



Heading down the homestretch in the 440-yard dash are six runners, bunched closely together. Lexington's Bruce Rhind (second from right) eventually took charge and won the race.

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clocked

Lexington wins Johnny Apple

By Jon Spencer

There was quite a finish to Tuesday's Johnny Appleseed Conference track meet at Clear Fork. Battling down to the wire, Loudonville and Ontario were tied 90-90 going into the final event, the mile relay.

Things were almost as tight in that race as Ontario finished second and Loudonville third. As a result of the relay Ontario finished with 98 points to Loudonville's 96.

That was for second place.

Running all along, as usual, on the beautiful afternoon was Lexington which almost lapped its nearest competitor with 165 points to win its second consecutive JAC title. It's the same Minutemen who have gone through the season unbeaten, and the same group which has also won the Ontario

Relays, the Lexington Invitational and the Shelby Relays in the past three weeks.

Taking fourth was Clear Fork with 61 points, with Crestview fifth (31) and Plymouth last (7).

This time Lexington did not rely as heavily on second and third places, winning seven of the events behind the strong individual effort of Bruce Rhind. He and Ontario's Scott Jones, who won three events, were the most impressive performers on the afternoon.

Rhind won the 440-yard dash (53.0), the 220-yard dash (23.5) and anchored the Minutemen's winning mile relay team to a time of 3:34.5. Taking the other firsts for Lexington were Dave Kuelling in the pole vault (13-0), Chris Hoffman in the shot put (50-2), Rick Harper in the long jump (20-

5) and the 440-yard relay team in a time of 46.4.

In the girls' half of the meet, Loudonville regained the crown from 1976, the first year of the girls meet. Ontario won it the past two seasons but was third to the Red points. Lexington was runnerup with 57, followed by with 52, Plymouth with 24 and Crestview with 17.

The only boys to register their best times of the year were Jones, who ran a 4:33.2 mile to defend his title. Ontario's Tom Briner, whose 2:01.2 in the 880-yard dash led the rest of the field. Jones' top mile before had been 4:35.4, while Briner had previously run a 2:02.3 for effort in the 880. Jones also won Tuesday's two-mile in 9:56.9, well ahead of the 10:20.8 he ran last year in the event.



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About to break the tape in the 440-yard dash is Lexington's Bruce Rhind, who clocked 53.0 in the event. (Photos by Mark Menke)

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The only boys to register their best times of the season were Jones, who ran a 4:33.2 mile to defend his title, and Ontario's Tom Briner, whose 2:01.2 in the 880-yard run bested the rest of the field. Jones' top mile beforehand was a 4:35.4, while Briner had previously run a 2:02.3 for his best effort in the 880. Jones also won Tuesday's two-mile race in 9:56.9, well ahead of the 10:20.8 he ran last year in winning the event.

Moreover, Jones also won the high jump at a height of 6-2 and he anchored Ontario's mile relay team to second place.

The only other double winner was Loudonville's Brent Peoples. He lunged at the finish line to nip Rhind in the 100-yard dash with a time of 10.5. Peoples also won his speciality, the 300-meter low hurdles, with relative ease in 41.1.

Setting records for the girls were three relay teams from Loudonville: the 440 (53.6), the 880 (1:54.2) and the mile (4:25.7). Other Redbird record-breakers were Terri Gindlesberger, who successfully defended her title in the mile with a 5:36.0 showing, and Weber, who went 5-2 in the high jump. The only other repeater was Lexington's Kelly Garber with her 12.3 in the 100-yard dash, up from her 12.0 of a year ago.

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