence in what one has accomplished," he said. A sincere fencer can learn cooperation, loyalty and obedience if he "uses his own head."

Daily fencing workouts include calisthenics and



TAKE THAT!--St. John's fencers Charles Maxie and Malcolm Gillespie (right) sharpen their technique during fencing practice. (Photo, courtesy of The Salina Journal)

running 1.8 miles.

"Fencing takes endurance," said the coach, who fenced at Culver Military academy and the University of Indiana. "I guess you could say it's coached much the same way as wrestling."

Individual sport values are prevalent in fencing. It's difficult to get a team feeling and sense of togetherness, Fr. Holifield said.

"And like anything else, the longer they stick with it - the better they become," he added. At the beginning of the school year, 25 to 30 cadets reported to varsity practice. Like any other sport, participation slightly weakened as a few cadets quit and some became active

in other sports.

The school's first varsity competition came during the 1971-72 school year under the direction of Fr. Holifield.

In 1973 the program produced its first division champ in an 8-state area.

The coach said at least 5 of his varsity fencers are among the top 10 fencers in Kansas and Missouri.

Standouts include Kirk Erwin, senior from Grand Junction, Colo., and Charles Maxie, sophomore from Pueblo, Colo. Erwin is a prime candidate to represent the 6-state Rocky Mountain section in the US

National fencing championship in Portland, Ore. "It took time to build this fencing program here and get the equipment," the coach said. "But the school and the boys' parents have supported it."

The school occasionally is host to fencing tournaments. Often, competition takes place in Kansas City.

A fencer in a tournament may compete in as many as 32 matches a day, Fr. Holifield said. An average tournament day would include 25 matches.

The chaplain-coach is one of 2 Kansans active in the US Academy of Arms National Fencing Coaches association.

Kiwanis Club Meets Here

The Salina Kiwanis club met at the School, Tuesday, April 5.

Following lunch in Nichols Dining Hall, Lt. Dale Pierson, a Kiwanian and Key Club sponsor, explained the activities of the SJMS Club and showed the achievement award the club had received.

The Key Club presented the Kiwanis club a plaque for its support of the SJMS group.



"You've gotten a little too big for your britches since you bought those shoes with the three-inch heels."

Caption Winners Named

The creative caption contests continue in the English II classes taught by Mrs. Carolyn Scofield. The best captions were voted on March 28 and the winners received awards of homemade cookies.

The winners were Rick Copeland, Rick Stitt, Ariel Anaya and Bob Worell. Scott Ratcliff won two.

Pederson To Head Key Club

Eric Pederson was elected president of the Key Club for the 1977-78 school year.

Other officers are Dan Siburg, vice president; Jerry Mischel, secretary; Rick Stitt, treasurer, Arnaldo Anaya, photographer, and Kevin Williams, scrapbook.



"You'll pass if you don't crack the egg I've placed under the gas pedal."

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— THE SKIRMISHER —

Published eight times during the year by St. John's Military School and its Cadets under the financial and legal sponsorship of St. John's Military School, Salina, Kansas 67401, a non-profit corporation. Subscription rates are \$3.00 per year payable in advance.

Track Team Runs At Bennington

The relay teams of the St. John's track squad placed in Bennington invitational meet.

The medley-relay team of Kevin Williams, Charles Maxie, Robin South and Jerry Mischel placed fifth at 4:18.8.

The mile-relay team placed fifth with 3:56.3. Team members are John Livingston, Dan Siburg, Eric Pederson and David Schaaf. Livingston placed third in the 880-yard run at 2:14.

SJMS placed sixth in both the 880-yard relay and the two-mile relay. Members of the 880-team are Siburg, Pederson, Schaaf and Livingston. Two-mile members are Ken Strickland, Dan Barbour, Maxie, and Tim Burke.

Young Runners Listed

The 1976-77 track season has started in the Lower School coached by Lt. Kelly Rudolph.

Members of the seventh grade team are James Allison, Dan Bailey, Ricky Bos, Todd Clemence, Gary Cline, Paul Dean, Robert Hart III, Mike Hill, Brad Hopper, Sean Lynch, Charles Madden, Giley McConnell, John Powell, Vincent Raetz, Boyd Tyler, Richard Vest and Thomas Wallace.

Members of the eighth grade team are Brian Autry, Joseph Fazekas, Tim Garrett, Mark Haag, Ricard Hallberg, Elvin Henson, Martin Hopper, Paul Hughes, Scott Martin, Max Montgomery, John Sack, Kelly Skwarok, Gordon Snider, Craig Staley, Arthur Stewart, Andrew White and Fred Yates.

Golfers Begin Play

The Cadet golf team participated in its first match March 28 at Minneapolis, Kans., in competition with five other teams.

Members of this year's squad are Randy Krueger, Ed Picking, Anthony Nelson, Jim Nicholson, Eric Sornson, and William Slagle.

One-Act Play Goes To State

The one-act play, "The Tell Tale Heart", given by the Cadets won a first division rating at the Regional Speech and Drama Festival at Beloit High School March 19. The play will now be entered in state competition.

