

THE

Clubhouse

BY JIM O'TOOLE, SPORTS EDITOR

GIRL ATHLETES are more dedicated than boys. Girl athletes are more difficult to work with than boys.

These are two conclusions, among many, that Richard M. Beyst has reached in five years as coach of the Wolverine Parkettes, a girls' track team based in Lincoln Park and drawing members from all Downriver communities.

Now a teacher at Huff Junior High School in Lincoln Park, Beyst also serves as assistant varsity track coach at Lincoln Park High School, besides devoting his time voluntarily to coach the Parkettes, one of the state's most successful girls' track squads.

Beyst was the subject of a feature story in the March issue of the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union Bulletin.

The youthful coach (he's 28) serves the AAU as state chairman of both the women's track and field committee and the long-distance-running committee.

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Ran Track at Lincoln Park High

A GRADUATE of Lincoln Park High School, Beyst was the first member of his Belgian family to be born in the United States. All of his near relatives immigrated to Canada in the 1940s and 1950s and his parents are from Belgium.

Beyst was an 880-yard runner in high school. He earned a bachelor of science degree in education at Central Michigan University, where he earned varsity letters in track and cross country. He went on to achieve a master's degree in history at Eastern Michigan University.

He started coaching girls' track when Huff school officials asked him to organize an intramural girls' track meet in 1963. The enthusiastic response impressed Beyst and he decided to organize a girls' track club to provide year-round competition.

The organization has grown by leaps and bounds since then. Their itinerary for 1968 reads like a travelogue, with stops at Ypsilanti, Plymouth and Flint, all in Michigan; and also in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Toronto, Ottawa, Ashland, Ohio, and Frederick, Maryland.

Assisting Beyst in the coaching department are Eugene West, former trackman at Western Michigan University; Bob Wenzel, a graduate of the University of Michigan; Tom Niles, a Michigan State University graduate who is considered the club's