


Hal Bateman

Falling Records



As the lanky runner from Dearborn Heights Robichaud flashed across the finish line at the 1963 state Class A high school meet, the spectator glanced at his stop watch and shook his head. "It's going to be a few years before anyone breaks that record," he remarked.

The spectator is probably going to be wrong but when Walt Wilson set a state record of 1:53.3 in the 800-yard run last year it probably won't stand past Saturday afternoon.

Ron Kutchnski, a junior from East Grand Rapids, has already run 1:53.7 and should be able to break the state mark with faster competition. It seems that once someone posts a record it merely spurs other athletes on to greater achievements.

Another Top...

... performance turned in last year was the 4:13.2 mile by Lou Scott of Detroit Eastern. That record also could go Saturday with such top athletes as Art Link of Detroit Redford and Bob Richards of Bloomfield Hills in the field. Link had run 4:16.8 and Richards 4:16.2 and they could push each other to around 4:12.

The 800 and the mile records aren't the only ones that will be in jeopardy Saturday. In fact, only two of the present state records seem beyond reach—the shot put and the broad jump.

Lansing athletes also could share in the record breaking. Everett's Henry Patino, the Vikings' 800-yard relay team and Sexton's Willie McKissic all are within reach of state records.

Patino has run :19.0 in the 100-yard low hurdles, which is equal to the state record, and he could also spark the Vikings to a record in the 800 relay. Everett has been timed in 1:30.9 while the state record is 1:29.5. McKissic has been times in :09.8 for the 100-yard dash and :21.4 for the 220, which are both equal to the present state records.

It's Been a...

... great year for Greater Lansing track teams and they showed last Saturday that Saginaw Valley schools aren't quite as invincible as a lot of people imagined.

There was good reason to think that the Flint and Pontiac schools were nearly untouchable. They've won the team title in 18 out of the last 20 Class A state meets. It was another story Saturday as Sexton finished first in the regional at Flint Kearsley while Everett was second. Flint Central, recently crowned Saginaw Valley League champion, wound up third and Flint Northern, defending state champion, placed only sixth.

City schools had generally done well against Saginaw Valley schools in dual meets but this was the first time that the city schools were able to do well in a championship meet.

Part of the Reason...

... for the successful showing has been the popularity of track at Greater Lansing high schools this year. East Lansing had a record 110 athletes out for track while Everett had 67, Sexton 86 and Eastern 60. All represent some of the largest turnouts ever reported at those schools.

The track prosperity also has been spreading to area schools. In last Saturday's regionals, Haslett won the Class B and Portland the Class C at Sexton while St. Louis took the Class B regional at Mount Pleasant. In addition, O'Hafferty, Okemos, Ionia, Fowlerville, Boys Training, Stockbridge, Carson City, Elsie and Fowler all made good showings in their regionals.

It was a great day for Central Michigan trackmen last Saturday, maybe the best ever. Here's hoping that prosperity continues for at least one more Saturday, namely the state championships.

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