

Cape♦s Brisco Shines at Meet

Senior take two hurdles crowns at Champions event

By **Chuck Durante**

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DOVER ♦ Is Isaiah Brisco the best male athlete in Delaware? His second straight sweep of both hurdles titles at Wednesday night♦s Meet of Champions suggests so. The Cape Henlopen senior was one of five downstate athletes to win individual titles at the season♦s climax at Dover High School.

Sprinter Richie Acevedo of Caesar Rodney, middle distance runners Shayla Wilson of Milford and Matthew Coston of Dover and Sussex Tech miler Dave Ricksecker joined Brisco in the winners♦ circle on a night of modest rain, two state records and a momentary blackout.

Brisco won the 300 hurdles for the third straight year in 37.58 seconds, with Dover♦s Kevaghn Davidson repeating as runner-up. Brisco♦s encore 110-meter hurdles title was a prodigious 14.32, with Davidson again second. Brisco also ran the 200 in 22.55.

The son of the late Henry Brisco, 1972 Division Two 200-meter champion, Brisco appears headed to Delaware State. He was an all-state running back and a key two-year starter in basketball. He was a fine half-miler (2:02) as a freshman but has become legendary in the hurdles.

Tatnall junior Juliet Bottorff, who set the state 3,200-meter record of 10:49.07 at last year♦s meet, broke Vicki Huber♦s 23-year-old record at 1,600 meters by 1.7 seconds, running 4:52.7. She later ran a blistering third leg on a mile relay that nearly upset Delcastle in the final event.

Caravel senior Brianna Kennedy, who won the high school javelin at the Penn Relays, swept the shot put and discus, the latter in 144 feet, 8 inches, to break her year-old state mark by three inches. Her brother Bobby won the same two events.

Amos Miles♦ 2-minute opening leg launched Dover♦s victory in the 3,200-meter relay, followed by Aristotle Johnson, Brendan Barnes and Coston, in 7:57.3, the state♦s best mark this year. At the end of the night, Miles♦ marvelous 48.6 anchor gave Dover second place, a tenth of a second behind Glasgow, in the 1,600-meter relay, led off by Donald Cosme, Coston and Davidson.

The meet almost ended prematurely when the stadium lights went dark as the sun was setting. Backup power quickly illuminated the auxiliary lights and powered the timing devices. As Dover personnel fixed all circuits, the meet proceeded without interruption.

In fact, the meet finished ahead of its languorous four-hour schedule, as official hastened the running of each event once a slight drizzle began at mid-meet. The rain didn♦t detract from the performances.

Milford♦s Shayla Wilson, headed for the University of Kansas, added to her indoor state title by fighting through a windy stretch to win the 400 in 57.46, ahead of Delcastle sophomore phenom Celina Emerson, who won the 100 and 200.

Another Milford senior, Antonio Cowart proved a warrior, narrowly finishing second at the 400 (50.12) and 200 (22.29) after opening the night fourth at 100 meters.

The night♦s fastest runner didn♦t even participate last year. CR♦s Acevedo roared through the 100 in 10.9, a striking quarter-second ahead of the competition even though he wasn♦t pleased with his start.

♦I got out of the blocks too slow, because I was nervous,♦ said Acevedo, whose 10.78 at last weekend♦s Division 1 meet ranks seventh meters in the state♦s history. ♦My steps were too short.♦ Powerfully built, he is looking for a college to study business and sprint even faster.

Coston fought off Sussex Tech♦s Andrew Townsend to win the 800 in 1:54.09 in the evening♦s most dramatic duel. Townsend had specialized most of the year in the 400, moving up to the 800 only in May, winning the Henlopen Conference title.

Sussex Tech♦s other distance star, Ricksecker, won the 1,600 by six seconds in 4:23.52.

Dover♦s young team of Charnice McComb, Alexis Chandler and sophomores Jamile Hayes and Deontae

Daniels won the 400-meter relay in 49.16, a second ahead of Cape Henlopen.

Caesar Rodney's 800-meter relay, anchored by Nicole Stevenson, finished second in 1:44.57.

Downstate third place medalists included Sara Hock, CR, discus (103-10); high hurdler Kiara Brooks of Lake Forest (15.13), Thomas Hartung, Lake Forest, discus (1443-6); Cape's Savonne Seth, 300 hurdles (46.18); Vincent Wilson, Middletown, 400 (50.84); Ben Hopkins, Middletown, 300 hurdles (39.78) and Appoquinimink ninth-grade high-jumper Toresha Foster (5-0).

CR's Benjamin Miller concluded a fine career, running 9:45.76 for fourth place at 3,200 meters.