

PREPS PLUS

BOYS TENNIS STATE FINALS



TRACY ALLEN/TRIBUNE PHOTO

New Trier's Robert Stineman stretches for a volley Saturday during his 6-2, 6-2 singles victory.

This one, Stineman sure to remember

Trevian 1st in 25 years to repeat in singles

By James Nokes
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

For a few months at least, Robert Stineman remembered to forget.

As a result, the New Trier senior added to his great memories.

With last season's singles state championship out of his mind, the Stanford recruit stayed focused and motivated throughout this season, and on Saturday became the first Illinois High School Association repeat champion in 25 years with a 6-2, 6-2 win over junior teammate Jared Hiltzik at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights.

"I understood there would be a target on my back," said Stineman, who went to a third set once this year and was the top seed at this year's tournament. "Pretending I hadn't won a state tournament yet gave me extra fire and made me work even harder this season."

After Hiltzik (34-4) scored the first six points of the match, Stineman (41-0) got his serve going, allowing him to attack the net. Stineman then cut the court off, forcing his Illinois-bound teammate into tough shots.

"Robert knows how to win," Hiltzik said. "He knew how to put me in uncomfortable situations. He came up with some big serves. He's an animal at the net and you can't do anything about that."

An all-Trevians singles title match capped a dominant weekend for New Trier, which won its 19th team title with 55 points. Deerfield was second (36) and Oak Park (35) third.

Stevenson seniors David Packowitz and Ross Putterman (35-0) won the doubles title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory against New Trier's Drew Campbell and Thomas Fawcett.

The Patriots' duo were down a break for the first time this season, but Putterman hit an awkward winner off the frame of his racket that started a decisive eight-point rally.

Last year Packowitz and Putterman skipped the high school season in favor of playing in USTA events.

"We knew they would play a lot of baseline tennis with ground strokes and try to lob us," said Packowitz who finished second with Putterman as a freshman and sophomore. "We had to beat them to the net and play smart. We didn't think twice about being down; we went to work and tried to get it back."

There's more

Check out prepsplus.com for photo galleries and to learn about the last repeat singles champion, Deerfield's Mike Morrison.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD 3A STATE FINALS

Lake Park has a field day

Ziemek, Kline power Lancers to team title

By Colleen Kane
TRIBUNE REPORTER

CHARLESTON, Ill. — Zach Ziemek could have been crowned the champion of multitasking Saturday at the Class 3A boys track and field state finals.

The future Wisconsin decathlete won titles in the long jump, triple jump and pole vault to help Lake Park to its second consecutive state championship with 74 points.

As they did in 2010, the Lancers won without scoring a point in a running event.

"I have experience in that," Ziemek said of shifting his concentration. "I wanted all three of them really bad. You get 30 points and it helps the team out a lot."

After winning the long jump in the morning with a leap of 23 feet, 8 inches, Ziemek darted back and forth across the track at O'Brien Stadium to warm up for the triple jump and pole vault, which were running simultaneously.

His winning triple jump of 50-6¾ prompted a guttural yell of "I told you so! I told you so!"

"My coach said earlier this year he told some other coaches that I would hit 50 feet, and they said, 'No he won't. He's not good enough to,'" Ziemek said. "I don't know who those coaches are, but I was letting my coaches know I could do it."



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Thornton's Timothy Faust celebrates his 200-meter win. He also got wins in the 100 and the 800 relay.

Ziemek's third championship came when he cleared 16-6 in the pole vault as the meet was coming to an end more than an hour early because of approaching inclement weather. He missed three attempts at a state record 17-1½.

Lake Park's Jermaine Kline added titles in the discus with a throw of 188-1 and the shot put with 66-5¾, a state record that carried over from the prelims. Jeremy Kline (2nd in discus, 3rd

in shot put), Kevin Spejcher (6th in high jump) and Scott Filip (5th in long jump) rounded out the Lancers' scoring.

York's Jack Driggs, a North Carolina recruit, won titles in the 3,200-meter run (9:06.25) and the 1,600 (4:13.31) to lead the Dukes to their second straight second-place trophy with 43 points.

Thornton's Timothy Faust matched Ziemek's performance with three state titles.

He clocked winning times of

10.49 seconds in the 100 and 21.21 in the 200. He also anchored the winning 800 relay (1:26.22). Thornton tied for third with Belleville West with 39 points.