Members of the cast were Gary Santillanes, Phil Crouch, Brian Pratt, and Mike Davis. Others receiving first division ratings and also going to state competition were Ian Snider, poetry and informative speaking; Rick Stitt and Santillanes, duet acting and Mark Smith, Prose.

Other Cadet participants were Bruce Richey and Scott Ratcliff, duet acting, third division rating; M. Davis, poetry, second rating; George Miklos, dramatic interpretation, second rating; and Mikos and Crouch, improvised duet acting, second rating.

Mrs. Carolyn Scofield, Forensic Coach, said she was pleased with the results and felt the Cadets did a good job.

Cadets Hunt Rattlesnakes

The Cadets made their annual trip to hunt Rattlesnakes near Waynoka, Okla., the weekend of April 15-17.

The educational science trip is sponsored by Lt. Col. R.L. Guernsey, Science Department chairman.

Making the trip were Ariel and Arnaldo Anaya, Earl Hoffman, Tom Rust, Martin and Brad Hopper, Gordon Snider, Craig Staley, Bill Sherman, Jim Allison, Todd Clift, Paul Dean, Mark Bassett, Jerry Graham and Todd Smith.

Other faculty sponsors were Lt. Col. Kenneth C. Faerber, Director of Studies/Admissions, and Lt. Ron Bartlett, English and journalism teacher.

Rifle Letters Awarded

School letters for participation on the Rifle Team have been awarded for the current school year.

Earning varsity awards were Dan Barbour, Jeff Mackey, Carlos Moser, Mark Shadowen and Jeff Zuercher.

B-team awards went to John Mings, Randy Peoples, Gary Santillanes and William Sornson.

Cadets Make Speech Finals

Several Cadets participated in the final rounds of the Eisenhower League Speech tournament, March 8, but did not place in the final rankings. They were George Miklos, dramatic interpretation; Jeff Dowhower and Kent Clemmons, improvised duet acting, and Mark Smith, prose.

Other Cadet participants not making the final rounds were Steve Fields, prose; Mike Davis, poetry; Scott Ratcliff and Bruce Richey, duet acting; Phil Crouch and Miklos, improvised duet acting and Brian Pratt, Gary Santillanes, Mike Davis and Phil Crouch, one-act-play.

Plaza Area Improvements Continue

Another phase of the development of the Memorial Plaza Area has recently been completed.

Twenty truck loads of top soil were placed in the old bull-ring area to bring the level up to the top of the road. This area was sunken as much as 16 inches in the center according to Col. K. G. Duckers, Superintendent.

Funds for this phase of the Memorial Plaza also were provided as memorials by many different friends of St. John's.

Colonel Duckers pointed out there are additional plans for beautification of the Plaza Area when funds become available. Friends of the School may wish to consider this opportunity to memorialize a loved one.



The Winners

Jerry Mischel, anchorman for the Cadets winning medley relay team, gets "thumbs-up" sign from Kirk Erwin as he neared finish in the first SJMS invitational track meet. Erwin was leadoff runner and also broke the St. John's school record in high hurdles with a 17.9 clocking. Erwin also won low hurdles. Cadet George Miklos is in the background. (Photo courtesy of The Salina Journal)

Cadets Finish 2nd In Track

Canton-Glava captured the mile relay, the final event, to preserve a victory in the first St. John's Invitational track and field meet. April 9, at the Salina Central Stadium.

Canton-Glava scored 148 points in winning, St. John's was second with 138; Ell-Saline had 127 and Glasco, 64, while Bennington's "B" team scored 20.

St. John's was in contention for the title until the final event.

Ell-Saline's Ralph Johnson, the State Class 1A state long jump champion, was a triple winner. Johnson won the long jump with a leap of 21-8 1/4 inches, took the 100-yard dash in 11.0 and the 440-yard dash in 56.3. He also took second in the 220.

Kirk Erwin of St. John's set a new school record in the high hurdles in 17.9 and also won the low hurdles in 23.4. Erwin also ran with the Cadets' winning medley relay team.

Another double winner for the Cadets was John Livingston, who took the 880 in 2:10 and the two-mile in 11:31.5. David Schaaf, SJMS, won

the discus with a throw of 107-0.

St. John's 880 and medley relay teams won firsts. The 880 team, run in 1:38.9 included Rafael DelMoral, Eric Pederson, Livingston and Schaaf. The medley team included Erwin, Dan Siburg, Robin South and Jerry Mischel.

The team was timed at 4:09.0. Pederson won first in the 220.

Other Cadet winners were David Howard, fifth in discus; Jim Severson, second, John Mings, fifth and Scott Furlong, sixth in the javelin; Severson, third in shot put; Jeff Dowhower, fourth in high jump; Mike Fengel, fifth in 100-yard dash; Rick Stitt, second in mile run; Schaaf, third, and Fengel, sixth in 440-yard dash; Ken Strickland, third in 180-low hurdles; Tim Burke, sixth, 880-yard run; Dan Barbour, third, and Brad Landes, fourth in two-mile run.

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