

Old Trackmen Lend Hand to New

By KEN WILLIAMS

When track and long-distance running for high school youngsters reached a low ebb here in 1959, a hard core of retired athletes and enthusiasts revived interest by organizing the Michigan Road Runners Club.

With a small party of volunteers as a working force, the slogan "Have feet, will run" eventually sparked a movement that virtually provided year round competition for blossoming track prospects at the high school level.

YOUTHS PREDOMINATE

From the outset the club was designed to perform an administrative function rather than to direct participation. A program of 16 races was scheduled the first year. The current schedule lists 62 races from April to December.

While any active track athlete is welcome to membership, the MRRRC ranks are dominated by youths who wish to keep well conditioned throughout the summer and strive to improve their form for either high school or collegiate careers.

OFFER ADVICE

"The MRRRC makes no claim of being responsible for the competitive accomplishments of the athletes," said Dan Radnovich, secretary. "We only make available the facilities and the opportunity for the boys to develop themselves. However, former runners and coaches in the

MRRRC offer advice whenever required or requested.

Some 20 to 25 athletes form the club's competitive backbone each year, with the variety of races and number of contestants increasing accordingly. The weekly events, sanctioned by the AAU, range from championship running and walking to cross-country and marathon races.

BELLE ISLE POPULAR

Belle Isle is the most convenient and favorite stamping grounds for MRRRC athletes to test their stamina and competitive zeal. A casual Sunday afternoon driver frequently finds his car being dodged or skirted by a field of road runners.

This season 48 MRRRC events are being conducted on Belle Isle.

A nominal entry of 50 cents is charged for all Olympic

college prospects in Dick Reamer (Notre Dame University), Bill Keller (Ohio University), Jack Amie (Michigan State) and Goetz Klopfer (Wayne State).

Last month Klopfer finished third in a senior 50 kilometer walk in Chicago and the performance qualified him for the Olympic Trials in that distance to be held Aug. 22 at Seattle.

One of the top comebacks aided by the club has been made by Jasonowski, a 5-foot-8, 127-pounder who graduated from Servite last month.

INACTIVE 3 WEEKS

"Last February I spent 11 days in a hospital with mononucleosis," he said. "I had to stay away from any track activity for three weeks when my blood count dropped from around 100 down to 82."

"Right now I'm just beginning to feel stronger and am gradually building up my stamina. At my peak I used to run 80 to 90 miles a week, sometimes 15 to 18 miles a day.

"Since my sickness I've quit running the mile in favor of walking distances. This season I won a five-mile event in 47:46 and finished second to Klopfer in a three-mile."

REASON FOR SWITCH

At Servite, Leon ran a 4:35 mile as a sophomore and 4:29.7 in his junior season. He also finished second in the state Class B two-mile cross-country run with a clocking of 10:13.

"I decided this past spring I'd do better as a walker after I ran a fourth-place 4:45 mile in the Warren Fitz-

gerald regionals and a 4:41 in the Catholic League's Double-A finals," Jasonowski said.

"By sticking to the club's summer events, I should be in pretty good shape by the time I enroll in the fall at Wayne State."

Several annual events have evolved from the Road Runners' schedule. In addition to the International race charted over the Ambassador Bridge and the Ecorse event,

others this season are the Chauncey Longwhite Memorial 10-mile run Sept. 20 and the Charles H. Brennan Memorial five-mile run Nov. 1, both at Belle Isle, and the Motor City Marathon on Thanksgiving Day.

12 FINISHERS

With the distance the same as in the Boston Marathon (26 miles and 385 yards), the inaugural Motor City event last year attracted a surprising turnout of 23 entries. Of the 12 finishers, six were high school athletes.

The MRRRC has sponsored many national AAU championship events. This season's agenda is highlighted by the one-hour junior run Sunday, Aug. 2, at Belle Isle, and the senior and junior 40-kilometer walks, both on Nov. 15 also at Belle Isle.

Other officials of the MRRRC besides Radnovich are Wayne State track Coach Frank McBride; Ernest Smith, past president of the state AAU, and Fred McGlone, coach at Livonia Bentley High and long-distance track chairman for the AAU.

Scott Makes Good as College Runner

Louis Scott, the former Eastern High record miler, found the groove easily in his transition to college competition during his freshman term at Arizona State.

The soft-spoken Scott, slightly heavier but still trim at 135 pounds and 5 feet 7, won 10 of 28 varsity races in the Western Athletic Conference the past season and was second in 12 others.

"I won the mile six times and finished second in six others," related Louis, who has won two straight AAU sanctioned long-distance races in the Detroit area. "I also won four two-milers and was second on six occasions."

