

# Francie Kraker Trains Hard For Trials

**By Bill Anderson**  
A group of youngsters scampers around the Ferry Field oval.  
"I wish I could have started running that young."  
The observation came from Francie Kraker, who just happens to be Ann Arbor's best hope for the Olympic Games in Mexico City this fall.

Not only has a relatively late start clouded the future of the Michigan coed, but a severe case of tendonitis in the hip canceled last summer's competition.  
Miss Kraker has her hopes set on running in the 800 meters in the Olympics and under the skillful coaching of Ken Simmons she just might make it yet.

Simmons has outlined a difficult and demanding program of twice-a-day training sessions and a weekly schedule of events which will culminate in the United States Olympic Trials in Los Angeles on Aug. 23-24.  
"I am trying to establish a balance between speed and endurance," Miss Kraker said. "I do the endurance

work in the morning and the all out speed work in the afternoon."  
The morning workouts consist of repeating 1,100 yard runs and in the afternoons she runs time trials. The shortest is 220 yards and the longest 440 yards.  
"I don't try to add up the mileage," she said. "I have had no problems with injuries. I have been lucky."  
"I am trying to bring my speed down. You have to put the speed and endurance together in a winning combination."



FRANCIE KRAKER

## 'Stars' Vie Tuesday

**NEW YORK — (NEA) —** The difference in carrying a .300 batting average for the National League All-Stars and a .195 average for the New York Mets is one year. Or so it seems to Jerry Grote.

The 25-year-old catcher from San Antonio, Tex., won a position on the NL starting lineup by receiving more votes than the Dodgers' Tom Haller, Cincinnati rookie John Bench, Atlanta's Joe Torre and the Cardinals' Tim McCarver, who finished second through fifth in that order in the balloting.

"Everybody kept saying I couldn't miss," was Grote's reaction. "But I wasn't that sure. There are too many good catchers in the league. This year I lowered my hands and shortened my swing at bat, and started hitting line drives again. Also, when I go out to call a game for our young pitchers now, I

feel prepared and comfortable. There's no second-guessing."

Grote played a year at Trinity University before joining the Texas League in 1963. The next year he hit .181 in 100 games at Houston and spent the following season at Oklahoma City. A year later he went to the Mets.

The Tuesday game at Houston was the farthest thing from Grote's mind last summer when he was having trouble just staying with the Mets.

This year didn't look promising either.

Jerry Grote was the backup man in the bullpen.

But J. C. Martin had a broken finger in the first game and Grote came on, not only to lead the Mets in hitting, but also to establish himself as the NL's hardest catcher to steal on.

Frank Howard, Washington's big swinger, heads the American League cast, which includes Harmon Killebrew and Rod Carew of Minnesota, Baltimore's Brooks Robinson, Jim Fregosi of the Angels, and last year's MVP winner, Carl Yastrzemski of the Red

Sox. League - leading Detroit placed two players, Willie Horton and Bill Freehan.

Robinson will make his ninth consecutive appearance for the AL. Freehan, who led in the balloting, will probably be catching his teammate, Denny McLain, plus Sam McDowell and Luis Tiant of the Indians, and Tommy John of the White Sox.

Joining Jerry Grote on the NL squad are Willie McCovey (Giants), Curt Flood (Cards), Hank Aaron (Braves), Pete Rose (the top vote-getter) and Tommy Helms of the Reds and Ron Santo and Don Kessinger of the Cubs. Pitchers expected to see action are Juan Marichal, Jerry Koosman, Bob Gibson and Don Drysdale.

### Fund Assists Olympic Hopeful

Persons desiring to help Francie Kraker in her bid to become a member of the United States Olympic team may do so by contributing to the Francie Kraker Olympic Fund.

The fund has been established to help Miss Kraker defray expenses for traveling to various meets around the nation. Checks can be made out to the fund in care of the National Bank and Trust. Further information can be obtained from L. E. Fowler, vice president and cashier.

If Miss Kraker should become a member of the women's track team, she would have to face the prospect of competing in the high altitudes at Mexico City.

