

Observerland's best prove heads of state

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Dana Baltazar, Jr., Salem (shot put): The junior had an outstanding year, capped off with a fourth-place throw of 49 feet, 2 inches at the Canton-hosted Division 1 regional. He also finished third in the discus (138-4) and hit 145-4 at the Observerland Relays.

Rocks' coach Kyle Meteyer praised Baltazar as his "most valuable field event athlete," capturing city, conference, division and MITCA team championships in the shot for his efforts.

Baltazar also was undefeated in dual meets in the shot.

T.J. Arancibia, Sr., Westland Glenn (discus): The senior, headed to Wayne State on a football scholarship, captured the KLAA Kensington Conference championship with a throw of 146-6.

Arancibia also earned a trip to the Division 1 state finals with a runner-up finish at the Canton regional. He was also second in the KLAA South Division meet.

"T.J. overcame some early season challenges to finish the season strong by winning the conference meet with a new record for first-time meet," Glenn coach Jess Shough said. "He finished fourth in last year's regional just missing the qualifying standard, so he had as his goal all season to qualify for this year's state finals and he did. He was the mainstay of our throwers and will be truly missed."

Jamie Stewart, Sr., Liv. Clarenceville (high jump): The All-State basketball player set a Clarenceville school record with a leap of 6-7 and tied for fifth in the Division 3 state finals with a leap of 6-3.

Stewart was MITCA and Metro Conference champion, as well as runner-up in the Metro Conference. He also took a second in the 400 and third in the long jump in the Metro.

Stewart went a season-best 51.64 en route to a fourth in the 400 at the MITCA meet. **David Simor, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (long jump):** The senior enjoyed a productive season capped by an eighth-place finish in the long jump (21-11.75) at the state meet.

Simor also was regional, Kensington Conference and KLAA Central Division champion.

"Dave had a good season after pulling his hamstring last year in the first meet while long jumping as a junior," Stevenson coach Scott Shaw said. "Dave is a hard working young man and has worked very hard on his technique in the long jump. Has gotten much more consistent through his years of jumping. In almost every meet he was over 21 feet."

Derik Peterman, Sr., Liv. Churchill (pole vault): The senior captain broke the school record with a vault of 15-8 and was the Division 1 state runner-up.

Peterman, headed to Michigan State, was also the Mansfield (Ohio) Relays, regional and KLAA South Division champion.

In the 110 hurdles, Peterman took runner-up in the regional to qualify for the state finals.

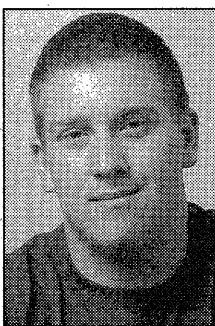
"Derik is one of the finest track and field athletes to come out of our program, and we've had some good ones," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "His 15-8 was one of the top vaults in the Midwest this year."

"Derik worked hard on his hurdle technique this season running 14.8 in the highs, which earned valuable points for our team. Derik is an outstanding student-athlete graduating with a 3.96 (grade-point average), and was a member of our pit orchestra team. As a captain, Derik led by example."

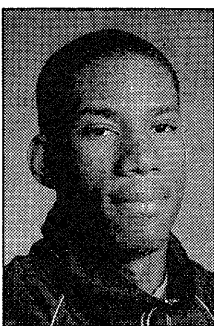
Vanier Joseph, Sr., Red. Thurston (110 hurdles): Competing in this event since his freshman year, Joseph culminated a stellar four-year varsity career by racing past the field at the Division 2 state meet and laying claim to the title of state champion in the 110 hurdles. His winning time was 14.35. At regionals, Joseph crossed in a head-turning 13.99, which proved to be a new Thurston record.

"He just loves and lives the sport," Thurston coach LaMar Miller said.

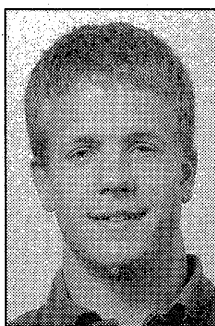
"If I had five Vanier Josephs, I wouldn't need anybody else on the team. He's a fine young man and extremely hard worker. He went to state his junior year and just missed out by finishing fifth in the semi-finals. He worked hard and really wanted to come back this year and show people what he could do."



