

PREP TRACK WINNER HARD TO DETERMINE

Until After Various Preliminaries to City Title Meet Have Been Held, Naming Favorites Is Impossible.

BY STANLEY L. BRINK.

Until after the various dual and triangular meets have been held, on top of the annual Michigan interscholastic at Ann Arbor, May 18, 19, a line on the teams, whose chance for the city track title is the best, is difficult to secure.

On the showing made indoors, Eastern, Central and Northwestern appear the strongest. Indoor performances, however, seldom are the best criterion to follow, first because the conditions under which the athletes perform are vastly different, and second because there are 15 events on the outdoor card to 15 on the opposite slate, the additional five events' points often making a lot of difference towards determining a winner.

More in This One.

Furthermore, more schools will compete at Cold Field than were on the list at the armory. Southwest is sure to be more of a factor. Southeastern should have some point getters available by that date, and Northeastern may cut in on the "melon."

None of the three teams mentioned are good enough to take first, second or third, but individually they are apt to spoil the chance of a larger school in an event whose points are needed by it to land in the first four.

Northern, whose acquisition of third place indoors was the surprise of the night, also is likely to ruin the opportunity of a more fortunate institution. Cass Technical will present a better balanced combination than it possessed during the winter, which means much harder going for the contenders.

Do Not Mean Much.

Advance notices usually do not mean much because the conditions encountered on the day of the meet often make the dark horse a champion and the favorite a joke. Fast men, for example, cannot always run their best on a heavy track. On the other hand, the boy with less speed but greater endurance pulls through with unexpected points.

Often a star's mental state is not ripe for competition on the particular day and he meets defeat. Injuries, illness, ineligibility always creep in during the week of the meet and take away some school's best performers.

Few track students can predict the outcome of a meet until after the trials are held. Then they can go over the lists of the men fit for the finals and using past records as a guide and the form shown in the preliminaries, form some basis for a choice.

Unexpected Plays Part.

In the finals the unexpected also plays a large part. A favorite may be well in the lead, say in the hurdles. He falls off his stride a few inches, goes completely "out of gear," knocks down three or more and is disqualified, the points al-

ready credited to him going to an outsider.

Often spikes catch in a stone and throw the wearer to the cinders. By the time he is back on his feet and in full cry again, the others have passed and the gap cannot be closed. Generally the boy thrown suffers from shock and is unable to continue.

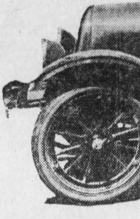
Sprinters often turn up for the final with a pulled tendon which escaped their notice in the excitement of the trials because the possessor kept his legs "warm" for some time after the injury. During the night's repose the injury stiffens and the finale sees him absent.

Trivial Matters Factors.

There is no sport of the lot where the trivial things play such important parts. A star, good for 10 or more points, may turn up with a cold and the affliction will be just enough to keep him from breathing properly. Therefore, he is out of condition to do his best work. Athletes, not the climmy ones, frequently spike themselves in practice or during the trials. The injury is usually enough to render them 50 per cent efficient.

Many things can happen between now and the date for the meet. This naming the favorites at this early stage, before they have a real chance to display their true competitive merit, is foolish move number 59,000.

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