

Davis Captures Top Honors In Spartan Classic

By JOE MILLAS
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ST. JOSEPH — They might name it the Kirt Davis Classic. It is, of course, the Spartan Classic but the 11th edition of the cross-country meet which is run through the streets of the town, belonged completely to Davis.

The Hoopeston-East Lynn senior broke away from chief challenger Lane Holbert of Chrisman at the two-mile mark and successfully defended his individual title Saturday morning with a time of 15:04 over the 2.95-mile course.

Davis, who made the race appear to be nearly a re-run of his 1981 triumph, explained it this way:

"It worked last year, so I decided to try it again. I thought (former Chrisman star Tom) Hault would have talked to Holbert and told him not to let me go."

Davis admitted that a loss to Holbert in an earlier dual meet at Hoopeston provided extra incentive. "It was our second dual meet," he said. "In all my dual meets against Chrisman at home I've never won. It did give me a little more incentive.

"This is a load off my mind. I've been nervous all week."

While Davis was taking individual honors, Shelbyville was winning the title for the 27 teams competing with a low score of 87 points. Oakwood was second at 111 and Mahomet-Seymour took third with 139, ahead of pre-meet favorite St. Anne, which had 149. The host Spartans came in fifth with 182 followed by Paxton and Neoga, tied at 241, Hoopeston-East Lynn at 243 and Normal U-High with 289. Uni High of Urbana was 11th at 290.

Holbert finished in 15:17 while Warrensburg-Latham sophomore Jerry Giberson was a surprising third-place finisher at 15:27. Holbert's teammate Reid McClintock was fourth in 15:34. Phil Maton led team winner Shelbyville with a fifth-place finish in 15:39, while Cumberland's Brian Oakley finished sixth in 15:41. St. Anne was led by Mark Anthony, seventh in 15:47 while the Bulldog trio of Eric Mathis (15:50), Chris Perry (15:51) and Neil Mathis (15:53) went 8-9-11 to pace Mahomet-Seymour's effort. Senior Dan Grimes led Oakwood at 10th in 15:53.

Spartan star Tom Fortune took 12th in a clocking of 16:06

Spartan Classic

TEAM SCORES

Shelbyville 87, Oakwood 111, Mahomet-Seymour 139, St. Anne 149, St. Joseph-Ogden 182, Paxton 241, Neoga 241, Hoopeston-East Lynn 243, Normal U-High 289, Urbana Uni High 290, Warrensburg-Latham 3-5, Chrisman 309, Effingham-St. Anthony 345, Monticello 358, Decatur St. Teresa 389, Cumberland 420, Blue Mound 421, Niantic-Harristown 429, Rankin 431, Tri-Valley 501, Bismarck-Henning 592, Catlin 601, Tuscola 626, Shiloh 631, Georgetown 659, Westville 703, Unity 878.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

1. Davis (H-EL) 15:04 (2.95-mile course in St. Joseph); 2. Holbert (Chr) 15:17; 3. Giberson (W-L) 15:27; 4. McClintock (Chr) 15:34; 5. P. Maton (Shel) 15:39; 6. Brian Oakley (Cumb) 15:41; 7. Anthony (St. Anne); 8. E. Mathis (M-S) 15:50; 9. Perry (M-S) 15:51; 10. Grimes (O) 15:53; 11. N. Mathis (M-S) 15:55; 12. Fortune (SJ-O) 16:06; 13. J. Maton (Shel); 14. Schrodt (W-L) 16:10; 15. Bailey (BM) 16:11; 16. Yockey (Shel) 16:12; 17. Haggerty (H-EL) 16:13; 18. Do. Downs (O) 16:13; 19. Brabb (Shel) 16:14; 20. Makino (Uni) 16:16.

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