

2 PART FOUR—DETROIT FREE PRESS—Sunday, April 7, 1946

Rouge Meet Originator Sees It Go to Top of Michigan Indoor List

BY HAL SCHRAM

James McDonald, a Detroit engineer, will be just one of several hundred spectators in Yost Field House at Ann Arbor Saturday night when the seventh annual River Rouge Relays are renewed starting at 8:15 p. m.

Yet, McDonald will have more than casual interest in a meet which now ranks as Michigan's largest indoor track carnival, for McDonald was the originator of the event back in 1928.

"It was primarily a neighborhood meet back in those days," McDonald explained. "I was track coach at River Rouge High and coaches in our neighborhood — Dearborn, Melvindale and Wyandotte — realized a stimulant was needed to increase interest in indoor track or see the sport disappear from the athletic program.

"So I contacted officials at the University of Michigan and we arranged to stage our first indoor meet. I believe we had nine teams that first year.

"It will certainly be gratifying to see 67 schools represented out there Saturday. I understand over 1,000 boys will take part in the affair. We never dreamed of anything like that back in 1928," McDonald concluded.

Although he is now an engineer and has been out of coaching for five years, McDonald follows all high school sports closely.

THE EVENT has drawn teams from all sections of Michigan. Traverse City, Fremont and Charlevoix will represent the far north; Muskegon and Allegan the western part of the state.

All major state leagues, with the exception of the Detroit City League, has at least one team entered. Twenty-one schools will compete in Class A, 25 in Class B, 17 in Class C and three in Class D.

Class A schools will compete separately, while B-C-D schools will be combined into one division.

THREE DEFENDING state outdoor champions — Saginaw, in Class A; Romulus, in Class C, and Michigan School for the Deaf, in Class D—are among the entries.

All preliminary events will start at 1:30 p. m. The finals will begin at 8:15 p. m.



Majors See Biggest Year

Spring Crowds Augur Record at Box Office

NEW YORK—(F)—Baseball appears headed for its biggest box office boom in history with the 16 major league clubs clicking turnstiles at near-record rates on their Southern barnstorming jaunts while huge advance sales pile up at the home offices.

Brooklyn's always-enthusiastic public will have poured \$400,000 into the Ebbets Field till before the season opens, says Business Manager Jack Collins. That should foot the bill for all 1946 player salaries under the Branch Rickey scale and leave a little bit for the kitty.

Larry MacPhail's galvanizing Yankee "A" and "B" squads are rocketing toward the record spring high of 250,000 paid which Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Co. hured through the gates in 1929.

THE BRONX Bombers again are the greatest attraction in baseball with Joe DiMaggio, Charley Keller, Phil Rizzuto and Bill Dickey back in their old form as drawing cards.

Panama contributed 48,000 paid to the Yank total that now is approaching the 150,000 mark with another week to go. The Grand climax will be the week-end series with the Dodgers at Ebbets Field next Friday, Saturday and Sunday. That often pays the bills for the entire spring training junket.

Florida swarmed with sports-hungry vacationers who unzipped their pocketbooks with regularity. The Giants and Phillies regularly drew 6,000 at Miami. Cincinnati had its best year at Tampa and the Yanks and St. Louis Cardinals packed in 51,753 for their spring series of seven games in St. Petersburg.

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Rouge Indoor preview 4-7-1946

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jeffhollobaugh
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