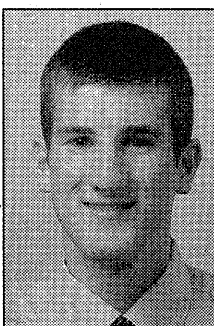
Dana Baltazar
Salem



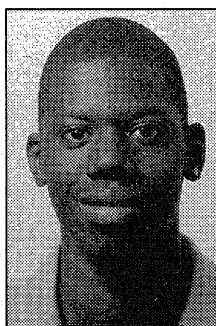
Jamie Stewart
Clarenceville



David Simor
Stevenson



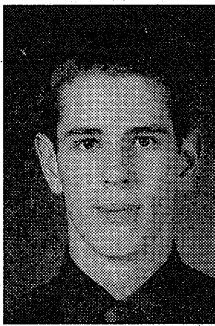
Derik Peterman
Churchill



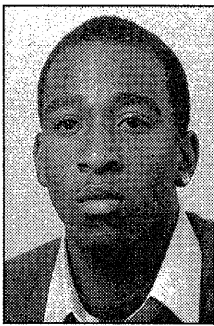
Vanier Joseph
Thurston



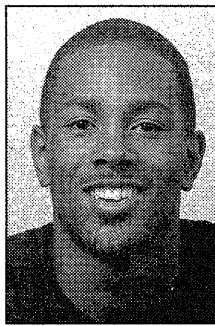
Renaldo Powell
Wayne



Nick Anagnostou
Stevenson



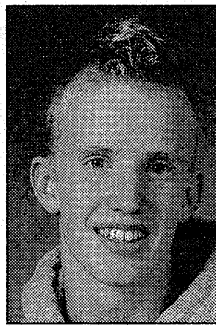
Parish Clayborn
Wayne



Darius Davis
Harrison



Warren Buzzard
Plymouth



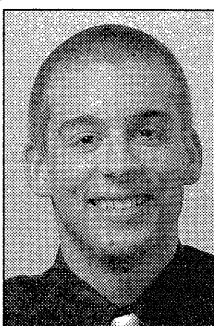
Elmar Engholm
Plymouth



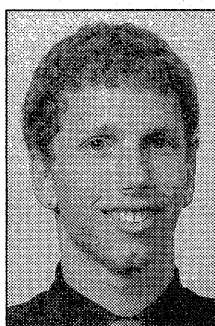
Matt Devey
Salem



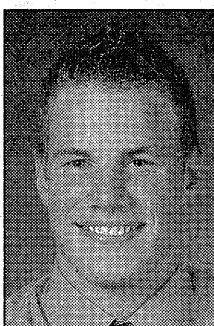
Tony Frezzell
Churchill



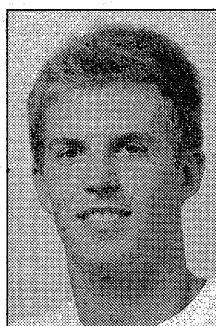
Scott Coppola
Churchill



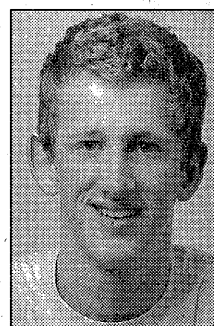
Travis Tomey
Churchill



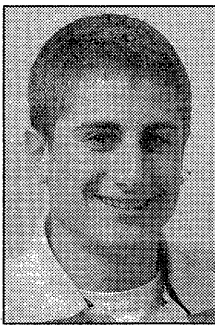
Jacob Gudeman
Stevenson



Nate Sergison
Stevenson



Scott O'Connor
Salem



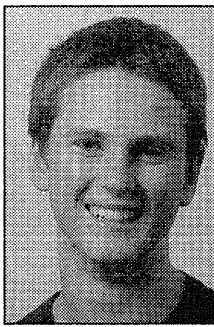
Daniel Martin
Salem



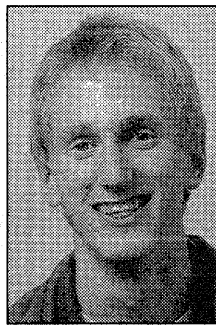
Dominique Williams
Salem



Zack Gaskell
Salem



Matt Neumann
Plymouth



Justin Heck
Plymouth



Derek Lax
Plymouth

Renaldo Powell, Sr., Wayne (300 hurdles): The senior, who has signed with Central Michigan University, enjoyed a banner season winning the Division 1 state title in the 110 hurdles (14.13) and finishing third in the 300 hurdles (38.73).

Powell is headed to the Midwest Meet of Champions to represent Michigan this Saturday at Jackson's Withington Stadium.

