

Mystery Of Missing Lap Interests AAU Relay Track Fans

Many Think Winner Ran Too Few Laps In Medley Relay

By Dave Tefft

The mystery of the missing lap was still a Michigan track locker room topic today although there were no official recriminations.

The mystery arose out of Saturday's Michigan AAU Relays, which opened the Wolverines' indoor track season, and it grew out of the meet's featured distance medley (two and one-half miles) relay race which had been forecast as a dual between Coach Don Canham's Wolverines and Michigan State's Spartans.

That forecast was followed for a mile and one quarter only to be spoiled as Loyola of Chicago hurtled out of nowhere to win the race with Bill Conrady, a fine middle-distance man, out-kicking Michigan's great Don McEwen in the stretch of

the one-mile anchor leg.

But, to get into the mystery. In the opening 880-yard leg Michigan's Chuck Whiteaker ran a fine 1:58.5 half mile to open up a 10-yard lead on State's Don Makieleki, a former Ann Arbor High star, in the second leg (440). Michigan's Al Rankin, who was timed at 50.1 seconds, finished 20 yards ahead of State's Lee Jones.

On the third leg, which was three-fourths of a mile, Michigan's Aaron Gordon had opened up 60 yards on State's John Walter when all of a sudden Loyola entered the picture as Bob Kelley came out from under the stands several feet ahead of Gordon and handed the baton to Loyola Anchorman Conrady some 20 yards ahead of McEwen. The latter, who turned in an excellent 4:15.6 mile, finally caught Conrady but couldn't hold the lead and was beaten to the tape by 20 feet by Conrady.

Fans Have Answer

Numerous fans, contestants, and coaches had the answer to the shocker. It came during the third leg when Loyola's Kelly was actually lapped by Gordon and then by State's Walter. Kelly, however, began to race Walter on even terms though a lap behind. Then Kelly, running in full stride, had passed Gordon when the pair came out from under the stands on the next-to-last lap of their leg. Kelly, who admitted confusion himself, passed the baton to Conrady a full lap earlier than he should have and that, of course, spelled victory in the not-so-good time of 10 minutes, 20.6 seconds.

Canham, admitting that there seemed to be something funny about the race, made no formal protest and plans none. He was highly pleased, however, at the times turned in by Rankin, Whiteaker, and McEwen. Gordon's 3:18.6 cloaking for the three-fourths-mile was a disappointment but the Wolverine, who has great prospects as a miler, probably was more than a little confused himself by Kelly's sudden appearance as a front runner.

All in all, the meet, viewed by about 2,500 fans, probably should be labeled the best, as well as the largest in its history. A total of 245 athletes received numbers.

Won Four Firsts

Michigan won four first places and six seconds and could lay claim to a fifth first-place effort since Freshman Roland Nilsson, the Swedish shot put giant, won that event with a toss of 50 feet, five inches. Sophomore Joe LaFue turned in a highly-creditable effort as he won the 440 in the good time of 51.3 seconds while Don Hoover bested a good field to win the 55-yard low hurdles, and improving Horace Coleman earned the first-place medal in the broad jump. The Wolverines' shuttle hurdle relay team won as expected but missed the meet record it hoped to achieve.

Records fell to Adolph Weinaeker, Michigan State student, who improved his own 1930 standard of 7:06.8 by winning the mile walk in 6:52, and to Loyola's mile relay

team which won the college division event in 3:27 flat to break the 1948 mark of 3:27.8 set by Michigan Normal in 1948. Normal, incidentally, ran a whale of a race in this one, it was handicapped because its star, Stan McCanner, was unable to run.

Normal's fine sprinter, Jim Bibbs, equalled the meet and fieldhouse records as he won the 60-yard dash in 6.2 seconds.

Track Summaries

One-mile walk: 1—Weinaeker (MSC); 2—Mihal (Detroit); 3—McGee (Detroit); 4—Craig (Detroit); 5—Jacobs (MSNC); Time—6:52 (new Michigan AAU and Yost Fieldhouse record).

880-yard run: 1—Williams (OSU); 2—Yonason (unattached); 3—Cook (MSC); 4—Reck (MSNC); 5—Kilgore (IG). Time—7:57.

45-yard high hurdles: 1—McCaddon (Heron A. C.); 2—Hoover (MI); 3—Trotter (unattached); 4—Thomas (MSC); 5—Atchison (MI). Time—58.2.

MIAA 880-yard relay: 1—Kalamazoo College (Van Horn, Metzger, Johnson, Keedy); 2—Alma; 3—Hope College; 4—Hillsdale. Time—1:28.

College 880-yard relay: 1—Michigan Normal (Gilliam, Harrover, Parks, McCaddon); 2—Michigan Green; 3—Huron Club; 4—Baldwin-Wallace (disqualified after winning for losing baton). Time—1:35.

440-yard dash: 1—LaRue (MI); 2—Johnson (Heron A. C.); 3—Myers (OSU); 4—Bose (MI). Time—31.2.

60-yard dash: 1—Bibbs (MSNC); 2—Coleman (Tartar Club); 3—Trotter (Tartar Club); 4—Kearns (MI); 5—Smith (Wayne). Time—6:2.

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