Various Expressions Of Victory Shown By Participants In State Collegiate Track Championships

W&M's Kevin Cropp (left) sneaks feet in but failing to place in the 8,000, Roanoke's Jesse steeplechase pool after winning 1,500-meter run Thomas (center) gets the last laugh in breezing to win in the 400 meters and Virginia State's John Christian (right) wears a painful expression but his dive at the tape nipped VPI's Dennis Scott for a triumph in the 200-meter dash.

VPI Depth Pays, Virginia Second

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Towsley literally shattered the record in the steeplechase with a time of 9:48.4. No one had ever been clocked under nine minutes in state competition before the Kentucky's feat.

W&M's Jim Shields, the national high school recordholder, finished a distant second in 10:16.4.

Towsley, who complained he has no one to push him in the event, was clocked in 9:38.6 last April in winning the Kentucky championship.

The 20-year-old came back a few years later to also reestablish the field in capturing the 8,000 meters.

Virginia's Kevin Williams was the meet's only other double winner, capturing both the 10,000-meter run and the 5,000-meter middle-distance hurdles for the runnerup Cavaliers. Williams and Mary came away with four individual titles in shot putter George; Mike Slaby in the discus, Kevin Cropp in the 1,500 meters and high jumper John Schilling, who tied for first with Virginia's Kevin Jackson.

Cropp beat us in his best time ever performance in one of the day's real crowd-pleasers.

With former Warwick High School standout Bill Wiggins of VPI setting the pace, Crop made his move and took the lead near the end of the backstretch and then withstood a challenge down the final stretch from Richmond's Ed Perkins.

Wiggins' NCAA-qualifying time of 9:10.5 converts to a 2:43.5 mile. His previous fastest individual mile was 4:05.6 indoors.

"I knew I had a good shot at winning and I ran just like I planned," explained the pleased junior runner. "I made my move right when I wanted to and I even felt like I had a lot left at the end."

"I wanted to run a fast time but I didn't want to hard, " Crop added. "It was a lot easier to sit on somebody else and let them set the pace."

"It was really satisfying to beat Wiggins because he beat me by one second or less three times indoors."

Wiggins wound up third, 10 yards behind Perkins and 20 yards behind the winner.

One of the other super shoes was the 8,000 meters where Richmond's Russell Rimley edged Virginia State's defending champ Willie Mason.

"I was more nervous before this race than any other I've ever run," said Mason, a graduate of York High School. "For some reason, I was really scared of Rimley. He had me completely psyched up."

"Going into the final turn I had given up, but then coming out of the turn I noticed he wasn't so fast at 180 I had thought and almost was able to overtake him."

State Track Crown Won By VPI Ladies

BLACKSBURG (AP) — Virginia Tech, not by world pole vault recordholder Irene Sporer, won the women's collegiate track and field championships Saturday.

Although she did not compete in the pole vault because of an injury, Miss Sporer was the mile in 5:43.3 and the mile in 22:43.6 as she led Virginia Tech to the title and a 15-year victory over Madison, which finished with 18th.