

Nation's Largest High School Track Show Begins at Central

By **BOB HOERNER**
(Journal Sports Writer)

MT. PLEASANT, April 28—Keeping one eye on the weather, Central Michigan university athletic officials welcomed the first wave of high school track stars here today for the 21st annual Central Michigan relays.

Classes C and D kicked off the two-day affair Friday. The "A" and "B" schools compete Saturday in the nation's largest individual high school meet. There will be more than 3,025 athletes from 184 schools competing in the 16 events.

All of the Greater Lansing Class A schools will have entries in Saturday's events.

Last year's four defending champions have entered to defend their titles, including Haslett in Class C, which also took

the state championship. Other defending champions are Birmingham in Class A, Cranbrook in B and Pickford in D.

But the battle for individual honors, notably in the field events, could steal the show. Most promising events are the shot put, mile run, broad jump, high jump and pole vault.

Individual duels in each could produce some of the best performances in meet and state history.

Sure to fall is the meet's 12-year-old Class A shot put standard of 54-feet 5 1/4 inches. Leading the assault will be Pontiac Central's Bradell Pritchett whose 61-8 3/4 throw last summer set a new national record for a high school junior.

Pritchett has a 57-9 toss already under his belt this season and could easily top the offi-

cial state mark of 59-5 3/4 this weekend.

Pritchett's top competition is likely to come from Barry Wickstrom (53-11 best this year) of Lapeer, Don Ross (51-9 3/4) of East Lansing and Bob Teichman (51-9) of Birmingham Seaholm.

Waterford's Mike Kaines leads the field of Class A one-mile run hopefuls. He has already turned in a 4:26.6 clocking, just five seconds short of the state record, and well under the 4:31.7 meet mark.

Jan Bowen of Alma, Class B mile record holder, could easily shatter his own one-year-old 4:26.6 meet mark.

Tightest individual battles loom in the high jump and pole vault.

Flint Beecher's Sharon Fielder has the best high jump mark in the state so far this year—a 6-1 1/4 leap. But he'll be in for top competition from Will Hawthorne of Ecorse, Scott Hummell of Traverse City and Frank Scott of Muskegon, all of whom have cleared the six-foot mark.

Jim Dickey of Lansing Eastern and Roger Mason of Birmingham Seaholm top the pole vault entries. Both have hit 12-0 this year, but close behind should be Marysville's Tom Harrington who turned in an 11-10 indoor vault.

Broad jumpers James Lee of Ecorse, Tom Sweeney of Birmingham Seaholm and Bob Trotter of Pontiac Central

could be in for a close race for meet honors.

Lee's 22-8 is the second best jump recorded in the state this season, but Sweeney has gone 22- 1/2 and Trotter 21-7.

Other top performers expected to be on hand during the two-day carnival include Pontiac Central's Dick McCauley in the 220-yard dash, Birmingham's Tom Sweeney in the 440, Bloomfield Hills' Gary Bergmose in the half mile, and Waterford's Joe Falls in the 120-high hurdles.

Class A favorites in the relay events will be Birmingham in the two-mile and 880-yard relays and Pontiac Central in the one-mile relay.



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