

Hornet men, women win track titles

SALISBURY, Md. — Lorraine Dortch set a meet record in one minute, 16.1 seconds in the 500-meter run and won the 1,000 as Delaware State College captured both team championships at the fourth annual Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Indoor Track Championships at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center Saturday.

DelState's Leroy Dixon won the 800 meter, and ran the third leg on the winning 1,600-relay team.

It was the first time in the history of the MEAC championships that one school won both titles during the same meet.

The DelState men's squad recorded five first-place finishes and defended their team championship with 126 points. South Carolina State was second with 107 points and Howard University was third with 98.

DelState's women also took home the team championship by notching seven first-place finishes and 139 team points. The women easily beat South Carolina State with 117 points and Howard's 90.

Dortch followed teammate Donna Ray as the Most Outstanding Female Performer in the MEAC championships. Ray held that honor after leading DelState to a third-place finish last season.

Dortch broke Ray's 1:18.3 mark set in 1982 in the 500. She crossed the finish line 3.4 seconds ahead of Karen Gascoigne of Howard. Dortch won the 1,000 in 3:14.9 and ran the first leg of the 1,600 relay, won by DelState in 3:36.8.

"The ladies wanted to win it and went out there to prove it," said Fred Sowerby, DelState's first-year women's coach. "They did things that under normal circumstances they wouldn't do."

Sowerby, a former Olympic sprinter, was selected as the Outstanding Women's Coach.

For the men, Dixon won the 800 in 1:59.2, ran a leg on the winning 1,600 team and was second in the 1,000 in 2:41.1. Hunt won the 55 hurdles in 7.9 seconds. Ronald Richards captured first place in the 1,500 in 4:11.1, while Elliott Johnson finished first in the 400.

"I feel that our guys did a real good job," said DelState men's coach Joe Burden.