

Central's Jim Love Keeps Record Touch in Mile, 880

By LEN HOYES

Every time Jim Love runs a mile he sets a record.

At least it seems that way.

The slim Central High senior has run the mile only once outdoors this spring: A 4:23.8 Saginaw Valley Conference meet record last Friday night at Saginaw.

IT WAS GOOD evidence that he hasn't lost the record touch since last May when he reduced Central's varsity standard to 4:19.6 by winning the state championship. Better competition last Friday might have forced Love beneath his best figure.

Added to a 4:26 mile — it was a record, too — in last year's regional at Saginaw, Love has set records in his last four tries.

The record he broke in the Valley meet was his own, held over from 1965 when he won as a sophomore.

HE'S BEEN VALLEY champ three straight years and was city champion in 1965 and 1966. He gave up a chance for a third straight city title to run the 880 and won in a time of 1:58.4 which was, naturally, a record. He already owned the school standard of 1:56.3.

Love concentrated on the 880 most of the spring in order to build speed. Not possessed with a blazing kick, he must rely on steady quarter miles to achieve a lead great enough to hold off an opponent's stronger finish.

WHETHER OR NOT Love can get within range of the state meet record 4:13.2 is questionable but Central Coach Carl Krieger and his distance specialist, Assistant Coach Varnard Gay, figure he might do it with good weather (what's that?) and good competition.

Much more important than the record is another state meet victory because it represents eight points in Central's possible bid for the title. It would neutralize one of the expected two victories by Pontiac Central hurdler Bill Tipton.

Love probably will get all the competition he needs Friday night against Steve Gorsalitz, Clio's fine miler who's been down to 4:23 this spring.

It's a duel anyone should Love to watch.



—Journal Photo by Robert Parks

Jim Love . . . Records and Victories

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