

Near-Riot Mars Relays at Albion

BY HAL SCHRAM
Free Press Staff Writer

ALBION—Those in education who look with favor on competitive athletics, such as the people at Albion College had reason to hold their heads and wonder Saturday.

A near-riot ruined the efforts of Elken Isaac, the school's athletic director, and his staff who annually put hundreds of man-hours into staging the Dale Sprankle Invitational Track Meet for Michigan high school squads.

SERIOUS TROUBLE was avoided, however, and the meet was run off in ship-shape fashion with Lansing Sexton, in Class A; Ecorse, in Class B; East Jackson, in Class C; and Centreville, in Class D, taking home the team titles.

As is usually the case whenever trouble occurs at high school events, the athletes themselves were not a fault.

The troublemakers were a group of outsiders — young adults no less—who took exception to being asked to step back off the track so that a mid-afternoon event might be staged.

Assistant football coach Dick Shurmer and Don Anderson, a student assistant, were both assaulted.

Anderson received a minor head injury and Shurmer a lacerated ear. The culprit who incited the fight disappeared before police arrived.

Isaac could not be blamed for not having police on the grounds. This meet dates back to 1958 and police attendance had never before been necessary.

IT WAS A turbulent day for Isaac all the way. Early morning rains turned the track into a muddy mess for the preliminaries. A tornado warning was broadcast locally, shortly after lunch.

But the 1,000 schoolboys from 66 schools didn't seem to mind the heavy footing too much. After all, there hasn't been a lick of good spring weather anyway.

At least two exceptional individual performances were posted despite the sloppy going.

Dorie Reid, a 140-pound, 5-foot-6 junior from Ferndale, stepped a nifty 10 seconds flat in the 100-yard dash.

Dorie can't approach Henry Carr either in size or performance, but he's plenty good enough to be Michigan's second best sprinter this season. Reid hasn't been beaten this spring and once was clocked at 9.8.

From the southwestern hamlet of Lawton came an unheralded miler named Neal Brown.

NEAL SPED to a 4:38.1 mile and under these conditions, the performance has to be considered just about the best mile ever run in this state by a Class D entry.

The state record is 4:39.1, set by Dick Stoor, of Brethren, in 1954, but not under these conditions.

Sexton and Ecorse, both repeaters from last week's Central Michigan Relays, had comparatively easy times of 11.

Sexton won with 40 points, scoring in 10 of the 13 events. East Lansing finished second with 32 points.

Ecorse, the defending state Class B champion, won eight first places and piled up 56 7/10 points to 27 for second place Albion.

How they finished:

Class A: Lansing Sexton, 40; East Lansing, 32; Ferndale, 28; Lansing Everett, 27; Lansing Eastern, 17; Ecorse, 16 7/10; Albion, 17; Mt. Clemens, 15; Ann Arbor, 15; Tecumseh, 22; Grand Haven, 25 1/2.

Class C: East Jackson, 31 1/2; Ann Arbor, 14; Hudson, 27 1/2; Hamlet, 24 1/2; Grand Lake, 24; Mount City, 21 1/2.

Class D: Centreville, 37; Center, 35; Covert, 25; Dimondale, 17 3/4; Ashby, 13; Vermontville, 12.

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