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For Mansfield Relays Track Stars Invade Ohio

BY HAL SCHRAM

This is the weekend the Midwest's track and field tourists move into north Central Ohio.

It's the weekend of the 36th annual Mansfield Relays, the granddaddy of interscholastic track and field carnivals in these parts.

Harry Mebock, who ends a 26-year reign as meet manager Saturday, started this whole show back in 1927 with three teams. Saturday he'll entertain over 200 schools, some 2,200 individuals, from six states and Canada.

With the assistance of an IBM computer, Mebock and his committee set up 120 heats to be run in two hours Saturday.

JUST A wonderful outgrowth of our present way of life, Mebock said, we used to spend all night getting those heats ready.

Many great Olympic stars of the past and present have competed at Mansfield, such as Jesse Owens, Warren (Rex) Cawley, Harrison Dillard, Clinton Jones and others.

"We'll have two boys shooting for Owens' 100-yard dash record of .39.6 Saturday," Mebock said. Both Bobby Green, of Eminence, Ky., and Gerald Hinder, son, of Canton McKinley, have turned in times of .39.3.

SOME 800 athletes from 50 Michigan schools will compete. Michigan's top contender will be Bill Tipton of Pontiac Central who set a record of 14 seconds flat in the 120-yard high hurdles at Mansfield a year ago.

Another record in danger is Tom Kearney's 4:19.6 mark in the mile. Kearney, of Bloomfield Hills, set his record in 1965.

This is a community project. Over 100 citizens, most of whom Mebock has coached in his 36 years, assist him on a dozen committees.

Contestants who travel 135 miles or more are housed free of charge by citizens in this community, which recently constructed a new \$60,000 jobane rubber and asphalt track with seating accommodations for 6,000.

MANY RECORDS border on the fantastic from a schoolboy standpoint.

Steve Keller of Lexington, Ky., set a half mile record of 1:24.6 here a year ago. Mike Mercer of Oakville, Ont., holds the shot put record of 62 feet 4 1/2 inches. Willow Run's Willie Prewitt set the broad jump mark of 24 feet 3 1/4 inches in 1957.

This is a mecca of great performances where only throws of 40 feet in the shot and jumps of 28 feet or better are measured.

Friday afternoon's program features the two-mile run and four mile relay. Saturday's preliminaries start at 10 a.m. with finals getting underway at 1:30 p.m.

Pontiac Central is the only Michigan school to win a team title. The Chiefs did it twice in 1956 and 1958.

Hamtramck Ace Pitches 2-Hitter

John Kryczkowski, one of the area's finest schoolboy pitching prospects, made his 1967 debut a formidable one Wednesday.

Kryczkowski, Hamtramck High senior, pitched a two-hitter in hurling the Cosmos past St. Ladislav, 4-0. He struck out 13 batters.

MAURICE GEROMETTE allowed only three hits and hammered a triple and single in leading Notre Dame to a 5-0 victory over East Detroit. It was Notre Dame's second victory of the season.

Jerry Iwanicki's two-run single in the second inning highlighted Cranbrook's 3-2 conquest of Royal Oak Kimball.

Fraser blanked Lutheran East, 1-0 on Alex Kujawski's two-hitter.

Jim Walters won both the high and low hurdles at Redford St. Mary took 10 of 14 first places in defeating Orchard Lake St. Mary, 67 1/2-50 1/2, in a dual track meet.

High School Cage Meet Records Fall

Michigan has moved into fourth place as a high school basketball tournament state, it was revealed Wednesday by Charles E. Forsythe.

Total attendance for the 1967 classic concluded last month was a record 275,819 with gate receipts hitting a high of \$622,640.

Only Indiana, Illinois and Ohio surpass Michigan in either attendance or receipts. Minnesota rates fifth.

Participating schools have received \$287,355 with another \$75,000 to be distributed to these schools later. The High School Athletic Association retained \$386,776 for its operating budget.

Radio and television broadcast fees brought in another \$11,591.

Titans Boot Game to Irish

Mansfield preview 4-13-1967

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