"Renaldo led by example, he kept practice fun for the underclassmen, and he did a great job of recruiting," Wayne coach Lee Grizzell said. "He performed so well this year because he has an excellent work ethic. Renaldo is such a good hurdler because he has really powerful legs and his technique is very good."

Nick Anagnostou, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (100 dash): In only his second season of track, Anagnostou posted an area-best 10.7 in the 100.

He was the last Western Lakes Activities Association and the first KLAA Kensington Conference champion in the 100. Anagnostou also captured the KLAA Central Division title and finished fourth at Observerland.

"Nick is a good leader by example," Shaw said. "He works hard at practice most every day. He's a very strong finisher in the 100. I wish we had the opportunity to work with him for four years."

Parish Clayborn, Sr., Wayne (200): The senior, who posted the area's top time (22.2) in the 200, was runner-up in the KLAA South Division meet.

Clayborn also placed fifth in Observerland in the 100 and had the area's second best time in that event (10.8).

"Parish did a great job for us this year," Grizzell said. "He competed in the 100, 200, long jump and anchored both speed relays. Throughout the entire year, Parish never gave up a lead in any of the relays he ran in."

Darius Davis, Sr., Harrison (400): Davis finished third in the Division 1 state meet with a time of 49.7 seconds. He also was third last year in Division 2. Davis had the area's best time at 49.4. He was a member of

three Harrison relays that placed among the top three in the area. Davis plans to play football in college, too, for either a GLIAC or Texas school.

"We're very, very proud of Darius getting third in the state," coach John Reed said. "He's been an excellent performer all four years. He's been very focused on being a great runner and he's done it. He's going to be a big loss to the program, because he's been running in the state meet since his freshman year."

Warren Buzzard, Jr., Plymouth (800): Buzzard sparked all season, highlighted by his second-place finish in the 800 run (1:58.37) at the Canton-hosted D1 regional. He exceeded his time at the subsequent state meet (1:57.58), although that only netted him eighth place. Buzzard's personal best for the year was 1:57.2.

Meanwhile, at the prestigious Observerland Relays, he took third in the open 1,600 with a time of 4:32.2.

"He could run forever, he had so much in the tank he made everything look effortless," said Wildcats' coach Kurt Britnell. "And he made everybody around him that much better."

Elmar Engholm, Sr., Plymouth (1,600): The senior exchange student from Sweden picked up where he left off last fall as an All-Observer cross country selection, again demonstrating athleticism and determination to be a sparkplug for Plymouth's track and field squad.

But a hamstring injury curtailed what could have been a brilliant season, which did feature a best of 4:20.0.

"He set record in cross country in the fall and this spring I thought he was going to break every mid-distance and distance event we have," Britnell said.

Matt Devey, Sr., Salem (3,200): The senior placed second at the D1 regional at Canton with an impressive time of 9:43.39, which represented quite an improvement from the 11:40 he ran as a freshman.

Then in the state meet at East Kentwood, Devey ran it even quicker

(9:40.16), good for 13th place.

Salem coach Meteyer emphasized Devey's work ethic, another reason for shaving off that kind of time as well as going from 5:29 in ninth grade in the 1,600 run at MITCA to 4:28 at team states this spring.

"He is the definition of hard work paying off," said Meteyer about Devey, also the cross country captain at Salem. Devey plans on running cross at Wayne State University.

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

400, Churchill (Anthony Frezzell, Jr.; Scott Coppola, Jr.; Travis Tomey, Sr.; Devon Easterling, Sr.): This quartet placed fifth in the Division 1 state finals (school record 42.82) after finishing runner-up in the regional. Frezzell, a three-sport athlete, and Coppola, both return next season.

Easterling plans to run track at Eastern Michigan, while Tomey plans to enroll in the fire fighting academy.

They were also Observerland Relays 400 relay champion for the first time in school history along with Kensington Conference and West Bloomfield Invitational champs.

"This fearsome foursome carried our team all season in the speed relays and open events," Austin said. "They are one of the hardest working groups I've had a Churchill led by captain Shane Henson. Each took pride in the way that they ran each leg of our two speed relays. I could always count on these four gentlemen to perform at their best."

800, Stevenson (David Simor, Sr.; Jacob Gudeman, Sr.; Nate Sergison, Sr.; Nick Anagnostou, Sr.): This quartet took first at Observerland breaking the school record with a time of 1:28.28.

They also finished third in the Division 1 state finals (1:29.63) after winning the regional, conference and divisional crowns.

"This was a good group to work with," Shaw said. "They all wanted to perform well throughout the season and make a good showing at the state meet, which I think we accomplished."