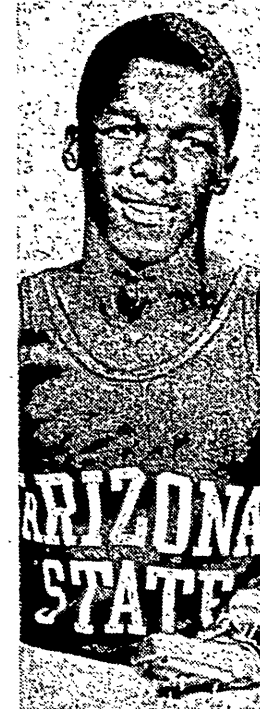
During his prep career Little Louie won 40 of 42 starts, losing only to Redford's Dick Sharkey (now of Michigan State) in the Public

School League qualifying and final mile races as a freshman. Scott wound up with a 32-race winning streak.

"At Arizona State I found things a lot different," he continued. "In college you meet your equal. I had to change my strategy and try to outfox my opponents. In a relay, especially, you can get boxed in if you're small."

"My coach (Semon Castille) left me on my own at the beginning, but advised running at least 10 miles a day and to keep my classroom marks up (he's a "B" student). I also learned a lot by studying films of Mal Whitfield."

His season's peak performances were a 4:09.8 mile and a 9:17 two-miler. In the WAC championship meet Scott was fourth in the mile and fifth in the two-mile.



LOUIS SCOTT
Changes His Strategy

Sports for Youth

Development and Novice races staged by the organization. In Olympic Development events the junior division is limited to contestants who have not reached their 19th birthday.

All junior runners who have not finished first, second or third in any previous race are eligible for the novice events.

As an incentive, trophies or medals are awarded for all races.

DROP FEE PLAN

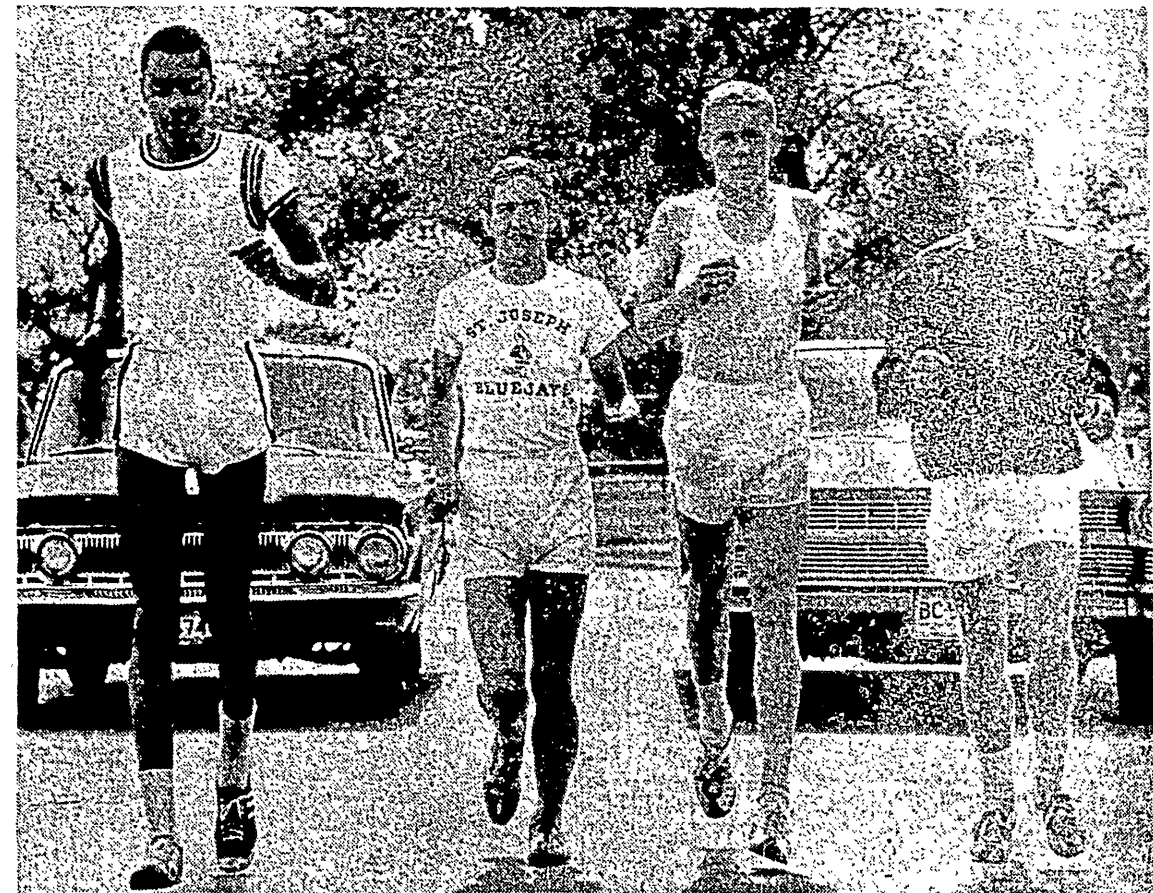
"We've often discussed the possibility of devising a membership fee policy for the MRRRC," Radnovich said, "but have found it impractical because of the constant turnover of athletes from year to year. Yet the time, effort and money expended by our group is amply rewarded when the results are evaluated."