"The 100 really surprised me," Faust said. "That's usually my weaker race. I knew it would make some of the athletes mad and make them come after me, so it was kind of a lot of pressure too."

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BOYS TRACK AND FIELD 1A, 2A STATE FINALS

Picture perfect: Leo wins in photo finish

Gray shares 1st in 100 as team ekes out title

By Bob Narang
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

CHARLESTON, Ill. — Bruce Gray didn't want to leave the track Saturday after completing the 100-meter dash. Instead, the Leo senior stared anxiously at the scoreboard, waiting for the race results at the Class 1A boys state track and field meet.

After a push in the final 20 meters, Gray paced around during a short delay while the photo finish was reviewed.

"I didn't know where the finish

line was," Gray said. "I just wanted to finish."

Gray's surge led to a rare first-place tie with Peoria Christian's Jon Hutchison. Both finished in 10.79 seconds. The tie helped Leo edge Harrisburg 42-41 for the 1A title.

"We haven't had (a state title) in a few years," Gray said.

Leo's first state title since 2003 can be credited to a strong showing in the relays.

Aided by another strong finish from Gray in the 400 relay, the team that included Andre Patton, Theodore Hopkins and Denzel Tucker took second (42.95), just ahead of Winnebago (42.96). Leo junior Rueben Blackwell was

second in the 110 hurdles (14.83), and Gray added a fifth-place medal in the 200.

Leo's 800 relay team of Patton, Hopkins, Tucker and Gray finished runner-up (1:29.31) to Walther Lutheran's Cole Evans, Tyreese Russell, Andre Cooper and Sean Cotton (1:28.12).

"Everybody came out and ran their hearts out," Cotton said. "I just tried to run (the anchor) hard and hold off Gray."

Cahokia scored 62 points to win the 2A team title. Chatham Glenwood (44) was second, while Glenbard South (40) finished third.

Glenbard South's Garret Payne set a 400 state-meet record

(47.31), edging out Illinois recruit D.J. Zahn (47.45) of downstate Morton.

"That was the hardest 400 in my entire life," Payne said. "I've never felt so exhausted coming out of the straightaway. I gave it everything I had because I really wanted that win. I've been thinking about this race since last year."

Glenbard South's Joe Boesso broke through in his third state appearance with a first-place medal in the high jump (6 feet 7 inches).

"I just went for it and I didn't touch (the bar)," Boesso said. "This is a really nice way to end my senior season."

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD BITS BY COLLEEN KANE

York's Driggs goes extra mile in winning 2 titles

Late surge adds 1,600 to his crown in 3,200

CHARLESTON, Ill. — Photos of the 3,200-meter runners on the awards stand at the Class 3A boys state track and field finals will show a York athlete at the top.

Jack Driggs, the race winner, didn't care that it wasn't him.

The senior sent a teammate to stand in for him at the awards ceremony for his first state championship Saturday so he could focus on winning a second.

"The team needed the points. I promised Mr. (Joe) Newton I'd get 20," said Driggs, who helped York place second to Lake Park in the team standings. "I cut it a little too close in both races."

Driggs, a North Carolina recruit, took the lead on the final lap of the 3,200 and won in 9 minutes, 6.25 seconds, edging Oak Park's Malachy Schrobilgen, who finished in 9:06.8.

Driggs was stuck in the middle of the pack for much of the 1,600 before moving from seventh to first in the final 450 meters to win in 4:13.31. East Moline United's Cody Webster was second in 4:13.49.

"That was a really physical race," Driggs said. "I did not want to be in that position. I'm a skinny guy, so it hurt a lot. I made a move, and at 200 Cody still had a few steps on me and I asked myself the question, 'How bad do you want it?'"

"The mile means so much more than the 2-mile to me. I've always thought of myself as a 2-miler."

Seeking perfection: Thornridge senior Gary Ford said his perfectionism comes from his father.

"He's always got me doing stuff around the house, anything more than once just to make it right and perfect," Ford said. "I get it

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Photos, videos and more coverage of the boys state track meets.

from him."

That explains why the Illinois recruit wasn't entirely happy with his 110 hurdles race, even though he won in 14.21.

"My form was messed up. I got out of the blocks slow," Ford said. "It evens out because I won. I could have run a better race, but I still won."

Ford finished second in the 300 hurdles to Crete-Monee's Rashad Hulbert, who won in 37.6.

Breathing room: The 800 final was a little too crowded for London Hawk's liking. The Thornwood senior finished eighth after struggling to emerge from the pack of runners.

