

DeSoto dominates on sweltry day

Boys and girls track teams earn titles on record-breaking day

BY RANDY JENNINGS SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

JESUIT-SHEANER RELAYS

Competing in warm sunshine and not hampered by wind, a number of meet records fell at the 54th annual Jesuit- Sheaner Relays on Saturday at Postell Stadium.

Still playing an active role in the event unofficially known as “Texas Relays North” is the meet’s namesake, 94-year-old Herb Sheaner, retired Jesuit track and field coach.

To Sheaner’s delight, individual competitors from a wide area annually enjoy testing the waters, and several outsiders enjoyed success.

But as far as team strength is concerned, DeSoto continued to dominate with overall titles for both boys and girls.

DeSoto freshman JaEra Griffin passed the test on the first really warm day of the spring, holding up nicely in the 86-degree temperature despite running three sprint events in the meet’s first hour.

Griffin ran on DeSoto’s victorious 4x100 and 4x200 relays in meet record times. In between, she finished third in the 100.

“You have to deal with it,” Griffin said. “It hasn’t been this hot all year. But I’m feeling fine.”

Senior Jada Laye said competition within the team is at the heart of DeSoto’s success. The Lady Eagles have won the UIL Class 6A state team title the last two years.

“We have a lot of diverse runners,” she said. “Our practices are very competitive.”

Finishing touch: DeSoto capped its Class 6A boys team title by winning the final event, the 4x400 relay, by a wide margin.

Although DeSoto’s time of 3:15.17 is shy of its national-best 3:11.38 earlier in the season, Angel Deloney said fatigue in the compact window of the finals played a factor.

“We feel 3:09 is doable, and we’re all juniors, so we’re thinking 3:07 by next year,” he said.

Deloney is joined on the relay by Patrick Johnson II, Isaac Hastings and Kevin Modesto.

Hurdle sweep: Terry Smith, a junior at Frisco Independence, won both of the boys Class 5A hurdle races. The longer of the two, the 300, was more enjoyable: “It felt more like a race,” he said.

Two contenders, Darius Blackshire of Shawnee, Okla., and Torick Patton of Lancaster, finished within a second of Smith's winning time of 38.04.