

SECTIONAL WINNER ROBIN LIDDELL

Mattoon Runners Capture Sectional

By DAVID WOODS

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Gilman sophomore Reo Rorem resembles Illinois cross-country star Craig Virgin almost to a fault. He has the same trouble that Virgin does with staying on the proper course.

A wrong turn by Rorem in the final 200 yards cost him the individual title Saturday in the sectional meet at Centennial Park. Decatur Eisenhower's Robin Liddell, who was trailing by 10 yards, took advantage of the situation by charging into the finish chute in first place just ahead of the rallying Rorem.

Mattoon, which placed all seven runners among the top 31 in a 114-man field, was the team champion with 57 points. For coach Larry Burgess' Green Wave, which also won titles this season in the Big 12 Conference and Decatur District, it was the third sectional crown in five years.

Champaign Central finished second with 86 points and thus qualified for the state meet for the first time since 1962. Tuesday at Paris the Maroons won their first district title since 1961.

Danville was third with 105 points as Big 12 schools swept all three of the state-qualifying positions. Rantoul (142) placed fourth, defending champion Charleston fifth (159), host Champaign Centennial sixth (180) and Urbana seventh (184) in the 15-team field. All five teams from the Paris District finished among the top seven.

Despite a steady rain, Liddell's winning time of 15:05.3 broke the 3.0-mile course record of 15:06.7 set in last year's sectional meet by Jerry George of Danville. Rorem, perhaps on his way toward Virgin-like domination of Illinois high school

distance running, was second in 15:06.

Coming out of the final turn Rorem, who also made a wrong turn while winning the Kankakee District Tuesday, headed for a red flag marking the sideline of a football field adjacent to the cross-country course. He took several strides toward the flag before realizing his error and barely missed over-hauling the fast-finishing Liddell.

Mark Johnson, a youngish-looking junior from Mahomet-Seymour, nipped Big 12 champion Mark Avery of Mattoon for third place. Paris District champ Tim Pittman of Urbana finished strongly in fifth place, one spot better than Central junior Rick Rundus.

Others in the top 10, all of whom qualify for Saturday's state meet at Peoria, were St. Anne's Jim Rattin (seventh), Charleston's Harold Fudge (eighth), Rantoul's Ernie Strange (ninth) and Central's Bob Wolf (10th).

Besides Avery, Mattoon placed Ron Radloff 11th, Bill McCune 14th, Tony Sparks 19th, Dave Hoover 28th, Art Hutchison 29th and Mike Lindemann 31st. Only 31 seconds separated Radloff and Lindemann.

Sectional Summary

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Mattoon 57; 2. Champaign Central 86; 3. Danville 105; 4. Rantoul 142; 5. Charleston 159; 6. Champaign Centennial 180; 7. Urbana 184; 8. Manteno 207; 9. Decatur MacArthur 222; 10. Stephen Decatur 240; 11. St. Anne 246; 12. Clifton Central 279; 13. Bradley-Bourbonnais 321; 14. Argenta-Oreana 336; 15. Beecher City 398.

TOP 30 INDIVIDUALS

1. Robin Liddell (Decatur Eisenhower) 15:05.3 (record for 3.0-mile course; old mark of 15:06.7 set by Jerry George, Danville, 1972); 2. Reo Rorem (Gilman) 15:06; 3. Mark Johnson (Mahomet-Seymour) 15:15; 4. Avery (Mattoon) 15:16; 5. Pittman (Urbana) 15:18; 6. Rundus (Ch. Central) 15:19; 7. Jim Rattin (St. Anne) 15:21; 8. Harold Fudge (Charleston) 15:24; 9. Ernie Strange (Rantoul) 15:35; 10. Bob Wolf (Ch. Central) 15:40; 11. Ron Radloff (Mattoon) 15:45; 12. Tom Reiter (MacArthur) 15:47; 13. Dave Troxel (Danville) 15:48; 14. Bill McCune (Mattoon) 15:49; 15. Gary Rewerts (Danville) 15:51; 16. Ed Kempes (Wilmington) 15:52; 17. Greg Adams (Centennial) 15:53; 18. Harold Siefert (Bradley-B.) 15:55; 19. Tony Sparks (Mattoon) 15:55; 20. Bob Reid (Manteno) 15:57; 21. Pat Carter (Ch. Central) 15:58; 22. Cliff Bidleman (Rantoul) 15:59; 23. Terry Lemons (Charleston) 16:02; 24. Dan Hasler (Hoopeston) 16:04; 25. Doug Rowe (Gilman) 16:05; 26. Bruce Little (Danville) 16:06; 27. Jeff Owen (Danville) 16:08; 28. Dave Hoover (Mattoon) 16:10; 29. Art Hutchison (Mattoon) 16:11; 30. Carl Sipes (Dwight) 16:13.

OTHER LOCAL AREA FINISHES

MATTOON: 31. Mike Lindemann 16:16. CENTRAL: 32. Mike Trippiedl 16:17; 41. Charlie Owens 16:27; 61. Steve Revak 16:50; 75. Bill Parkhill 17:09. RANTOUL: 43. Dan Molloy 16:31; 49. John Ragsdale 16:38; 52. Art Hess 16:41; 76. Randy Callcott 17:10; 88. Gary German 17:34. CENTENNIAL: 37. Greg Smith 16:22; 44. Brad Harmon 16:32; 50. Rick Korst 16:39; 69. Paul Drago 17:20; 104. Pete Abbey. URBANA: 36. Dave Plager 16:21; 47. Paul Ritter 16:35; 63. Charlie Wustman 16:52; 70. Eric Luedtke 16:59; 71. Ken Ekstrom 17:04; 95. John Weaver 17:48. ARGENTA-OREANA: 38. Tony Richards 16:23; 59. Gary Fedle 16:48; 77. Randy May 17:11; 99. Leo Cortwright 17:58; 106. Steve Lewis; 107. Kevin Williams; 108. Bill Ryan.

Fischer Challenges Spassky

MANILA (UPI) — World chess champion Bobby Fischer of the United States said Saturday he would like to have a rematch with Soviet champion Boris Spassky to be held at a place that offered the right money.

In a news conference before he left for Tokyo, Fischer said he definitely wants a rematch and is just waiting for an offer and a challenge from Spassky whom he dethroned as world champion in their match in Iceland last year.