

## Six Marks in Jeopardy in Saturday Event

# Record City Track Meet on Horizon?

By LEN HOYES

It could be the best city track championship in the meet's 38-year history. That's saying something in Flint which has spawned four state champions, 12 runners-up and two third-placers in the last 12 years. Despite that tall order, the ingredients are present Saturday at Dort Field where Central, Northern, Southwestern and Northwestern put The Francis Smith Trophy up for grabs.

THE ONLY POSSIBLE deterrent to an afternoon of record smashing is the weather — or rather, the lack of good weather — which has plagued many a city meet in previous years. Some of Flint's finest trackmen have been denied their day in the sun.

Last year, for instance, 38-degree temperature and wind in the 14-22 miles per hour range created a miserable afternoon at Northwestern. Snow fell in 1963 when the meet last

was held at Dort Field.

Saturday's action begins at 11 a.m. with preliminaries in the hurdles and dashes and finals in the field events. The running finals begin at 1 p.m.

Preliminaries are needed to cut the field to six finalists in the short events.

IF THE WEATHERMAN gives 'em half a chance, the locals have good shots at six meet

records: High jump, pole vault, mile, 880, 100 and 220. Another will automatically be established in the two-mile which is a prep event this year for the first time.

The track will help. Central's oval is the best of four mediocre tracks on which the state's best prep teams must run.

Central's Herb Washington already has been clocked in 9.7 seconds for 100 yards and 21.8 for 220 and must be conceded a good chance to

break meet records of 10.0 and 22.2. Northern's William Wallace had 9.8 last week for the century without wind assistance and 21.5 for the longer distance with wind help.

WASHINGTON'S 9.7 TIME on April 18 established a Dort Field record. With the possible exception of the field high jump record (6-6) none of the other field records appears in danger, mainly because Dort is the site for Junior College, Olympian Games and CAN-USA Games competition and has a flashy set of records.

Freels Bacon of Central has cleared 6-6 in the high jump and threatens the meet record of 6-4.

Northern's Gene Lee pole vaulted 13-2 to prepare for an assault on the meet record of 12-5.

The mile (4:32.6) and 880 records (2:00.2) may hinge on the placement of Central's two-mile champ, Jim Love. He won the state mile in 4:19.6 last year but has run only the 880 this spring with a best time of 1:58.

EVEN IF LOVE doesn't run the mile, Central has a worthy contender in Jim Morse whose best time of 4:33.2 needs only slight improvement to gain a place in the record book. However, Morse may be better at two miles where his best time is 9:52.4.

That leaves seven events where records probably are secure.

Central is favored in the 880 and mile relays. The hurdles favorite is Northwestern's Dennis Logan who's undefeated against city rivals.

Pivotal events are the shot put, long jump and 440.

NORTHERN'S GORDON Brown may be the best putter but he lost to Southwestern. At least five men have chances to win the long jump where Central's Clyde Lyon's 20-11 1/4 is best among the probable starters.

The 440 is wide open and might produce the most excitement because of the bunched field.

Central, with victories over Northern and Southwestern, is the heavy favorite to win for the 19th time. Defending champ Southwestern has almost no chance to win and may have trouble taking a first place because versatile Lavern Miller is ailing.

MILLER, WHO WON the high jump the last two years and the long jump last year, has competed only in the high jump since suffering a leg injury in the indoor meet at Mount Pleasant.

He and Love are the only defending champs.

Southwestern won the 1966 title with 81 points. Central had 61, Northern 28 and Northwestern 25. The Vikings and Wildcats figure to improve those totals Saturday and should join Southwestern in a three-way joust for runner-up honors.



Gene Lee . . . Ready to Assault Vault Mark



Herb Washington . . . Threatens Two Records

—Journal Photos by Robert L. Parks

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## The MINT LINE

By Doug Mintline

Jack Pratt has done his job. Now I'll do mine.

He's the coach of St. Matthew High, the gentleman who was a subject here earlier for his sound discipline. There was a feeling on his part and mine that boys should follow the rules and that championships were and are secondary.

To be more specific, coaching is teaching and as such our young people, Jack's and mine and yours, must be taught by qualified people the need to earn respect.

