



Daily Press Photo by MIKE McCLURE

DARTING UNDER THE FINISH TAPE, wee Diane Hammerle comes home ahead of Lincoln Park Wolves.

verines track teammates (left to right) Sherice du Champs, Debbie Lansky and Kathy Moore.

Girls' Track Team 'Mixes Things Up'

By **BOB LUPO**

The color line doesn't exist in track and field. All that counts is the finish line.

That's the way Hayes and Jones sees it. And Hayes ought to know. The former Pontiac High and Eastern Michigan University track star has been in two Olympics — and has won about every honor available.

"I don't understand this threatened boycott of the Olympic Games by some Negro athletes," Hayes says. "It's unjust for the athletes to do this. I ran because I loved to and wanted to. There was no thought of reward. And I never ran into any racial problems."

JONES, NOW a sales representative for American Airlines in Detroit, won the high hurdles in the 1964 Olympics and was third in the same event in 1960. He won five AAU outdoor and eight AAU indoor high hurdle titles and was the 1959 NCAA high and low hurdles champion.

"Where do you find discrimination

in track and field?" Jones asks. "The fastest man wins, or the man who jumps the highest. In track, we go as a team black or white. I've never encountered discrimination in a national or international meet."

To back up his point, Jones pointed to his current role as women's track and field chairman for the Michigan AAU. In less than three years he has developed a program for more than 600 girls and women. "We have more white girls competing than Negroes, but plenty of both," Hayes said.

HE CITED the Lincoln Parkettes, a group of teenage and younger girls in all-white Lincoln Park, who were formed in 1965. "These girls, under coaching of Richard Beyst, my assistant chairman, have become a national power in girls' track and field. They became acquainted with a club of Negro girls, the Washington AC, and they liked each other so much the Parkettes asked the other girls to merge with them."

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'Mixing Things Up'

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The new club, called the Wolverines, works out daily in Lincoln Park under Beyst's tutelage. There are about 45 girls in the club, and about 30 are white.

"We don't even know what color is," Beyst says. The girls room together on trips, practice together and stay in both white and colored homes.

"The girls get on each other once in a while, but it's always when they think a girl isn't training hard enough. And, more often, it's the white girls who are in that group."

LAST SEPTEMBER, in Baltimore, Beyst said, Debbie McCullum, a 10-year-old from the old Washington AC, finished second in a cross-country race, edging out her Lincoln Park teammate, Nanette Du Champ, 10, by about three seconds.

Both girls were exhausted, but they put their arms around each other and helped each other stay on their feet. Parents of both girls took pictures of this happy cooperation and treasure the memory, Beyst said.

Some of the Wolverine girls are on the way to national stardom.

The team finished second in the National Women's AAU cross-country meet in Albuquerque this summer, and fourth in the junior meet.

Kathy Moore, a 14-year-old, finished

sixth in the women's division and earned a trip to Dublin, Ireland, with the U.S. women's team next March. Jacki Ford, 15, ran 10th in the same meet. "Our two best juniors were sick and missed the meet or the team would have finished higher," Beyst said.

AMONG HIS OTHER stars are Diane Hammerle, a 7-year-old, who won the half-mile cross-country run for girls in the Canadian Provincial Championships in Toronto.

More than 40 boys and girls ran in the meet, and Diane beat all the girls. She led the boys until the last 200 yards, when she let two of them pass her. She tearfully told Beyst: "I didn't know where to run. I forgot where the finish line was."

Debby Lansky, 14, tied the Junior Olympics 50-yard hurdles record at 6.7 for girls 16 and under. Kathy Moore set a U.S. senior record for the one-hour run, covering eight miles, 144 yards.

Two high jumpers, Nancy Olson and Mary Barinoff, now 15, cleared 5 feet when they were 14 and were second and third in the Junior Olympics in Chicago.

THE GIRLS traveled this past season to Baltimore, Albuquerque, Toronto, Chicago, Indianapolis and Ashland, O.

Sherice du Champ, 13, Nanette's older sister, made the women's All-American track team in the pentathlon.