

Drop Net Suggested To Aid Pole Vaulters

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 6.—The track and field world has been stirred by youthful Ben Ogden's suggestion for erecting drop nets for pole vaulters.

Ogden, Temple University track coach, has evolved a plan which he hopes will merit university support. He would employ a net similar to that used under high wire and aerial acrobats on the stage or in the circus, strung out seven feet off the ground to catch the vaulter.

Given supports, guy wires and tension springs, the athlete would have no fear of landing in any position or from any height at which he might clear the bar, Ogden believes. Use of the pit would be eliminated.

Avert Injuries

There would also vanish the possibility of an athlete being injured seriously in a fall from heights of 12 to 15 feet and landing on his back. Ogden got the idea for the net from watching an athlete make repeated falls in a college meet.

The reason why some vaulters don't achieve better results, he said is because they have an instinctive

fear of not landing properly. Consequently, development of form is retarded. With nets to catch them Ogden explained, athletes would not have to pay so much attention to form after they had cleared the bar.

Has Supporters

The Temple track tutor is convinced that the net would not only revolutionize the sport but would tend to develop many new styles. Besides easing the vaulter's landing, the net is calculated to cut almost in half the distance of their drop after clearing the bar.

Ogden's proposal has won the favor of Harold Anson Bruce, former Lafayette College coach who coached the last Austrian Olympic team, and Lou Spauler, noted coach of the Meadowbrook Club team.

Ogden pioneered in training track and field athletes indoors during the Winter by having them take up tap dancing lessons. The Temple track team showed improvement after finishing its terpsichorean routine, and coaches at other institutions have since tried the idea.

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