

May 22, 2008

TRACK & FIELD

Bell wins three-way photo finish in All High's 100

Hutch-Tech takes eight championships

By Keith McShea NEWS SPORTS REPORTER



Arvin Bell, right, edges McKinley teammate Willie Burnett, center, and Bennett's Latwan Harris in the 100.
Mark Mulville/Buffalo News

As three very fast athletes crossed the finish line at seemingly the same time, fans in the All High Stadium stands thought McKinley's Arvin Bell had won the boys 100 meters. Competitors on the inside of the track who were gathered near the finish line to watch the marquee event thought Bennett's Latwan Harris won. McKinley's Willie Burnett, who had never lost a Buffalo Public Schools 100 meter race in 22 years, was in the middle.

The only vote that counted Wednesday was that of the judges, who after a huddle announced that Bell won the race in 10.7 seconds, followed by Harris in 10.8 and Burnett in 11.1.

Harris believed he had won, but his mind quickly raced ahead.

"It's all right, though, I'll see them at sectionals," said Harris, a senior who only ran the 200 last year. "Yeah, June 6 and 7 — Friday and Saturday."

When the sectional meet is run at Jamestown's Strider Field, fully automatic timing (FAT) will be used to determine close finishes.

"[My races with Burnett] have been close, but my man [Burnett] most of the time has gotten me," Bell said. "I knew it was going to be a hard race because it was the top eight from Buffalo. I'm just ready for the next race. We've got to get ready for sectionals."

Burnett won the regular-season race, with Harris second and Bell third.

"I lost the 100, but it was a good battle between my man Arvin and Latwan from Bennett," said Burnett, who went on to win the 200 and anchor McKinley's winning 4x100 and 4x400 relays. "Arvin just ran the better race today and the kid from Bennett ran a better race today. I didn't get a good start. . . . And in the 100, the start is the race."

Grover Cleveland senior Steve Means, who will attend the University at Buffalo on a football scholarship, won the 110 hurdles (15.9) and the high jump (5 feet, 10 inches).

Hutch-Tech dominated the distance runs with four wins: Alex Simon in the 800; Billy Serediuk in the 1,600; Robert Taylor in the 3,200 and the 4x800 relay.

The other boys winners were: Ahmad Smith of daVinci in the 400, Davon Rollins of Riverside in the 400 hurdles, Jonathan Williams of Seneca in the long jump, Byron Brown Jr. of City Honors in the triple jump and Grover's Mike Smith in the shot put.

On the girls side, Shontai Moye, a sophomore at East, repeated her feat from last year by easily winning the 100 (12.4) and the 200 (25.9).

Sara Miller, a freshman at City Honors, had her goal this season saved in her phone: the school record in the 3,000. "It was 12:05," Miller said, "so I did it by one second [12.04.1]."

Miller's win was one of five for Honors while Hutch-Tech had four victories. City Honors' Sadah Hussein won the 800, Breonna Norwood won the 110 hurdles, Megan Poveromo won the triple jump. Miller also had a great winning anchor leg on Honors' 4x800.

For Hutch-Tech, Rochelle Thomas (400) and Toni Davis (800) both won in exciting finishes; the pair also helped the winning 4x400 relay. The Engineers' Patricia Luko won the shot put. DaVinci got a great anchor lap from senior Te'anna Copeland to win the 4x100. Ashley Allen, a member of that relay, also won the high jump.

kmc Shea@buffnews.com