1,600 Salem (Scott O'Connor,

Jr.; Dan Martin, Soph.; Dominique Williams, Jr.; Zack Gaskell, Jr.): This foursome finished 11th overall at the D1 state meet with a season-best time of 3:27.43. They qualified by capturing the regional with a clocking of 3:28.27.

Coach Meteyer will have all four components back next year. He said Gaskell is a "very coachable athlete who gives full effort in individual and team objectives" and could be a college decathlete. Martin ran the fastest split on the team at D1 states in the 1,600 relay with a mark of 50.7 seconds after recovering from a hip injury.

O'Connor brought excellence to the 800 and 1,600 relays and came within one second of setting new Salem marks in the 800 relay and 300 hurdles. And Williams is a "versatile athlete" who also can run in three relays and several field events.

3,200 Plymouth (Justin Heck, Soph.; Matt Neumann, Jr.; Derek Lax, Sr.; Warren Buzzard, Jr.): The Wildcats' quartet qualified for the D1 state meet thanks to a second-place time of 8:05.24 at the regionals.

They went on to take 18th at East Kentwood, with a still admirable time of 8:11.97.

It was quite a showing considering the unit lost Elmar Engholm to a leg injury midway through the season and needed to plug in sophomore Heck, who more than filled the void.

"Justin did a whale of a job, he was a heckuva leader for being that young and (the relay team) didn't miss a beat," coach Britnell said. Neumann "worked hard and was real competitive" while Lax provided senior leadership as "the glue" of the group. Meanwhile, Buzzard simply was outstanding in all aspects for the Rocks.

"I'm very proud of the four," Britnell said. "They not only did a great job on the track but they are great young men."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kyle Meteyer, Salem: The fourth-year coach guided the Rocks to a Division 1 regional championship along with the Observerland Relays runner-up finish.

2009 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TRACK TEAMS

Shot put: 1. Dana Baltazar, Jr., Salem; 2. Ed Merhi, Jr., Salem; 3. Deon Clemons, Jr., Livonia Churchill.

Discus: 1. T.J. Arancibia, Sr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Jason Foster, Sr., Canton; 3. Sean McAuliffe, Jr., Livonia Franklin.

High jump: 1. Jamie Stewart, Sr., Livonia Clarenceville; 2. Zach Gaskell, Jr., Salem; 3. Kevin Beadle, Sr., Franklin.

Long jump: 1. David Simor, Sr., Livonia Stevenson; 2. Jason Byars, Sr., Farmington; 3. Isaac Cadet, Sr., Franklin.

Pole vault: 1. Derik Peterman, Sr., Churchill; 2. Jon Grinter, Sr., North Farmington; 3. Jon Gudeman, Jr., Stevenson.

110-meter hurdles: 1. Vanier Joseph, Sr., Redford Thurston; 2. Tendo Lukwago, Jr., Farmington Hills Harrison; 3. Shammah Carter, Soph., N. Farmington.

300 hurdles: 1. Renaldo Powell, Sr., Wayne Memorial; 2. Sherif Hassanien, Sr., Canton; 3. Scott O'Connor, Jr., Salem.

100 dash: 1. Nick Anagnostou, Sr., Stevenson; 2. (tie) Jeremy Langford, Jr., John Glenn; Charles Anthony, Jr., Farmington.

200: 1. Parish Clayborn, Sr., Wayne; 2. Dominique Williams, Jr., Salem; Chris Pride, Jr., Harrison.

400: 1. Darius Davis, Sr., Harrison; 2. Nate Sergison, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Jon Stoddard, Sr., Garden City.

800: 1. Warren Buzzard, Jr., Plymouth; 2. Spencer Lyle, Sr., Lutheran High Westland; 3. Keith Zech, Jr., Canton.

1,600: 1. Elmar Engholm, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Josh Hurst, Sr., Canton; 3. Dan Martin, Soph., Salem.

3,200: 1. Matt Devey, Sr., Salem; 2. Shawn Howse, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Joe Porcari, Jr., Plymouth.

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

400: 1. Churchill (Anthony Frezzell, Jr.; Scott Coppola, Jr.; Travis Tomey, Sr.; Devon Easterling, Sr.); 2. Franklin (Richard Duncan, Jr.; Isaac Cadet, Sr.; Mike Baumgardner, Jr.; Paul Voegel, Sr.); 3. Harrison (Will Ferguson, Jr.; Aaron Burbridge, Jr.; Darius Davis, Sr.; Chris Pride, Jr.).

