

# Maple Thinclads Prepare for League Meet

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Special Writer

After completing its dual meet season tomorrow at home against league opponent Mt. Clemens, Birmingham will journey to East Detroit for the 14th annual Eastern Michigan League track and field meet next Wednesday.

This will be the last outing for the 1959 track team. The Maples have captured nine league titles in 14 years. In 1956, Birmingham scored 83 points to win. This year, however, there will be much more competition.

**BIRMINGHAM'S** Bill Alcorn, who last weekend successfully defended his state pole vault championship in the state meet, will be attempting to set a new record for himself. It will be his final opportunity as a high school student.

His vault in the state meet of 18-3 set not only a new school record but also a new state record. The EML vault mark of 12-9½ was set in 1957 by Maple Bill McFarlen.

In the shot put, Mickey Walker of East Detroit holds the record at

52 feet set in 1957 also. There is not much chance of a new record in this event and, as a matter of fact, the winning heave could be as low as 47 feet.

Bob Stephenson, of Birmingham, set the high jump mark last year at 6-1¼. Although Bob's younger brother, Jim, cleared 5 ft. 8 in. this year, Ferndale's Toy Palmer is expected to take the event.

Palmer is also a broad jumper. In a dual meet earlier this season with Birmingham, his winning effort was 21-10¼.

**AL SULKI**, of East Detroit, holds the record of 21-5 set in 1957. Sophomore Steve Jacobson, of Birmingham, and Jim Murphy, of Hazel Park, must also be considered in this event.

Murphy also could figure in the high hurdles as could the record-holder, Mt. Clemens' Hal Trumbo who last year tied Gary Ballman's 1957 mark of :15.1.

According to Birmingham track mentor Kermit Ambrose, the league is weak in medley relay teams. The Birmingham team of Kent Rathbun, Les Danielson, Steve Jacobson and Bill Green ran fourth in the state meet in 2:31.6, well below the record time of 2:35.5.

Mike McDonald, the football speedster from Port Huron, holds the 100 yard dash mark of :10.0. His record faces some stiff competition this year from a couple of Ferndale runners. Freshman Dorie Reid, clocked in :10.0 at the Albion college Invitational, and Tim Butts are both capable of breaking the record.

**IN THE** quarter mile, Ambrose can enter sprint specialist Bill Green and be pretty sure of picking up points. Green's :50.8 anchor of the medley relay at state meet would be more than enough to break the EML record of :51.4 held by Richey Robbins of Port Huron and set in 1957.

In the other quarter mile race, Toy Palmer of Ferndale and Kent Rathbun of Birmingham are both capable of winning.

Boyd Mayhew and Jim Murphy will also be up in there. Dan Reid, of Birmingham, and Tim Butts of Ferndale are the men to watch in the 220 as are Maples' Jim Reilly and Fraser Cocks in the two races of the 880. Other men in the 880 are Hazel Park's Bob Fulcher, Kimball's Mike Harris and Mt. Clemens' Dean Carpenter.

Birmingham's Dick Boyd holds

the 880 record in 2:00.2 set last year.

**THE ONLY** contest in the 880-yard relay event will be between Ferndale and Birmingham. Ferndale beat out Birmingham in the regionals by nine-tenths of a second. East Detroit holds the record of 1:34.3. The Maples in finishing

fourth in the regionals were clocked in 1:34.5.

Last Saturday, the 1959 Maple track team went one better on its 1958 counterpart and finished fourth in the 52nd annual state track meet at East Lansing. Flint Central was first with 35 points; Flint Northern second with 28, Farmington third with 24, and

Birmingham fourth with 20.

In addition to the medley relay team and the pole vault, Birmingham received excellent performances from sophomore Steve Jacobson in the broad jump, fourth with 21 ft. 3¼ in., Jim Reilly, first in the 880 in 2:00.7, Fraser Cocks, second in the 880 in 2:01.0, and Dan Reid in the mile.