St. Matthew won the state Class D basketball championship and ALL team members were declared heroes, the natural reaction in our scheme of life. And this is right. Let's give credit when it's earned.

By the same token, let's teach our young athletes they must set an example. I'll go back to some old statements.

For every boy who can run the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds flat, there are thousands who can't. For every 6-foot-5 basketball star there's a 5-foot-4 buddy who can't make the grade.

Too often the fellows who have God-given talent to merit a \$50,000 bonus forget the boy next door who had polio and can't drag a withered leg into the sports arena.

### Making the Grade Is Special

Thus making the grade in athletics is to be cherished as something special.

Three boys on Pratt's state title team did not treat their once-in-a-lifetime achievement as something special. Or at least they didn't treat it special within the rules established by Pratt.

There has been an attempt here to convince Pratt that such a development should and must be published the same as the glorious account that made these boys heroes to my children and yours. Pratt disagrees.

Says Pratt, "We didn't ask to have our accomplishments publicized. Neither do we ask to have this circumstance publicized."

He also says, "Your paper doesn't print a list of our letter winners. Why do you want to print the names of three boys who didn't get letters?"

### Can't Hide Infractions, Jack

The reason, Jack, is that we can't place young men on a pedestal as champions but hide under a stone their inability to follow the rules.

There has been a decision here not to use names, although it's against my better judgment. Pratt says the boys might be hurt by such a story and there's no idea in this corner to say I'm right and he's wrong. Only respect sways my decision.

Still it's necessary to say that I feel boys who move into this realm of public life must be taught to understand that newspapers have an obligation to print both the good and the bad news.

There's another thought. Because the three disciplined aren't being named, some fans might incorrectly accuse ANY of the others on the squad who DID follow the team rules. Yet the final word here rests with Pratt.

### A Business Interview Necessary

It was necessary finally to make an off-the-record, friendly discussion of the situation into an on-the-record, business matter. It went as follows:

Did three boys who played for you in the state championship game fail to get letters? "Yes," answered Pratt.

Who were they?

"No comment," said Pratt.

Why didn't they get letters?

"No comment," Pratt said.

How come you aren't willing to name the boys or tell why they didn't get letters?

"I can't see how it would serve any purpose," Pratt answered. "It's a private matter."

Such an interview makes Pratt's stand admirable. For reasons not understood by me he chooses to say this isn't anybody's business.

### How About Others Who Faltered?

Yet I remember Bill Cave, once a track coach at Northern, suspending Leon Burton during a track season for an infraction of team rules. It happened just before a Saginaw Valley Conference meet the Vikings were supposed to win but lost without Burton.

Burton rejoined the team later and Northern won the state title, Burton establishing a record in the low hurdles as one of the all-time great Flint trackmen.

I remember Coach Guy Houston suspending several boys, finishing a season with a skeleton football team, and how the lessons to be learned were deemed more important than the fact some young people chose to challenge the rules.

There are many more examples.

Somehow the need to let our youth know that good and bad deserve equal treatment from the standpoint of praise and criticism seems most important to me.

I'm sorry, Jack. It ISN'T a private matter.



Jim Love . . . Best at 880

# Trout Streams to Be Crowded

By KENNETH L. PETERSON  
Journal Outdoor Editor

Here's the safest prediction one can make for opening of the general trout season Saturday—the streams will be full of trout fishermen.

The streams will be crowded because trout anglers are eternally optimistic.

Let's face it: This is Michigan. To expect a mild, dry opening at the end of April is asking quite a bit—particularly since we have had a late spring.

NORMALLY, WATERS are high and a little dirty and cold. That is just what can be expected in the north this weekend.

If temperatures are on the cool side and the pitter-patter of a cold spring rain sneaks under your collar, well—that's par for the course as well.

Insulated boots and clothing and rain gear will be in order whether you wade or fish from a boat. Stream temperatures will be hovering around 50 degrees—colder in small feeder creeks.

Actually, the high water is a blessing, in view of the generally lowered water table of the state. It will make this spring one of the finest in years if rain ever ends its weekly visitation and cold weather abates.

