

AAU Honors Simmons, Michigammes

Ken Simmons, veteran Ann Arbor track coach and coach of the state Amateur Athletic Union champion Michigammes, has been named "Coach of the Year" by the AAU.

The Michigammes, a Southeastern Michigan track squad which includes several Ann Arbor and area members, were honored for their undefeated season and recent state title by designation as the "most improved track team."

Six state awards were presented by the AAU with Simmons and the Michigammes receiving four of the presentations, including the citation to Simmons which commended him for producing "outstanding athletes in every event."

Francie Kraker, a Michigan sophomore and a senior member of the Michigammes, won the "outstanding athlete award" for the second year in a row following her outstanding time of 2:05.9 in the 800-meter run.

An award cited Kathy Dragoman as the "most improved in field events" for her pentathlon and high jump records.

Also honored were Paulette Claire of the Detroit Track Club, named the "most improved runner" for her efforts in the 440-yard and 880-yard distances.

Paulette Claire also won the sportsmanship award voted by the girls themselves.