800: 1. Stevenson (David Simor, Sr.; Jacob Gudeman, Sr.; Nate Sergison, Sr.; Nick Anagnostou, Sr.); 2. Farmington (James Vincent-Taylor, Soph.; Leonard Welch, Jr.; Anthony Ward, Soph.; Jaifus Ingram, Jr.); 3. Harrison (Tendo Lukwago, Jr.; Aaron Burbridge, Jr.; Darius Davis, Sr.; Chris Pride, Jr.).

1,600: 1. Salem (Scott O'Connor, Jr.; Dan Martin, Soph.; Dominique Williams, Jr.; Zach Gaskell, Jr.); 2. Harrison (Darius Davis, Sr.; Chris Pride, Jr.; Max Chapman, Jr.; Christian Success, Jr.); 3. Stevenson (Nate Sergison, Sr.; Stephen Pollard, Jr.; Matt Williams, Soph.; David Simor, Sr.).

3,200: 1. Plymouth (Justin Heck, Soph.; Matt Neumann, Jr.; Derek Lax, Sr.; Warren Buzzard, Jr.); 2. Canton (Josh Hurst, Sr.; Keith Zech, Jr.; Zach Spreitzer, Jr.; Paul Rakovitis, Jr.); 3. Churchill (Mark Waterbury, Sr.; Nathan Wise, Sr.; Michael Schmidt, Jr.; Marshall Fry, Jr.).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kyle Meteyer, Salem

Salem went 5-0 in KLAA Central Division dual meets and placed second at the KLAA Kensington Conference and Central Division meets.

The Rocks also defeated very good teams such as Farmington Harrison and Ypsilanti to win the North Farmington Raider Relays.

Under Meteyer's watch, the Rocks have improved from a very young squad in 2006 to one that can rightly be placed along those teams that in the past helped craft

Salem's rich track and field history.

"This season was magical from the very first meet," Meteyer said. "We won our first dual meet against Stevenson and we knew that we had turned a corner."

Most gratifying was how '06 freshmen Matt Devey (first-team 3200 run) and Pat Patin (200 dash) took two and four minutes, respectively, off their times in those events as ninth graders.

"To me, and to the juniors and seniors who have been on this team from the get-go, this season was like eating a huge, delicious feast that you had to plant, grow, harvest and prepare yourself," Meteyer continued. "It was a lot of work to create, and there were times when a part of us wanted to give up when the going was rough, but we stuck with it and now things are paying off."

Meteyer said this year's excellent junior class will be ready to keep things moving in the right direction in 2010.



Kyle Meteyer
Salem coach

FINAL BOYS TRACK & FIELD LISTINGS

BEST AREA BOYS TRACK TIMES

SHOT PUT

Dana Baltazar (Salem) 51-5.5
Ed Merhi (Salem) 50-10.5
Deon Clemons (Churchill) 50-8
David Fortin (Franklin) 48-8
Nate Coleman (Franklin) 48-0
Sean McAuliffe (Franklin) 46-9.5
Taylor Hall (Clarenceville) 46-5
Reece Boyd (Thurston) 45-6
Tom Norris (Farmington) 45-6

DISCUS

Jason Foster (Canton) 147-3
T.J. Arancibia (John Glenn) 146-6
Sean McAuliffe (Franklin) 146-2
Dana Baltazar (Salem) 145-5
Nate Coleman (Franklin) 144-1
Cortney Frazier (Salem) 140-7
Keith Choma (Plymouth) 140-2
Jon Anead (Stevenson) 139-4
Brandon Dare (Churchill) 136-7
Kyle Brinda (Churchill) 135-7

HIGH JUMP

Jamie Stewart (Clarenceville) 6-7

Zach Gaskell (Salem) 6-5
Kevin Beadle (Franklin) 6-3
Tendo Lukwago (Harrison) 6-3
Jeremy Browning (N. Farmington) 6-2
Jordan Allen (Plymouth Christian) 6-2
Hudson Cadet (Franklin) 6-1
Ben Spreitzer (Canton) 6-1
Tony Lawson (Clarenceville) 6-1
Anthony Ward (Farmington) 6-0

LONG JUMP

David Simor (Stevenson) 21-11.75
Jason Byars (Farmington) 21-9
Tendo Lukwago (Harrison) 21-8.25
Isaac Cadet (Salem) 21-4.5
Renaldo Powell (Wayne) 21-2.5
Nate Sergison (Stevenson) 21-0
Dominique Williams (Salem) 20-9.5
Will Burek (Stevenson) 20-9.5
Scott Coppola (Churchill) 20-8
Charles Anthony (Farmington) 20-7

