



—Journal Photo by William Gallagher

Dennis Logan . . . Little Guy, Big Heart

Determination Aids Little Dennis Logan

By LEN HOYES

If there was a state championship for hurdlers under 5-feet-8, Dennis Logan would be a shoo-in winner.

So says a rival of Northwestern High's little timber-topper who probably represents his school's best chance to place in the 1967 Class A meet.

The 5-6½, 140-pound senior's progress to a place of honor among Michigan's prep hurdlers is primarily the result of determination — a quality which Coach Bob Bloomer wishes he could instill in a few more Wildcats.

LOGAN IS TOO SHORT for a hurdler and possesses only fair speed. Yet, he's been defeated only twice during the outdoor season and 10 days ago was the only individual double champion in the city meet.

The best proof of Logan's determination was competition in cross country last fall. Sprinters and hurdlers seldom are suited for long distances but Logan ran to stay in top shape.

As Bloomer relates, "Another coach told me I had one of the best hurdlers in the country if he could run against men of his size."

THERE'S ALMOST NO sense for Logan to dream about a state championship because Pontiac Central's Bill Tipton is the finest prep hurdler in the United States. But the little Wildcat can become only the second Northwestern prep to get points in two events when the state's best congregate at East Lansing.

Logan was unbeaten until bumping into Battle Creek Central's Larry Evans last Saturday in the Albion College meet. Logan was second to Evans in both the 120 highs and 180 lows. Inasmuch as Evans placed sixth and fifth, respectively, in the 1966 state meet, Logan can measure his potential for May 27.

Bloomer figures Logan best in the high hurdles because he must overstride to get in seven steps between low hurdles.

"HIS FORM IS AS GOOD as any hurdler I've coached and that's why he does so well," explained Bloomer.

Logan seldom hits a hurdle and he's unhappy when it happens. He figured he could have dropped the city meet record beyond 14.7 seconds if he hadn't bumped a hurdle.

Logan's best time for the high hurdles is 14.3 seconds and his top effort in the lows is 19.7.

He's also a long jumper but probably will confine regional efforts to the hurdles in order to attempt to qualify for the state meet.

As a sophomore he was second fiddle to Mack Combs who eventually placed third in two state meet events. Last year Logan missed a trip to the state meet by placing fourth in the regional low hurdles.

This year he figures to take that extra step.

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