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Kalamazoo Meet Opens Track Season Saturday

KALAMAZOO—The last traces of snow have barely melted from sight, but the 1967 high school track season will get underway here Saturday in the third annual Kalamazoo Indoor Invitational meet at Western Michigan University's Read Fieldhouse.

Meet manager Del Brenner of Kalamazoo Loy Norrix has lined up 48 teams—12 in each of four enrollment classes—including three defending team champions, but all three face a tough battle to retain their titles.

Battle Creek Central in Class I, South Haven in Class II and Battle Creek St. Philip in Class III will be back to defend the crowns they won last year, but the Class IV title is up for grabs since Kalamazoo University High has gone out of existence.

Since the meet will mark the first competition of the season for most of the teams entered, pre-meet forecasts are based largely on 1966 performances or estimated times, which leaves room for plenty of surprises on the track Saturday.

All three of Berrien County's Class A schools—Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Niles—are entered in the Class I competition, but none of the three figures to be strong enough for the likes of Battle Creek, Kalamazoo Central, Jackson Parkside or Loy Norrix.

St. Joe, however, won three individual events during the 1966 meet and could easily capture two of them again Saturday.

State runner-up Mike Miller has the fastest 1966 time (49.5) in the quarter mile, which he won last year in 53.3, and is a slight favorite over Kalamazoo's Mike Messer after clocking 53.8 in his first outing last week.

The Bears' other two defending champs have graduated—hurdler Mike Johnson and miler John Wismer, but Greg Parrett has a good chance of taking the mile title after running an impressive 4:31 in his first try this year.

South Haven has individual champions back in three events but has lost double winner Willie Sledge and figures to get stiff competition for the team title from Vicksburg, Kalamazoo Hackett, Plainwell and Niles Brandywine.

Leading the Rams' bid for a second straight championship will be sprinter Ron Gordon and half-miler Joe Clay. Gordon won the 60-yard dash in 6.6 and took the long jump at 21-2, while Clay won the 880 in 2:00.9 and later hit 2:00.1 in the Class B regionals.

Shot put standout Dale Clark heads up Brandywine's forces, while Berrien Springs has two Class II contenders in hurdler Jack Wetzel and quarter-miler Jesse Ruiz and Paw Paw has hurdler Ron Labadie.

Bangor is rated a strong contender for the Class III championship and has one of the division's top individuals in versatile Arbhie Privett, who has the best performances in both the high and low hurdles and the high jump.

Cassopolis, which finished second to South Haven in Class II last year, could also be a contender in Class III, but Hartford and Pennville are rated as long shots.

Class IV competition figures to be a real scramble with Mendon, Lawrence and Climax-Scotts given the best chances to succeed U-High. Lawrence has individual pacesetters in the shot put with big John Marconi and in the mile with Mike Spencer.

Joining Lawrence in the Class IV competition will be five other Al-Van conference schools—Bloomingdale, Gobles, Lawton, Martin and Saugatuck.

The meet gets under way at 1:30 p.m. with field events for classes III and IV and preliminaries in the dashes and hurdles for all classes at 2:00.

Field events for Classes I and II will start at 6:00 p.m., with final running events in all classes scheduled to start at 6:30.

Admission is 50 cents for students and $1.00 for adults for the evening finals. There is no advance sale, with all tickets available at the East entrance to the fieldhouse.

Hot John Pott Hunts Jackpot

GREENSBORO, N. C. (AP) — You have to drop all the way down to 53rd place in the latest money list to find the name of Johnny Pott, the leader going into today's second round of the Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament.

JOHNNY POTT

The 31-year-old, one-time No. 1 player on the Louisiana State golf team shot his best round of the year Thursday, a six-under-par 65.

It gave him a two-stroke lead over defending champion Doug Sanders and Californians George Archer and Dave Stockton in the $125,000 tournament, which has a $25,000 first prize.

Pott has won four tour events since turning professional in 1956, but none since 1963.

Last year he won nothing but money—$47,000—to rank 18th. In a five-week stretch last spring he pocketed more than $25,000 with finishes ranging from second to seventh.

But this year he has won only $3,700 in official money, with a 10th place tie his best finish.

Pott's opening round over the 7,000-yard, par 71 Sedgefield Country Club course produced six birdies, the longest from 20 feet, and 12 pars. He played the par 36-35 course in 33-33 and was one shot off the course record.

Archer, a lanky 6-foot-6 professional of four years, has more than the Greensboro tournament on his mind. He wants to earn a spot in the Masters with a good stowing here. Two more places are available for the Augusta, Ga., classic, and Archer leads the point race which will determine them.

He knocked in a nine-foot putt on the final hole to complete a bogey-free round of 35-32.

Sanders, winner here twice and a playoff loser in the last four years, had a 34-33 card as did Stockton, who was assessed two penalty strokes after hitting into the water on two holes.

Chi Chi Rodriguez, the 116-pound Puerto Rican who has

Greensboro Leaders

Johnny Pott	32-33—65
George Archer	33-32—65
Dave Stockton	34-33—67
Doug Sanders	34-33—67
Chi Chi Rodriguez	34-34—68
Gary Player	35-33—68
Charles Sifford	36-33—69
Lanny Harris	35-34—69
Jerry Mowis	36-33—69
Jim Ferrier	33-36—69
Arnold Palmer	33-36—69
Ronny Rhinehart	34-35—69
xBill Harvey	35-34—69
Roger Ginsberg	35-34—69
Bill Collins	36-34—70
Gene Littler	35-35—70
Bob Lunsford	36-34—70
Dean Refram	36-34—70
R.H. Sikes	37-33—70
Tommy Bolt	37-33—70
Sam Snead	33-37—70
Phil Rodgers	33-37—70
Pete Brown	34-36—70
Tom Nieporte	34-36—70
Ken Still	33-37—70
Harold Knees	36-34—70
Dudley Wysong	33-37—70
Dick Lotz	36-34—70
John Mantyre	36-34—70
Bob Charles	33-37—70
Joe Carr	34-37—71
John Schlee	34-37—71
Tom Nieporte	34-37—71

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