

Thirty Years of Fun: Reflections on a Lifetime of Officiating

John Greathouse

How time has flown! 30 years of MHSAA Track & Field. It has been an interesting time with highs and lows but many more highs without question!

This year, I had the chance to run the Discus at the Division 4 State Championships in Hudsonville and one of the top boy discus throwers that did not disappoint the crowds with a 198' toss, not is best but still a great throw.

But the girls were the show of the day. We had 25 girls entered with 2 scratched. Looking at their seed throws, it was anyone's event. During the discussion I have with the throwers, I told them that anyone of them could be in the finals as all 23 of them are with-in 30', and with the wind, anything can happen.

The first flight did not disappoint as of the 11 throwers 8 threw a PR! The second flight again had some great throws but of the 12 throwers, only 6 made finals as 3 of the first flight got in!

This was getting exciting as one of the first flight girls moved from 9th to 3rd! All of the girls had made their final throws except for one who was checked out for 2 back to back races on the track so we waited. She returned and did a couple of throws to warm up and on her 4th attempt was off her mark with an 86' toss. She did not seem to be bothered by it and promptly came back into the circle and threw again.

As I was watching her spin, I noted to myself that that was a smooth spin and did a quick head check to see the shadow of the discus straight down the center of sector and thought that this was going to be a good throw. Well it was not good, it was great! 103' 11"! That was 3rd place!

She made her 6th throw of 96' and then celebrated with her PR, not knowing that she went from 8th to 3rd! When I announced the final standings, she was beyond excited! As she ran back down to the track and her teammates, I don't think her feet touch the ground!

Her coach was enjoying this as well as he did not think she was going to make finals looking at the entry distances and the fact that she threw a PR and got 3rd just made his day... and mine to!

This is why we keep coming back year after year... the thrill of seeing these young men and women overcome the odds and excel

I know that you will see me at the track next year to see what fun and exciting thing happens next!