Many trackmen have benefited from the advantages offered by the MRRRC in the past. One of its foremost members is Louis Scott, the former Eastern High miler who is attending Arizona State. Two years ago he set the Public School league mile record of 4:13.2. Scott recently won the 10-mile International Freedom Festival run in 51:26 and the national AAU senior 25 kilometer race at Ecorse in 1:20:35.

COLLEGE PROSPECTS

Other prominent members are mile champions from both the PSL and Catholic leagues, Cass Tech's Brian Moore and St. Joseph's John Fradette; Western's distance runner John Garza, Servite star Leon Jasonowski, who now is concentrating on walking events, Central's Dwight Crosswhite and Redford's Pat Logan, cross country captain-elect and miler.

In addition to Scott, the MRRRC has several other fine



FIT IN WITH TRAFFIC—Virtually every weekend throughout the summer track members of the Michigan Road Runners Club compete in races or workouts on Belle Isle, with slow-moving traffic seldom a problem. These high school runners are,

from the left, Central's Dwight Crosswhite, St. Joseph's John Fradette, Cass Tech's Brian Moore and Redford's Pat Logan. Fradette and Moore were mile champions in the Catholic and Public School league last season.—News Photo.



COMEBACK ATTEMPT—Leon Jasonowski, former crack miler for Servite, is making a comeback as a heel-and-toe walking entry in the Michigan Road Runners Club ranks after a siege of illness.

EQUALS DAD'S FEAT OF 3 YEARS AGO

Caddy Jokes, Shoots Ace

John Christensen, a 16-year-old Rochester High junior, has purchased two sets of golf clubs since he took up the game four years ago as a Bloomfield Hills caddy. But if he ever buys more, it isn't likely that he'll part with his No. 6 iron.

Recently, John played a round with caddy buddies Tom Dunseith and John Mallory. To make the competition more interesting, Christensen scored his card on a best-ball basis with Mallory.

The best-ball suspense, however, evaporated on the 160-yard 17th when Christensen blasted his tee shot for a hole-in-one, with the six iron. He eventually finished with a 74.

"While walking up to the

17th, I joked with Mallory about the fact that if we would come up with an ace and a par, we'd finish with a best ball of 69," Christensen said afterward.

The ace was the second for the Christensen family, according to John's father, Paul, of 147 Old Perch Road, Rochester, principal of the Fleming elementary school.

"I'll never forget my hole-in-one three years ago at Bald Mountain," recalled the senior Christensen, a golfer for some 25 years. "A strong wind was hitting me in the face when I aced my No. 3 iron shot," he said.

"I shoot in the high 70s, but if John keeps golfing on his off days, I'm going to find it rough staying with him on the course. When he isn't caddying at Bloomfield Hills, you'll usually find him working on his game at Bald Mountain."

Christensen's son has caddied at Bloomfield Hills for three years and last spring was the No. 1 prep member of Rochester's varsity golf squad as a sophomore. This summer the 6-foot, 165-pounder is averaging four rounds a week.

Ken Kolis likewise distinguished himself as a Detroit Golf Club caddy recently by

acing the south course's 172-yard No. 8 with a No. 5 iron. An honor student at U. of D. High, the 6-foot, 200-pound senior formerly starred in both basketball and baseball in the CYO grade school ranks at St. Bartholomew.

Kolis, who carded a 77 on the hole-in-one round, started caddying at DGC as an eighth grader.

"Ken became so enthused with golf, that he bought his own set of clubs when he was 15," related his mother, Mrs. Ted Kolis, of 20229 Charest. "He eats and sleeps the game today. I only hope he can make Fr. (John) Lasca's varsity squad next season at U. of D."

Ken Kolis

Acres 172-Yard Hole

John Christensen

Settles Best Ball Match



KEN KOLIS
Acres 172-Yard Hole



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