"I went to Denver in May," she said. "At 8,000 feet in Mexico City, it is going to be a problem. The altitude will definitely be a factor."

"Fortunately, those athletes who perform successfully in Los Angeles will be invited to a special training camp in Lake Tahoe. There the athletes that perform most successfully will make the trip to Mexico City."

Simmons, who serves as coach of the Michiganettes, is hopeful about her prospects.

"I am trying to get a build-up with more emphasis on speed than endurance," he said. "When you get to the trials, the athletes will have to have the distance background."

"She has not gotten under 2:10 yet," Simmons said. "The best half-mile she has run is a 2:11."

Her first opportunity to concentrate on the half-mile will be in the State AAU Meet in Lansing on Saturday.

Another big event on the schedule will be the Tennessee Invitational which will draw together some of the best talent in the nation.

Right now Simmons believes she has three main rivals in the 800 meters. Madeline Manning, who has run a 2:05, Doris Brown, who also has a 2:05, and Doris Scott who had a 2:07.8 this summer.

## Tiger 'Playpen' Has Opponents In Tears

**DETROIT (AP) —** Manager Mayo Smith's moppet bullpen has carried the Detroit Tigers to the top of the American League heap to the delight of pennant-starved fans who haven't seen the Bengals in a World Series in 23 years.

The likes of Pat Dobson, John Hiller, Fred Lasher and Jon Warden have turned in numerous victories and saves to account for more than 30 of Detroit's triumphs this year.

Their average age—23 years—has set pundits to calling the Detroit bullpen "the playpen." But the crying comes from opposing batters and managers.

Smith, in his second season with Detroit, made a clean

lost for 20 days with a severe heel bruise.

Horton, who missed 43 games last year and fell to 67 runs batted in and 19 homers, underwent surgery last October for an achilles tendon injury. He continues to play, although painfully slow afield.

But his bat has been going at close to .300 clip.

Detroit ripped off nine straight wins in the first two weeks of the season and three times has won five in a row.

Detroit has led by as many as nine games over challengers Baltimore, Cleveland and Minnesota.

"My big concern is not what kind of lead we've got, but to

## Commentary On A Is Boyco On Or O

By Melvin Durslag

**LOS ANGELES—**In the afterglow of the Olympic Trials, one is left a bit puzzled over those involved in a possible boycott.

Mind you, the right of these individuals is not challenged. Nor should one debate the only point on which you take issue when the activities are being conducted.

Is this an Olympic boycott, or isn't it? athletes participate in the Olympic Trials why did they refuse to go to the victory st waste time and create expense and confusion Olympic training camp, only to duck out at

Is a principle being advanced in this case? Whatever the motive, the movement to do and it has lacked dignity. It also has brought wrong people, namely, those responsible for Olympic track team.

These are not racists. They operate in an opportunity to all. They climb ladders and for no pay.

They admitted everyone to the Trials, he qualified would proceed thereafter in good deserve the problems that have visited their tial boycotters will not commit themselves people must be taken to camp and a chaotic

Regrettably, the leader of the boycott revel in the trouble he is causing. Talking and "white cats," he seems more concerned punishment than with advancing a principle

If the boycott group is sincere in its Olympics for the purpose of focusing attention this country, it should, as we say, do so with dignity.

It shouldn't vacillate mischievously, or level of a hate-spewing leader. The object all, is to help correct sickness that exists in the sport that is being boycotted.

If the American Negro as a body depa year, what will be the general effect on the

To start with, it will be hurt noticeably will be damaged in the 400 meters, the 1 relays.

And, finally, a distinct drop in quality broad jump and the triple jump.

As a symbol of national prestige, the Olympics is a joke today. The absence of the Mexico City would have impact only in the regrettable breakdown in human relations.

In importance, this far transcends go longer mean a thing, except to the athlete:

You get a slight insight to growing apathy public to the whole Olympic commotion that attended the Trials in Los Angeles.

Bidding for the '76 Olympics, L.A. always as a seat of track and field. Yet the Trials, tainous wave of publicity, drew but 23,0 25,000 the second.

The weather was perfect. The price n football game. And, certainly, the talent

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