

The staff at Hudsonville went above and beyond to put on a top quality meet. New Long Jump takeoff boards were purchased just for this meet. The hurdle crew and starting block crew were prompt and efficient, as good as any we've seen, facilitating seamless transitions between events. Additional Hudsonville kids provided eager assistance in the field events. It's worth noting that Hudsonville is a Division 1 school, so while their top athletes were competing at another site, they still were able to host a top-level meet for Division 4. The facility provided two long jump and two high jump venues, allowing girls and boys to compete simultaneously, which allowed the meet to move much more efficiently.

We are all aware of what a difference a good announcer can make in the smooth running of a large meet. Our announcer did a great job of keeping the infield clear, and the fact that he was present on the infield rather than in the press box made it easy to ask for announcements as needed, such as requesting coaches to report for discussions with the referees.



*Momma Killdeer was displeased with all the uninvited guests at her D4 Pole Vault runway*

The meet moved efficiently, without any delays. Every final (fast) heat was full. There were no false starts, only one recalled start as it appeared at least one runner did not clearly hear the start commands in a sprint relay. Kudos to the recall starters for catching that and ensuring a fair start for the entire field. There was one disqualification for an exchange zone violation. The new 30 meter exchange zones made officiating the zones easier and reduced the number of DQs all season.

The coaches were cooperative. The trainers were visible and available. We had 12 registered officials, some acting in dual roles, such as field event officials and umpires. Officials were on site on Friday to inspect the entire facility. Two of our officials made a Home Depot run to purchase shims and screws to insure the new long jump boards were secure.

The top athletes in the meet were as competitive as any of the athletes from the larger schools, especially in the field events. On the girls' side, 3 High Jumpers cleared 5'4 and Pole Vaulters Tara Townsend from Frankfort tied a D4 record with a vault of 12'4. On the boys' side, 4 High Jumpers cleared 6'6. Ronnie Lemke of Kingston cleared 6'8, which equaled the best effort of the day among all divisions. In arguably the most impressive performances of the day, Zane Forist of Carson City Crystal had throws of 62'4 in the Shot Put and 196'5 in the Discus, easily besting anyone in any of the four divisions.

As well as being competitive, the athletes at Division 4 were friendly and appreciative. Several of them complimented and thanked the officials. In one instance, I noticed a girl standing near the timing tent. When I asked if I could help her she indicated that she needed to retrieve her water bottles from the outside of the track but she didn't want to disturb the start of the boys' race. I offered to walk across the track with her and on the walk back to the infield she thanked me for doing that and for being there as an official and she stated that she appreciated all of us giving our time to be there for the athletes. I told her we appreciated her and the other