

Local trio in fast company

O'Brien, Tarello, Bencal stand out

VAN NUYS, Calif. — Shawnee High School seniors Keith O'Brien and Chris Tarello, and Holy Cross senior Carl Bencal held their own in the National Scholastic Track and Field Championships yesterday.

O'Brien ran the mile in 4:19, winning his heat and finishing

TRACK

fourth overall while setting a school record. Tarello's time in the 800-meter run was 1:55.4, good for fourth place in his heat and 12th overall among 25 runners. Bencal set a school record of 55.07 seconds in the intermediate hurdles, good for ninth place.

The field in the 800 grew in quality as well as quantity because the Golden West Meet — held Saturday in Sacramento, Calif. — did not include the event.

"Chris ran a great race and we're happy with it because he beat some kids who've run 1:52, and one kid who's done 1:51 and change," said Shawnee assistant coach Gary Williams, who accompanied O'Brien and Tarello. "They didn't have the 800 up at the Golden West so a lot of the top runners in the country were here."

Tarello was second in the state Group 4 championships last month, with a time of 1:54.28.

Shawnee will recognize the O'Brien effort as a school record in the 1,600-meter run, based on its conversion to 4:17.2.

"Keith did it from the second (slower) heat," Williams said. "He just took command and ran away from everybody. He was fourth overall and the winning time was only 4:16.7."

O'Brien was Burlington County champion in the 1,600 this season, winning the title in 4:18.3. He was third in the South Jersey Group 4 championships with 4:18.9.

Bencal set Holy Cross' school record during the trials in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles. Bencal was in a heat that featured three hurdlers who've done faster than 52-flat, according to assistant coach and traveling companion Barry Harper.

The Holy Cross senior ran 14.5 in the 110 high hurdles. He was the state Parochial Class A champion in both hurdling events this season, winning the highs in 15.09 and the intermediates in 55.3.

7

SPRINGCO (800) 383-0305

Los Angeles Times

59

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC
OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Los Angeles
Times

2nd ANNUAL
NATIONAL
SCHOLASTIC
OUTDOOR
TRACK & FIELD
CHAMPIONSHIPS

PARTICIPANT

JUNE 12-13, 1992

ADMIT ONE