

Coopersville Seaway Favorite

Eleven returning track and field veterans make the Coopersville Broncos the top threat for the Seaway League championship.

The Broncos are looking for stiff competition from Reeths-Puffer, West Michigan Class C champion last season, and North Muskegon.

Strong in Shotput

Coach Jay Veldman of Coopersville, who is beginning his second year as track coach, has the league's best shotput artists, 6-5 John Johnson and Pat Miszewski, both of whom are capable of 45-foot heaves.

The Broncos have Eugene LeMieux, who runs the 440 in the low 50-second area and also broad jumps 20; Bob Wimbush, the fastest Seaway hurdler with 21.2 in the lows and 16.2 over the highs.

Other veterans are Richard

VerSluis, Barry Bronkema and Andre Weckwert in the dashes; Maurice Bennink, who runs the mile just under 5 minutes; Roger Westveld in the high jump and Jerry Southland in the 880. R-P Vaulteur Sharp

Reeths-Puffer, which is the only class C school in Seaway, will be strong in the field events with Bob Curtis in the pole vault leading the way. Curtis vaulted 11-6 last year to win the league championship. The other six veterans include all-around athlete Larry Slusser, who runs the 100 in 10.5, the 220 in 23-2, and broad jumps 20 feet 6 inches; Dural Nesbary, Larry Botbyl, Jim Gerst and Dan Light in the 440, and Rog Guy, who hits 19-10 in the broad jump and runs the hurdles. Assisting Coach Gail Bolthouse is Ron Gibbs, who coaches the running events.

Coach Wes Bunks, whose 11 years as head coach at North Muskegon makes him the dean of track coaches in Seaway, is expected to field another potent team, but a lack of field-event performers will impede his chances for a championship.

Among the 55 thinclad NM enthusiasts are seven veterans: Dave Rose, Bill VanDunklarr, and Nate Johnson in the dashes; Chuck Gronick and Steve Johnson, with 55.2 quarter-mile times; Mike Burrows, with a 4:58 mile time, and Ray Leonard, who runs the low hurdles in 23 seconds.

Ravenna Coach Ed Fortune has eight veterans and a host of impressive-looking freshmen and sophomores. Among the veterans are Mike Sierz in the 880; Morris Allen, who runs the 100, 220 and relay; Steve Sturdivant and Dave Asmus, who both toss the shot over 40 feet; John Downs, with a 10-4 pole vault; Larry Bennett in the mile; Stan Jacobs, with a broad

jump of 19-10, and Fred De Jonge in the 440.

At Fremont veteran Coach John Fleming, who is beginning his tenth year, has a small turnout of 26, with seven returning lettermen. The Packers will be strong in the field events with Harold Holcomb pole vaulting 11 feet 2 inches, backed up by Vaughn Harshfield's 10-8; Jerry Meuwenberg, who high jumps 5 feet 8 inches; Steve Rhoades and Jim Bekkering in the broad jump, both of whom leap over 20 feet.

Rhoades doubles in the hurdles and Bekkering in the dashes. Two other veterans are Stan Murray, who runs the mile in 5:05 and Floyd Deater, whose time in the 880 is 2:08.

Among 25 track aspirants who greeted Coach Bernie Raterink at Whitehall are five veterans: Fred Walker, with a 23.4 low hurdle time; Stan Maravitch in the high jump; Charles Darnell in the dashes, and Carl Traut-ter and Jack Bellinger in the 440.

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