

Abbott's to Send Kearsley Girl To National AAU Track Carnival

Flint will have an entry in the National Women's Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) track and field meet next week end at Harrisburg, Pa.

The girl is Mary Jane Kenney, the Kearsley High senior who won the Genesee County broad jump and shot put championships and placed second in the dash last Spring.

Miss Kenney will be sponsored by Abbott's Food Market to the top track meet for women in the United States. She will run as a member of the Michigan Girls' Track and Field Club, which is coached by Carl Groth, the Michigan AAU women's track chairman.

Groth, a one-time dash champion in Michigan, has entered the Flint lass in the shot put, 50-yard dash and broad jump.

Miss Kenney set a new County record in the running broad jump last May when she leaped 16 feet 1 inch to shatter the old mark. Her performance was a trifle more than three feet less than the American women's outdoor record. That mark is 19 feet, 4.8 inches, set in 1939 by Stella Walsh. The World record is 20 feet, 6 inches.

In the shot put, Miss Kenney's heave which won the 1954 County meet went 32 feet, 1 inch. The American women's record in that event is 42 feet, 3 inches, set by Rena MacDonald in 1929.

Miss Kenney will be in the

junior class, which will be run Friday and the senior events, composed mostly of women older than Miss Kenney, will be run off Saturday. Groth said Saturday that if any of the Michigan girls look good in the events Friday, he may enter them in the senior competition.

Miss Kenney will be competing against the best track and field competition available as entries have been received from all corners of the United States. The stiffest competition is expected from the Chicago Girls' Club, the top women's track team in the Country.

Groth is planning on taking a six-girl team to Harrisburg for the National meet. The club had a practice session in Flint recently and Miss Kenney has been working out seriously for the last few weeks.

The Flint teenager accompanied the Michigan club to track meets in Toronto, Ont., and Buffalo, N. Y., last month. In those two meets, only running events were staged. But at the National meet Friday, field events will be held, the phase of track in which Miss Kenney excels.

She will leave Flint Wednesday evening and join the Michigan club in Utica. They will leave on the 490-mile trip early Thursday morning and plan to arrive that evening.