POLE VAULT

Derik Peterman (Churchill) 15-8
Jon Grinter (N. Farmington) 14-0
Jon Gudeman (Stevenson) 12-10
John Krutty (Salem) 12-9

Kevin Beadle (Franklin) 12-6
Nick Alaniva (Canton) 12-6
Edward Koelzer (Canton) 12-6
Joe Marlow (Churchill) 12-5
Christopher Barnard (Churchill) 12-4
Edward Koelzer (Canton) 12-4
Henry Weyand (Stevenson) 11-11

110-METER HURDLES

Vanier Joseph (Thurston) 14.0
Renaldo Powell (Wayne) 14.13
Derik Peterman (Churchill) 14.8
Tendo Lukwago (Harrison) 15.0
Shammah Carter (N. Farmington) 15.0
Kenton Janzen (Harrison) 15.1
Sherif Hassanien (Canton) 15.2
Cameron Wludyka (Franklin) 15.4
Will Burek (Stevenson) 15.4
Brandon Piligian (Plymouth) 15.5

300 HURDLES

Renaldo Powell (Wayne) 38.5
Sherif Hassanien (Canton) 40.0
Scott O'Connor (Salem) 40.3
Tendo Lukwago (Harrison) 40.4
Vanier Joseph (Thurston) 41.0
Kenton Janzen (Harrison) 41.2

Will Burek (Stevenson) 41.4
Hayatt Ali (Canton) 41.4
Shammah Carter (N. Farmington) 41.5
Brian Miller (N. Farmington) 41.5

100 DASH

Nick Anagnostou (Stevenson) 10.7
Parish Clayborn (Wayne) 10.8
Devon Easterling (Churchill) 10.8
Jeremy Frezzell (Churchill) 10.9
Paul Voegel (Franklin) 10.9
Charles Anthony (Farmington) 10.9
Isaac Cadet (Franklin) 11.0
Demetrius Wilson (RU) 11.0
Aaron Burbridge (Franklin) 11.0
Mike Baumgardner (Harrison) 11.1
Donte Fox (Plymouth) 11.1
Anthony Frezzell (Churchill) 11.1
William Ayler (John Glenn) 11.1
William Askew (Plymouth) 11.1
Kyrion Nelson (Thurston) 11.1

200

Parish Clayborn (Wayne) 22.2
Charles Pride (Harrison) 22.2
Nick Anagnostou (Stevenson) 22.3
Dominique Williams (Salem) 22.4

Charles Anthony (Farmington) 22.5
Jeremy Langford (John Glenn) 22.6
Anthony Frezzell (Churchill) 22.7
Devon Easterling (Churchill) 22.8
Jaifus Ingram (Farmington) 22.8
James Vincent-Taylor (Farm.) 22.8

400

Darius Davis (Harrison) 49.4
Nate Sergison (Stevenson) 49.6
John Stoddard (Garden City) 50.8
Renaldo Powell (Wayne) 50.8
Warren Buzzard (Plymouth) 51.0
Zach Gaskell (Salem) 51.2
Nelson Kenne (John Glenn) 51.5
Jamie Stewart (Clarenceville) 51.64
Matt Williams (Stevenson) 51.7
Brandon Williams (RU) 51.8
Keith Marshall (RU) 52.0

800

Warren Buzzard (Plymouth) 1:57.4
Spencer Lyle (Luth. Westland) 1:59.16
Keith Zech (Canton) 1:59.9
Josh Hurst (Canton) 2:00.6
Eric Plisko (Stevenson) 2:00.8
Nelson Kenne (John Glenn) 2:02.6

Francis Mensah (RU) 2:03.0
Derek Head (Harrison) 2:03.0
Mark Waterbury (Churchill) 2:03.0
Dan Martin (Salem) 2:03.4

1,600

Elmar Engholm (Plymouth) 4:20.0
Warren Buzzard (Plymouth) 4:28.0
Spencer Lyle (Luth. Westland) 4:30.55
Matt Devey (Salem) 4:31.2
Josh Hurst (Canton) 4:32.0
Dan Martin (Salem) 4:35.0
Joe Porcari (Plymouth) 4:35.8
Shawn Howse (Stevenson) 4:36.9
Matt Neumann (Plymouth) 4:37.0
Zach Carruthers (N. Farmington) 4:37.0

3,200

Matt Devey (Salem) 9:43.4
Shawn Howse (Stevenson) 9:4