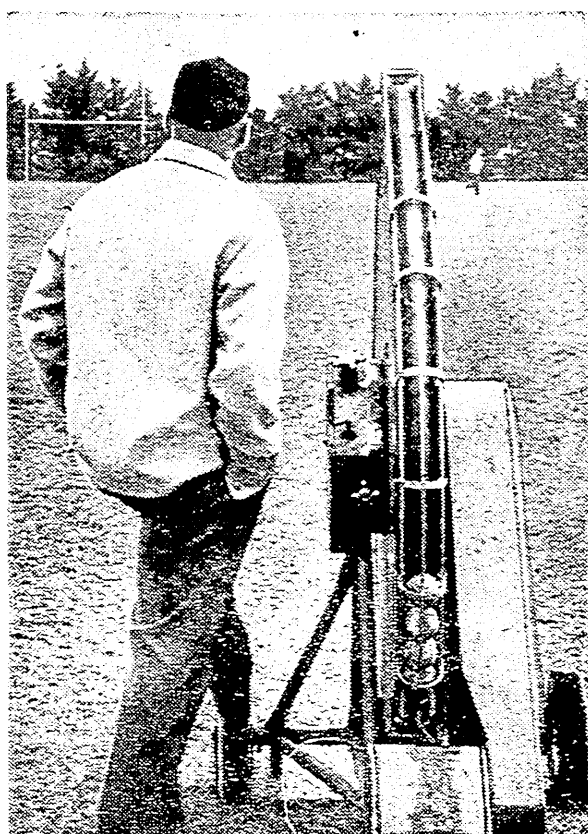


# Best of Trackmen To Vie at Kalamazoo



**NO SORE ARM:** Coach Jim Rouman of Escanaba High School using the school's automatic pitching machine to fire long flies to outfielders in practice. The same gadget also is used to "pitch" during batting practice.

## 'Does Everything' at Escanaba High:

### Automatic Hurler Unique in U. P.

ESCANABA, May 25—Escanaba High School's mechanical pitching machine, dubbed "Roxanne" by Esky ball players, is the only one of its kind in the Upper Peninsula.

The all-purpose machine was purchased for Coach Jim Rouman and his baseball teams by the Esky Fan Club last year and has been seeing heavy and faithful service ever since.

Rouman feels it is one of the best additions to high school athletic equipment in any sport and expects more prep teams to have them in the near future.

"It does everything for us except coach third base," he quips.

#### DOES EVERYTHING

That's no over statement, either. The electrically operated machine handles regular baseballs and pitches batting practice, spews grounders to the infielders and flings out long fly balls to the outfielders.

One of its best features is seen in batting practice. The machine fires a steady stream of

## Prep Card This Week

**MONDAY**

Parochial League Invitational track meet at the University of Detroit.

Start of Metropolitan Detroit High School Athletic League track meet. (Continued on Friday, also June 4 and 5.)

Start of Metropolitan Detroit High School Athletic League tennis meet.

**WEDNESDAY**

Little Oak League track and field meet at Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills.

## School's Class Is No Barrier

KALAMAZOO, May 25—Michigan's premier high school track meet comes off next Thursday night at Kalamazoo College's Angell Field.

It will be the second annual "Champion of Champions" classic, sponsored by the Kalamazoo Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The title befits the meet. Only the state's best prep thinclads will be invited to compete.

The meet is designed to bring the best six competitors in each event into action. The size of the school, or its enrollment, has nothing to do with the picking of performers. All that counts are their feats.

#### BECOMES BIG HIT

The "Champion of Champions" meet was introduced for the first time a year ago and immediately became a hit. Despite threatening weather more than 2,500 fans turned out to watch boys representing Class A schools battle against colorbearers from lower-class teams—and vice-versa.

At the meet's conclusion, an award was made to the meet's outstanding individual. He turned out to be John Palmer of Class B St. Louis High, who now is a student at Central Michigan College.

Only the regular events, which comprised the agenda at the recent state meets in East Lansing and Ann Arbor, will make up next Thursday's agenda here. There'll be no gimmicks, no special relay events, etc.

#### FEW MAY MISS

Ted Lawrence, the meet chairman, reported today he expected virtually every standout track man in the state to be here. Said Lawrence:

"Here and there a boy or two will be missing. Some schools are through with track by that time.

"But, the tremendous success of last year's meet leads us to believe that coaches of all the great boys will make every effort to have them here."

Two of the greatest races loom in the 100 and 440-yard dashes. Namon Smith, Bay City Central's blazing flash, will meet up for the first time against Inkster's Charles Kyser.

#### TO MATCH STRIDES

In the "440" Inkster's Bill Wyatt will match strides with Flint Northern's John Sharp. Both have been around the 50-second mark regularly this season.

Willow Run's great broad jumper, Willie Prewitt.

So will Bill McFarlen, sensational pole vaulter at Birmingham, and likely Hudson Ray, the brilliant high jumper from Pontiac High. There'll be no preliminaries. Just finals.

The meet is one of several marking the closing week of the track season for Michigan trackmen, excluding a few in the Detroit Metropolitan League whose finals aren't until June 6.