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Spencer, Gordon shine at sectionals

Cleveland Hill hurdler edges Fredonia's Dylan Cassidy for crown

By **Ryan Marfut**
News Sports Reporter



JAMESTOWN — There was no stage Saturday at Strider Field in Jamestown, but that didn't prevent Cleveland Hill junior Daryl Spencer from putting on a show at the Section VI Boys Track and Field Championships at Strider Field.

Cleveland Hill's Dylan Spencer wins the 110-meter hurdles at the Section VI Championships. Photo by Mark Mulville / Buffalo News

Spencer, who is also the lead in the school play, squeaked out a victory over Fredonia junior Dylan Cassidy in the Division II 400-meter intermediate hurdles (54.85), punching his chest and letting out an impassioned scream after crossing the finish line.

The Section VI meet was also a qualifier for next weekend's New York State Championships at Caledonia-Mumford.

The victory gave Spencer his second personal-best performance of the day after he won the Division II 110

hurdles (14.91).

"He is just one of those kids who just listens and internalizes any kind of instruction you give to him," Cleveland Hill coach Glen Graham said. "He's a smart kid and a quick learner."

After winning the 400 hurdles last year, Spencer wasn't satisfied with excelling in one event. The quarterback and three-year starter on the basketball team was determined to improve in the 110 hurdles as well.

"This is a great day for me," Spencer said. "It just feels awesome, my man from Fredonia really gave me a run."

In other finals action, Sweet Home junior Wayne Gordon took his second consecutive sweep of the 100 meter (11.15) and 200 (22.28). He also provided one of the highlights of the day when he brought his 400 relay team from the middle of the pack to 0.06 seconds away from victory in the final leg of the race.

But something was still missing for Gordon: friend and future University at Buffalo football player Dale Stewart. Stewart, a Niagara Falls senior, was perhaps Gordon's top challenger in both the 100 and 200, but chose to attend the New York State High School Football Classic — a state all-star game in Syracuse — instead of the sectional meet.

"I wanted him to be here because I love competition, that's just me," Gordon said. "I wanted him to be there so we could race."

For the second day in a row, Springville senior Chad Maloy claimed a sectional title. Maloy, who will run at Canisius next year, won the Division II 3,000 steeplechase (9:47.66) a day after winning the Division II 3,200.

In both races, Maloy finished more than 10 seconds before the second-place finisher.

"It's not like I'm automatic so I'm always training hard," Maloy said. "It's never an easy win for me."

In the Division I 1,600, West Seneca West sophomore Kalen Sullivan (4:25.44) beat Lake Shore freshmen TJ Hornberger. Sullivan entered the last lap of the event trailing Hornberger but erased the deficit immediately and never looked back. The result was a personal best.

For motivation, Sullivan didn't have to look far. The memory of losing the Division I 800 on Friday was more than enough.

"I just kept thinking about how I got edged out," Sullivan said. "I didn't want that to happen again. I wanted to prove that I could be a sectional champion."

Elsewhere, Amherst junior Jailyn Twitty became the first athlete in school history to win multiple events at sectionals when he won the long jump (22-2). On Friday, Twitty won the triple jump.

"I'm satisfied," Twitty said. "It's school history so I'm really excited about that."

rmarfut@buffnews.com