Miss Kraker Honored For AAU Performances

The track career of Ann Arbor's Francie Kraker took on a new sheen today.

Miss Kraker was selected as the state's most outstanding woman track and field athlete over the weekend following two record breaking performances in the Michigan AAU championships. The event was held at Dort Field in Flint.

It was the first time in the history of the event that such an honor has been bestowed upon an athlete and it will now become an annual award.

Miss Kraker, a member of the Southeastern Michigammes, easily outpolled two other candidates in the senior division for the award. They were Louise Gerrish, also of the Michigammes, and Karen Dennis of the Detroit Track Club.

Overall, the Detroit Track Club edged the Michigammes for the team championship, 114-108. The Michigammes, coached by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Simmons, led until the final event, the 440-yard relay. The Detroit Track Club won the event while the Michigamme team placed sixth.

Miss Kraker bettered two records she set last year. She won the 880-yard run in 2:14.9 and the 440-yard dash in :58.4. Her record times in the two events in 1964 were 2:26.3 and :59.6.

One of the highlights of the meet came in 880-yard run with members of the Michigammes team sweeping the first five places. Following Miss Kraker across the finish line were Gail Peterson of Farmington, Sperry Jones of Ann Arbor, Vonnie Perrine of Whitmore Lake, and Janie Shulte, of Ann Arbor.

Miss Gerrish, a 16-year-old Livonia standout, set a new record in the javelin with a toss of 151 feet, 7% inches and placed third in the shot put. Miss Dennis set new records in the 220 (:25.5) and the 100-yard dash (:11.3).

The Michigammes placed in every event except the 220 and century.

Other senior division point winners for the Michigammes are as follows: Cindy Jones of Howell, first in the spot put and second in the discus; Kathy Draggaman of Taylor, second in the high jump, fourth in the hurdles and fifth in the long jump; Paulette Szostak of Redford, second in the shot put and fourth in the javelin; Joyce Soth of Plymouth, fourth in the discus; Miss Peterson, sixth in the 440- and the 440-yard relay team of Misses Shulte, Soth, Perrine and Joanne Beebe, sixth.

Point winners in the junior division are Dawn Pilkington of Redford, second in the shot put, fifth in the long jump and sixth in the 220, and Mary Hokanson of Grass Lake, second in the 220, third in 100 and fourth in the long jump.