

Rima claims 200 for 2nd state title

Written by Jim Ecker

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DES MOINES - Jalen Rima does not like running the 100 meter dash because it's too short. And he does not particularly care for the 400, even though he's the state champ this year.

"The 400 is just too long," he said.

In Rima's opinion, the 200 meter dash is just right - not too short and not too long. And he flashed to victory in his favorite event Saturday in 22.03 seconds at the Class 4A state meet in Des Moines.

"I like the 200, because I'm not very good coming out of the blocks and it gives me time to catch up," he remarked.

Rima won the 400 on Thursday, making him a two-time winner this year for Cedar Rapids Prairie. He also placed fifth in the 100 Saturday

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"It feels good, but I just want to thank my coach," he said. "Coach (Bill) Schwarz put me through a lot this year. He worked me hard. I give all the credit to him."

Rima will take a one-day vacation Sunday, then jump into the baseball season with the Prairie Hawks in the Metro tournament Monday. His father, Todd Rima, is the new head coach at Prairie and also the head coach at Kirkwood.

"I like playing for my dad," said Rima, a fleet center fielder. "A lot of people think it's weird, but I like it. I haven't played for him for a long time."



Tysen VanDraska enjoyed a productive day for Prairie Saturday, finishing second in the 800 and 1600 meter runs. Ryan Schweizer of Dowling, who was named the outstanding male athlete at the Drake Relays this year, won both races Saturday.

"There's no shame in losing to Schweizer," Van Draska said. "He's a great runner."

Mark Schulz of Kennedy placed sixth in the 800. Schulz also helped the Cougars finish seventh in the 4x400 relay with Nick Duehr, Mitchell Gaffey and Hunter Schoenauer. Kennedy finished sixth in the team standings with 45 points.

The Washington Warriors finished seventh in the 4x100 relay with Reid Snitker, Landen Akers, Andrew Dostal and Alex Herzog. Tavion Stewart of Washington placed eighth in the 110 hurdles.

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Prairie finished seventh in the team standings. Washington was 14th.