

Ann Arbor Girl Is Named to AAU All-America Track Team

ANN ARBOR (AP) — An attractive Ann Arbor High School senior who "has always liked to run" is Michigan's lone representative on the 1964 AAU Girls All-America track and field team.

In fact, Francie Kraker is the only girl from the northeast section of the country on the squad. Nine girls from California and another from Louisiana also were named.

Francie, 17, was named to the

team in the 880-yard run—an event she felt she couldn't run.

Ken Simmons, coach of the Ann Arbor Track Club, said when he first told the trim blonde she was going to be a half-miler she said, "I can't run that far."

"She had a good, natural stride and seemed to train harder as we went along. She concentrated on the sprints, but I always had the 880 in mind for her," Simmons said.

In workouts, Simmons had Francie run four 220s. Gradually, she ran them closer and closer together.

In her first year of running that distance, she set a record of 2:17.4 in winning the girls 880-yard title in the National AAU meet at Hanford, Calif., last summer.

The final heat in the race was only the eighth time she had run the event.

"I think she'll run the distance in 2:09 or 2:10, which is below the American record," her coach predicted.

Francie, who will compete in the National AAU indoor meet in New York, Feb. 19-20, plans to keep training for the big meets coming up.

"I want to travel around to meet with the AAU team this year. Then I'll aim for the Pan-Am Games in 1966 and the Olympics in 1968," she explained.

Francie has been running for three years and says it has not interfered with normal teen-age life.

"I've discovered," she said, "that if the boy is a good athlete himself then he appreciates a girl who does well in sports."

Francie, one of three daughters of an Ann Arbor osteopathic physician, can't explain why she runs so fast.

Her older sister never cared for sports, although a younger sister is beginning to take up track.

"My parents aren't athletic either," Francie said. "All I know is I could always run faster than other girls."

Richardson, who signed for an estimated \$35,000, which General Manager Ralph Houk said represented a "modest" raise, acknowledged he had given serious thought to quitting baseball at the end of the 1964 season.

"I've changed my mind," he said smilingly. "Rather, Houk changed it for me."

Bobby, who won't be 30 until August, led the American League in at bats last year, 679, while hitting .267. He had the most hits on the club, 181, and set a World Series record of 13 hits although the Yankees lost it in seven games to the St. Louis

Richardson 1st Yankee to Sign

NEW YORK (AP) — Bobby Richardson, first New York Yankee to sign his 1965 contract, said today the firing of Yogi Berra as Yankee manager came as a "shock" to him but at the same time he was looking forward to playing under Johnny Keane.

"Everything I've heard about Keane has been good," said the American League's All-Star second baseman. "He has an excellent knowledge of the game and he is a fellow who commands respect — in a quiet way."

"I had the opportunity of observing him on one occasion. That was a number of years ago when I played for him in an American Association All-Star game. He left a lasting impression upon me."

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