

Sports Week

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Ian Clark takes two golds

Ian Clark only led the 1,500 and 3,000 metres events for short spans of time in the OFSAA Track and Field Championships, but they were at the right times as he ended up with two gold medals.

Clark used a kick which was not evident last year to win both the events at the all-Ontario championship held at Etobicoke Centennial Park last Friday and Saturday.

On Friday the 1,500 metres event was held. It was not run until the evening so the

weather was perfect for the racers.

SET PACE

Clark let Dennis Stark of Quinte set the pace for the race. The Belleville runner, who has been Clark's main adversary for several years now held the lead for two and a half of the three laps.

Stark relinquished the lead until approximately 300 metres remained in the race and he again took over the top spot.

At the top of the stretch it was Stark still in the lead with Clark right on his shoulder. Clark took over the lead with the first time with only 15 yards left. He crossed the finish line a yard ahead of Stark.

"I did not have any particular strategy going into the race," Clark said. "I had decided that if the pace was fast enough I would hang in third or fourth spot."

The time for Clark in the event was 3:52.2 which will stand as a new record for the meet. It tied the time Clark had at the qualifying meet in Niagara Falls the week before.

"I was surprised when I heard the time was that good," Clark said. "The pace did not seem to be all that fast to me."

It was Clark's inability to out kick Stark that cost him third place at last year's OFSAA meet. "That was about the first time I have been successful in outkicking Stark," Clark said. The Georgetown runner is much bigger physically than he was at last year's OFSAA meet in Kingston.

SAME STORY

It was basically the same story in the 3,000 metres event held the next day, except the conditions and Clark's main competitor were different.

This race was run in mid-afternoon and the heat was stifling. Clark said he felt "lousy" before the race began but he figured most of the other runners felt the same way.

Dave Reid of West Humber in Toronto was Clark's main challenger in this event. Reid had qualified for the 1,500 but he passed on it to save himself for the 3,000, a race he figured to do better at.

Reid set the pace for much of the early part of the race, relinquishing briefly to a slew of other runners. Again Clark was content to hang in third or fourth spot for the majority of the race.

Going into the last straight-away Clark took the lead for the first time crossing the

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Ian Clark, left, of Georgetown district high school took the lead with only 15 yards left in the 1,500 metre race at the OFSAA Track and Field Championship and held on to take the gold. Dennis Stark, right, of Quinte, had the lead

through most of the race, but although he gave it his all he had to be content with second place. Clark's time for the event of 3:52.2 and will stand as a meet record.

(Herald photo by Tony Panacchi)

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