WHEN STREAMS are brim



Population on Trout Streams to Be Heavy

full, fish are able to utilize logs and banks that do them no good in low water. They will be in places you could not fish at mid-summer last year, giving you that much more chance of catching a trout.

Rivers on the western side of the Lower Peninsula may be in better condition for fishing because of the early run-off there.

These include the Little Manistee, Pere Marquette, Betzie, Platté and Boardman riv-

ers; Bear Creek and the North Branch of the Pentwater River. Lingering steelhead in these streams will be enticing bonuses for fishermen.

THROUGH THE middle of Lower Michigan streams are generally high and dirty. Included are the Tobacco River system, the Muskegon and Middle Branch rivers, the Au Sable River system, Sturgeon, Pigeon and Black.

Lakes may be more produc-

tive, particularly in the Flint area. Good producers last year were Hasler Lake and Lake Nepessing. So were trout ponds like the ones at Fenton and Davisburg and ponds and lakes in northern Oakland County.

If the weather warms and rain holds off over the weekend, you must consider it a bonus that doesn't come often at the end of April.

Just to be safe take your nightcrawlers in at night.

## Meet, Dort Field Records

### City Meet Records

Long jump — 22-10; by William Whitaker, Southwestern, 1963.  
Shot put — 56-3 1/4 by Doug Yancey, Southwestern, 1966.  
High jump — 6-4 1/4 by Al Washington, Northern, 1962.  
Pole vault — 12-5 by Mac Farmer, Southwestern, 1964.  
Two-mile — No record.  
880 relay — 1:29.6 by Central (Rich Yedinak, Lew Patton, Gene Bowen, George Hoy) 1965.  
Mile — 4:32.6 by Gary Grenshaw, Central, 1959.  
120 high hurdles — 14.8 by Mack Combs, Northwestern, 1965.  
880 — 2:00.2 by Neal Patterson, Central, 1963.  
440 — 51.0 by Dennis Wright, Northern, 1959.  
100 — 10.0 by Maurice Pea, Northern, 1960 and Wilbur Johnson, Northern, 1963.  
180 low hurdles — 19.7 by Len Hatchet, Central, 1965.  
220 — 22.2 by Ron Watkins, Central, 1959.  
Mile relay — 3:32.7 by Central (John Shaw, Hiram Brisker, Jim Toles, Bob Deenen) 1961.

### Dort Field Records

100 — 9.7 by Herb Washington, Flint Central, 1967.  
220 — 21.9 by Bob Coeling, Grand Rapids J.C., 1958, and Maurice Pea, Flint Junior College, 1962.  
440 — 48.4 by Bob Waters, Central Michigan J.V., 1962.  
880 — 1:54.8 by Roy Tucker, Hamilton Ont., 1964.  
Mile — 4:20.7 by Doug Hansen, Hillsdale College, 1965.  
Two mile — 9:47.4 by Terry Kozlowski, Central Michigan, 1966.  
120 high hurdles — 14.4 by Hayes Jones, Pontiac Central, 1956.  
180 low hurdles — 19.2 by Ron McCullick, Flint, 1964.  
880 relay — 1:30.4 by Flint Northern (Dennis McGee, Hue Edwards, J. B. Eitz, Maurice Pea) 1950.  
Mile relay — 3:20 by Hamilton, Ont., 1966.  
Long jump — 23-9 1/2 by Willie Dent, Flint, 1962 and William Whitaker, Flint, 1964.  
High jump — 6-6 by Al Washington, Flint Northern, 1962.  
Pole vault — 14 1/2 by Kent Hall, Flint, 1964.  
Shot put — 56-11 by Cliff Kittle, Flint, 1964.

## McLain Bids to Better ERA Against Orioles

DETROIT (AP) — Only three Detroit Tigers pitchers have hurled 20 innings or more this season, and Denny McLain is the worst of those three in allowing runs.

The 23-year-old McLain will get a tough test in whether he can lower his 4.50 earned run

two-night doubleheader. The Orioles moved up their contest with California to tonight at Baltimore.

McLain has pitched 20 innings this season. Joe Sparrma, who has hurled 20 1-3, leads the regular pitching battery with a 2.70 ERA. Big Earl Wilson