

In Ann Arbor For Saturday

Pioneers To Make Bid For Class A Crown; Milan Enters 23 Men

By Dave Tefft

One hundred and three athletes representing eight schools from Ann Arbor and its immediate area are listed for participation in the 12th River Rouge Invitational track meet scheduled for Yost Fieldhouse Saturday.

They will be joined by 900 other track and field men who are entered in the quest for Class A, Class B, and Class C-D team crowns in this most gigantic of one-day indoor prep track meets.

A total of 96 schools will have representation in the meet which is sponsored by River Rouge High school with the co-operation of Michigan Track Coach Don Canham and other Wolverine athletic officials. Canham again will serve as meet director and will have considerable assistance from his right-hand man, Freshman Coach Elmer Swanson.

Will Defend Titles

Team champions will be back to defend their titles in all three classes. In Class A the defender is Flint Northern while Plymouth was the 1950 winner. In Class B and Dundee took the Class C-D crown.

Coach Tim Ryan's Ann Arbor High Pioneers appear to be the best local-area bet for team honors but the Ann Arborites will be sternly challenged, as always, by Saginaw Valley Conference entrants. The Class A crown has gone to a valley school, usually Saginaw or Saginaw Arthur Hill, in each of the last seven years.

Its strength in numbers will turn the trick Milan should be a good bet for Class C-D honors. The Big Reds have entered 23 men, about double the usual school entry list.

Other area schools which will be represented are U High, 12 men; Lincoln Consolidated (10); Ypsilanti Roosevelt (10), and Saline (9) in Class C-D; Howell (16) in Class B, and Ypsilanti (13) in Class A. This is the first year the Braves have been in the top classification. They have long been a Class B power until enrollment increases forced them up a class. Ypsilanti won Rouge team titles in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Lower Class Most Crowded

Class C-D will be the most crowded, as always, with a total of 42 schools entered. There will be 34 Class B teams and 20 in Class A.

But despite this bulky entry list Canham, who has devoted considerable time to streamlining the meet in recent years, figures he has this year's edition planned close to perfection. He will start preliminary competition at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon and will have the field trimmed to size by 5 o'clock. Finals in the medley spring relays in all three classes, starting at 4:30 p.m., will top off the afternoon phase of the program.

Field events finals will get under way at 6 o'clock Saturday night and the first running event final of the evening—Class C-D high hurdles—is scheduled for 7 o'clock.

Ann Arbor And U High Barely Miss Out Winning River Rouge Invitational Titles

By Dave Tefft

Schoolboy track, it appears, is still on the upswing in Ann Arbor.

At least that belief seems a natural conclusion in the wake of Saturday's 12th River Rouge Invitational which saw the two local representatives, Ann Arbor High in Class A and University High in Class C-D, each come within the proverbial whisker of grabbing team championships.

Coach Tim Ryan's Pioneers, trying to give their mentor a big silver anniversary present as he goes into his 25th year at the Ann Arbor school, missed the team crown by a meager one-sixth of a point as Saginaw Arthur Hill came from far behind in the final event to grab the title.

And Coach Prentice 'Pin' Ryan's Cubs, aiming to give their teacher a title in his first season as headman, missed by one point as Berrien Springs made an early lead stand up to win, 20-19.

Joining Arthur Hill and Berrien Springs as team titlists was Ecorse which won the Class B crown. The titles were the first in the huge River Rouge event, which attracted nearly 1,000 prepsters to Yost Fieldhouse Saturday, for the latter two schools. Arthur Hill, dethroning Flint Northern, had won in 1941 and 1946. It was the eighth straight year a Saginaw Valley Conference School had won the Class A title.

Baton Exchange Hurts

Scoring in seven of the nine events, Ann Arbor High needed only a sixth-place finish in the final race, the 880-yard relay, to take the title but lost out when its relay team was disqualified as Prentz Ware and Bill Newman completed their baton exchange outside the prescribed zone. Running in close quarters, Ware had to adjust speed and switch lanes just ahead of the exchange. Before he and Newman could get squared away they were out of the zone. The Pioneer time was good for a fourth place which would have assured the title.

It was the second straight year Ann Arbor missed the team crown by less than a point. In 1950, Flint Northern topped the Ann Arborites by half a point.