He didn't have that trouble when he had a lane to himself.

Hawk bounced back to win the 400 in 47.91, topping Nequa Valley's Jacob Bender, who finished in 48.04.

"I just wanted to make up for my 800, which I didn't do so well in," Hawk said. "There were so many people (in the 800), I couldn't get all the way around them. I couldn't find an opening."

"Bender, he passed me up a bit (in the 400). I'm like, 'All right, I know I've got to catch him.' So that made me even more motivated."

Other winners: Lake Zurich's Alex Brend (800) and Oak Park's Carl Heinz (high jump) were other Chicago-area champions.

Minooka's 3,200 relay won thanks to a big kick on the final curve from Joe McAsey.

Plainfield South's Sheldon Magee anchored the 1,600 relay to a win.

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SATURDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

BASEBALL	QUICK HIT
CLASS 4A REGIONAL FINALS	
Loyola Glenbrook South	8 Loyola's Danny Rafferty struck out 13 in his complete-game win. Max Hogan (2B, HR, 5 RBIs) led the offense.
St. Viator Highland Park	7 Cosimo Cannella had a 1-out, walk-off single for St. Viator. Koe Luthringshausen had a homer and 4 RBIs.
CLASS 3A REGIONAL FINALS	
#9 Nazareth Little Village	6 Dominic Purpura tossed a perfect game for Nazareth, striking out 9. AJ Ryan homered in the win.
#10 Oak Forest Morris	2 Oak Forest's Kyle Funkhouser struck out 14 to get the win. Brian Richard was 2-for-2 with an RBI.
CLASS 2A SECTIONAL FINALS	
Herschler Prairie Central	12 Tyler Evans (3-for-3, 2 HRs, 3 RBIs) and Jordan Ruckman (3-for-3, 5 RBIs; CG, 14 K) led Herscher (31-4).
SOFTBALL	
QUICK HIT	
CLASS 4A REGIONAL FINALS	
Leyden #1 Conant	4 Winning pitcher Morgan Maize (CG, 2 H, 6 K) had 2 home runs and 4 RBIs for Leyden (27-7).
#2 Elk Grove Glenbard West	4 Elisa Payne had a 2-run single in the bottom of the 6th to push the winning runs across for Elk Grove.
#3 Richards De La Salle	15 Danielle Kappel had a 3-run homer and 5 RBIs. Hannah Jenkins (3 RBIs) and Brianna LeBeau (4 RBIs) homered.
Lockport #6 Marian Catholic	7 Winning pitcher Taylor Weisenhofer struck out 11 and allowed just 3 hits in her complete game.
CLASS 3A REGIONAL FINALS	
Antioch Lakes	4 Winning pitcher Olivia Duehr (CG, 4 H, 12 K) went 3-for-4 with 2 RBIs for Antioch.
Glenbard South Maria	10 Jane Trzaska was 3-for-3 with 2 RBIs and Jessica Wilkes struck out 14 for Glenbard South.
CLASS 2A SECTIONAL SEMIFINALS	
Seneca Chicago Christian (9 inn.)	6 Seneca (30-8) won on a walk-off, 2-run home run by Nicole Pihl. Seneca will face Mokenca in the sectional final.
CLASS 2A SECTIONAL FINALS	
Lisle St. Edward	3 Kelly Brennan was 3-for-3 with a double and 3 RBIs and Bekka Houda went the distance, striking out 6, for Lisle (27-4).

More highlights from the state playoffs at prepsplus.com

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

BASEBALL		REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	
CLASS 4A		Benedict 12, Hinsdale South 0	
CLASS 3A		Fremd 6, Rolling Meadows 4	
CLASS 2A		Glenbard North 3, Addison Trail 2	
REGIONAL FINALS		Glenbard West 8, St. Charles North 5 (11 inn.)	
CLASS 4A		Maine South 8, Evanston 5	
CLASS 3A		Niles North 8, Von Steuben 5	
CLASS 2A		Niles West 4, Maine West 0	
REGIONAL FINALS		Schauamburg 6, Elk Grove 4	
CLASS 4A		York 5, Willowbrook 2	
CLASS 3A		Corliss 24, Fenger 14	
CLASS 2A		Hancock 10, King 6	
REGIONAL FINALS		Kenwood 17, Bowen 0	
CLASS 4A		University 10, Lindblom 0	
CLASS 3A		University 10, Lindblom 0	
CLASS 2A		University 10, Lindblom 0	
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