



—Grand Rapids Press Photographer

Jim Cross (left), Rick Hendrickson Lead Creston in 440

Skill in Middle Distances Lifts Creston Track Hopes

By BILL CORNWELL

spring and one of the top sprinters in the conference.

Replacing Fultz, a king-sized challenge, is the order of the day and presently heading the list of contenders are Jack Hendrickson and Jim Allen.

"As of now, they're the two best sprinters on our squad," Walz said. Both Hendrickson and Allen have recorded as low as 10.5 in the 100-yard dash. Hendrickson also is testing his luck in the long jump and, according to Walz, has 20-foot potential.

From the standpoint of depth, Walz considers the 440 the team's best event.

Cross, who's also doing the long jump in addition to tackling the high jump, and Rick Hendrickson, Jack's younger brother, are credited with 54-second capability in the 440 by the Creston coach. But both of them are being pressed by a handful of others, Walz added.

The Bears have a half-miler with fine potential in Tchozeski, a senior who's hovering around the two-minute mark in the 880 run. Also showing much promise in the 880 are senior Gary Wagner and sophomore Tom Donald. Creston's best miler in early practice is senior Bill Krushe-ski.

Sixteen returning lettermen form the nucleus of Creston's team and the Bears will need

help from all of them if they hope to climb in the conference standings. The Polar Bears open their 1967 campaign next Friday against West Catholic at Houseman Field.

Strength in the middle distances — at least from a numerical stand point—and anticipated improvement in the field events brighten the track picture this spring at Creston High School.

Coach Jarv Walz isn't expecting any miracles, but he's confident his Polar Bears will do better than they did a year ago when they won only one dual meet to share the City League basement.

Walz has a lengthy list of candidates for the middle distance events, spearheaded by three letter-winning athletes — quarter-milers Jim Cross and Rick Hendrickson and half-miler Steve Tchozeski.

The field event situation also looks better, even though several new faces will be on the scene.

Hurdler Mel Jones and pole vaulter Phil Williams, both juniors, and senior shot-putter George Mollian appear capable of increasing Creston's strength in the field events.

Jones, who also will anchor the Bears' 880 relay unit, posted encouraging times in the two hurdle events last year as a sophomore, clocking 21.8 in the low sticks and hitting 16.2 in the high timbers. Walz believes Jones will better those times this season.

Mollian, who has been lifting weights to strengthen himself for the shot put, seems capable of reaching the 50-foot plateau and is currently tossing the 12-pound iron ball close to 48 feet. Williams cleared 10-6 last spring and Walz thinks he can approach the 12-foot level this year.

Walz needs help in the dashes and the high jump, especially the latter.

Cross, one of the City League's finest 440 runners, could emerge as Creston's No. 1 high jumper unless Claude Lewis, a transfer student from defending champion Ottawa Hills, shows signs of plugging the gap.

Creston's outlook in the dashes was dimmed by the graduation of Steve Fultz, the squad's leading scorer last

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