Speedy Jim Love salvaged considerable glory for the Pioneers, however, as he won the low hurdle race and placed second in the highs. That performance brought him special recognition as the meet's outstanding performer in Class A. Similar awards went to Lansing Everett's Tom Hoffmeyer in Class C-D, and to Ludington's Junior Stielstra in Class B. Hoffmeyer set an all-class record by winning the mile in 4:38.4 while Stielstra placed first in both Class B hurdle events.

Get Great Start

The Pioneers were off to a fine start as they won the first Class A final, the sprint medley relay, as George Jayne, Ware, Newman, and Bill Adams turned in a sparkling race in excellent time of 3:46.6. Jayne, who passed up defense of his meet championship in the mile

run to run the 880 leg in the sprint medley, got the Pioneers off to a fine start with an excellent 2:04 clocking, from standing start, for the half mile. Ware and Newman ran fine 220 legs and Adams finished strongly in the quarter-mile anchor spot.

Other Ann Arbor points were contributed by Bob Gould who placed second in the mile run; Glenn McDonald, who tied for third in the pole vault; John Jackson, who placed sixth in the 60-yard dash, and Don Franklin, who tied for fifth in the high jump.

Arthur Hill achieved its team victory by finishing second to Pontiac in the 880-yard relay to pick up 10 big points.

That gave the Hillites 32½ points to Ann Arbor's 32 1/3. Close behind were Flint Northern, 31½; Battle Creek, 30½, and Bay City, 25 1/3.

In Class C-D, U High made its fine showing chiefly on the effort of its 880-yard relay quartet of Gerald Wolf, Charles Smith, Bob Hobbs, and Bill Weiner, who beat out Berrien Springs for top spot in that race. Other Cub points came from Wolf's third-place finish in the 60-yard dash and from Howard Young's tie for third in the pole vault.

The Class B team race turned into an Ecorse run-away as the winner counted 39½ points to runner-up Mt. Pleasant's 23.

Five new records went into the books. Battle Creek's Jim Arnold picked up one by win-

ning the mile in 4:41.4 to improve the 4:42.1 standard set by Ann Arbor's Jayne last spring. In Class B, Ecorse's sprint-medley team was clocked at 3:54.5 for a new mark. Hoffmeyer led the Class C-D record makers which also included Lincoln Consolidated's Gary Cullin and Algonac's Jim DeBoyer. Cullin high jumped five feet, 10½ inches for his record while DeBoyer lowered the 60-yard dash mark to 6.6 seconds.

Here is a school-by-school roundup of Ann Arbor area point getters not already mentioned.

CLASS A

YPSILANTI HIGH—Joe Seidl, fourth in mile run.

CLASS B

HOWELL HIGH—Sprint Medley team (Lynn Holley, Jim Campbell, Marshall Borden, Ed Bailer) second; Bob Nelson, sixth in mile; Bill Hilton, sixth in low hurdles.

CLASS C-D

MILAN—Sam Love, sixth in shot put.

SALINE—Jerry Gonser, second in mile.

ROOSEVELT—Marvin Staplin, sixth in 60-yard dash.

This is how teams finished, behind already-mentioned leaders, in each class.

CLASS A

Flint Central (sixth), 22 1/3; Saginaw, 17 1/3; Pontiac, 13 1/3; Kalamazoo, 6 5/6; Fordson, 5 2/3; Dearborn, 3 1/3; Wyandotte and Ypsilanti, 3 each; Bay City Handy, 2; Mt. Clemens, 1 1/3, and Jackson, 2/3.

CLASS B

Ludington (third), 20; Marshall and Alma, 19 each; Bedford, 16 1/3; Allegan, 14; River Rouge, 8½; Howell, 12; Grand Blanc, 9; Bedford Union, 4; Walled Lake and Howell, 7 each; Fenton, 4 1/3; Albion and Plymouth, 4 each; Eaton Rapids and Romulus, 3½ each; Roseville, 3, and Charlotte, 1 1/3.

CLASS C-D

Lansing Everett (third), 17½; Dundee, 15; Lake Shore, 14½; School for the Deaf, Algonac, and Otisville, 14-each; Shepherd, 13; East Jackson, 12½; Edison Institute, 12; New Buffalo, 9; Clarkston, 8½; Spring Arbor, Williamson, and Lincoln Consolidated, 6 each; Saline, Morenci, and Holt, 5 each; Grosse Ile, 3½; Maple Grove and Goodrich, 3 each; Keego Harbor, 2; Ypsilanti Roosevelt, Vestaburg, and Milan, 1 each, and Blissfield, Linden, and Merrill, ¼ each.