Hobart on verge of title



Hobart's Jarvis McMillian (center) takes first place in the 100-meter dash over Bowman's Cornelius Strickland (left) and Lowell's Cole Midgett.   
(Scott R. Brandush/For the Post-Tribune)

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CROWN POINT -- It's been 52 years since Hobart captured its last sectional title in track, so what's another day, or possibly two?

The Brickies held the lead with 106 points after 15 events at the Crown Point Sectional Thursday night. Merrillville was second (89.50) but still had a chance to win the crown as the pole vault competition wasn't contested, due to the inclement weather.

Competition in the pole vault begins at 4:30 p.m. today. If the weather prevents the event from taking place, the competition will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Merrillville has the top-seeded vaulter (Byron Ferrell) and third-seeded competitor (Monte Brown) while Hobart has the second-seeded vaulter (Ryan McGuire).

Jarvis McMillian illustrated again why he's the area's top sprinter.

The junior won the 100-meter dash (10.87) and also took first in the 200 (22.57), the 400 (48.36) and ran the second leg on the Brickies' 1,600 relay team, which finished second to Lowell.

"He's done a great job and meant a lot to our program," Hobart coach Nick Byrd said. "He's not only a great athlete, but he's a great young man. He leads by example. He's taken other kids under his wing and helped them. It's like having another coach out there on the track.

"He's the icing on the cake we already had. The kids see what he does and they want to make themselves better."

McMillian said his best race of the night was the 1,600 relay. Apparently, some runners from another team, which he said will remain nameless, talked some trash about beating the Brickies, but didn't get the job done.

"I don't think it's good sportsmanship to do that, so I don't," McMillian said. "I just wait until I get on the track to respond."

The Brickies also won the 3,200 relay in a sectional-record time of 8:08.76, while junior Jeremy Koselke (49-8) edged Hanover Central's Derek De St. Jean (49-0) to win the shot put. De St. Jean took first in the discus.

Hobart junior Thomas Comacho finished second in both the 110 high hurdles and the 300 intermediate hurdles to Lowell's Ray Skamay, who also ran the anchor leg on the Red Devils' winning 1,600 relay team.

"I've never won a sectional title before, so it felt great to win three," Skamay said. "My two hurdles races felt great, especially with the conditions. You're running and the wind's blowing rain in your face. My ultimate goal is to get back to state in both events. I definitely want to improve this year and I think I can."

Andrean's Matt Gerbick was a double-winner, winning the high jump (6-8) and the long jump (22-1).

"I wanted to win the long jump, not PR in it," Gerbick said. "I was going for the win. I won on my second jump and that was it."

Gerbick didn't let the inclement weather conditions hamper him. He wants to qualify for state in both events this year after making it down in just the high jump a year ago.

"It's raining.... it's raining for everyone," he said. "I just did the best I could. Ironically, this was my best jumping day overall this year."

Merrillville's Dylan Harrison also was a double-winner, winning the 1,600 and 3,200 runs, while West Side's Antonio Ellis won the 800.