

PLAN NEW FEATURE

Introduce Cross Country Running Into High School.

IS A GREAT SPORT

This Type of Running Popular Throughout Country.

Daane, Conger and Warner, Three Local Men, Have Scheme in Hand. Promises to Work Well.

Actuated by a desire to see the high school regain its former athletic supremacy in the long distance runs and to popularize the sport among the students, a number of local collegians have gotten together with a plan to organize a cross-country club in the high school.

The fine spring days furnish a great incentive to get out into the country, and at the colleges where the clubs have been established, it is the most widely favored athletic sport on the calendar. At the University of Michigan the Cross Country club counts up nearly two hundred active members, and in the springtime there are on the average this number out in running suits every day.

It is no uncommon sight in the neighborhood of Ann Arbor to see a bunch of fifty white suited runners out in the fields, miles from the campus, striking directly across the hills and valleys, and turning aside for nothing in the way that presents difficulties. As for the athletic benefits resulting, it is generally conceded to be the sport that is best fitted both for the trained athlete and the man who follows it simply for the exercise and the pleasures of the country in the spring. In England it is the major sport among the academic schools, a fact significant of the English supremacy in the distance running races, where no other nation can compare with her dozens of fine runners.

Work Is Very Beneficial.

At Michigan the athletic supremacy in the distance runs, defended year after year against the attack of every university in the relay games at Philadelphia, is built up entirely from the work of the Cross Country club, which annually turns out more speedy runners than any other university. It is a current remark among trainers who have sent teams against the Michigan team at Philadelphia that Michigan alone could supply the runners for a team to beat themselves, and the runners have a much harder time making the team at home than at the relay games.

A meeting will be held at the high school when school reopens and an attempt will be made to get at least fifty students out every night for runs. Daane, Conger and Warner, three former members of the Michigan Cross Country club, have promised to run with the boys, the work being divided so that one will lead the squad each night, and it is thought a fine team can be turned out with such competent coaching. "Marty" Daane is well known here; Louis Conger is another local collegian who has led the Michigan squad, and J. A. Warner, now practicing law in his city, was a member of the famous team of 1903. Robert Teele, now the only Grand Rapids representative on the Michigan team, will coach during the college vacation.

It is planned to run the boys in one large squad until the opening of the track season, when the speedier lads that can stand the hard training will be put in a "fast" squad that will be retained for the interscholastic. A race is on the program, with prize cups for the winners, the handicap system being used in order to give every one who wishes to start an equal chance with the faster boys of more speed and experience.