

'The Victors' Will Be 'Heard' At Mexico City

Many Local Athletes Vying For Olympics

By Joe Broshear

There will be many stirring national anthems heard in the thin air of Mexico City less than two months hence—"God Save the Queen," "The International, La Marseillaise" and, of course, "The Star-Spangled Banner."



KENT BERNARD



DAVE ELLIS

But, if a group of Michigan athletes have their way, in the background, playing panissimo, so softly in fact that it can be heard only by the most discerning ear, will be "The Victors."

That mythical rendition of Michigan's famous song, however, will not only accompany our national anthem, it may

also be heard by those same discerning ears along with "O Canada" as well as when the Red and White flag of Peru and the striking national banners of Jamaica and Trinidad are unfurled in the gentle breeze.

Nearly a score of current or former Maize and Blue athletes have set their compass on Mexico City and some have already qualified for the Olympics, officially known as the XIX Olympiad.

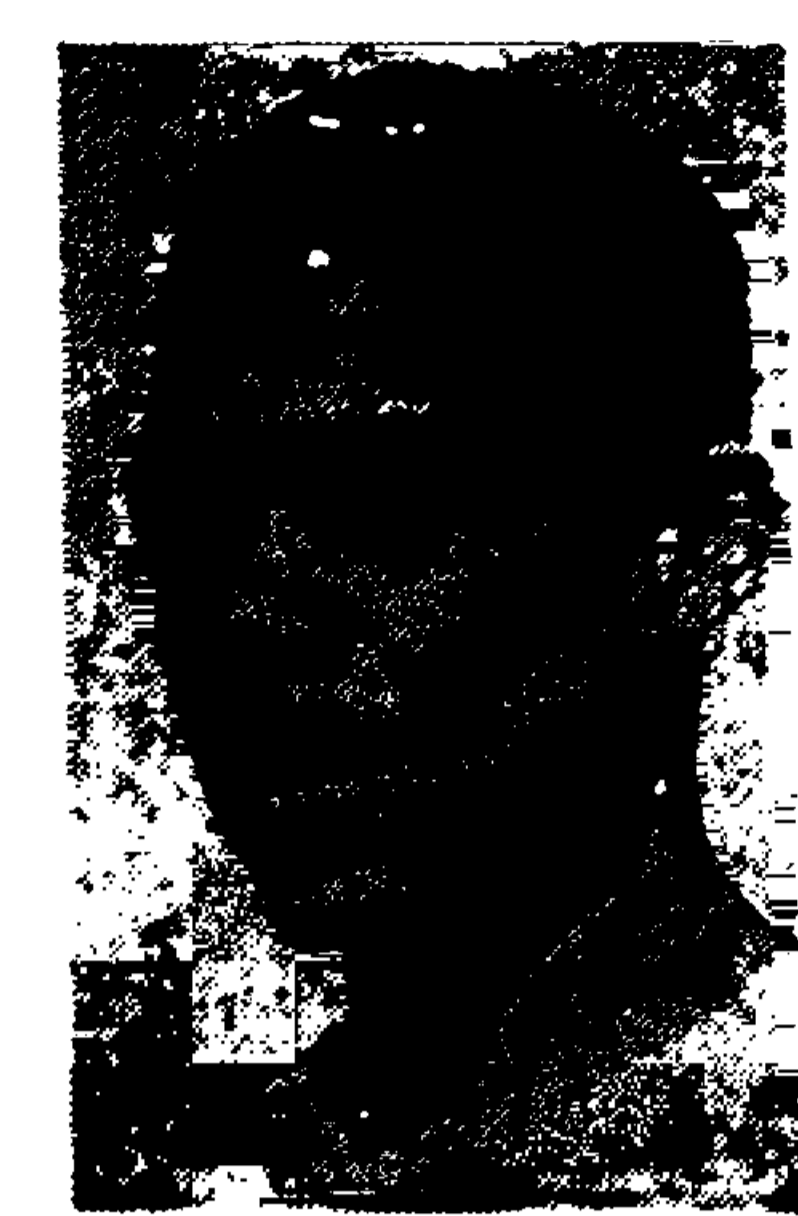
Gil LaRose, former Michigan captain and an NCAA champion in



JOHN CLAWSON



FRANCIE KRAKER



ALEX McDONALD

swimming and canoeing teams. Michigan previously landed one man on the U.S. basketball squad, 6-4 forward John Clawson, a former teammate of All-America Cazzie Russell.

Ron Kutchinski spearheads a track contingent that includes graduates Kent Bernard of Trinidad, Tom Robinson of Jamaica and Ergas Leps, a Canadian.

Other potential Olympians include Peru's Juan Bello, Canada's Tom Arusoo and Carl Robie of the U.S., all swimmers, while women's track and field is likely to see Ann Arbor's Francie Kraker bidding in 800-meters.

Javelin specialist Louise Gerish is also a possibility while two other members of the Michigan games, sprinter Liz Caldwell and half-miler Susan Dudley, have also been training on the West Coast and could be heard from although they are mainly looking toward '72.

Eastern Michigan will have but one representative in the Olympics, but he's an outstanding one—sophomore distance runner Dave Ellis.

Ellis, a Canadian, won the NAIA 5,000 meter championship and was second in the NAIA two-mile run. He will represent

Canada in 10,000 meters and may also run the 5,000 meter event.

And of all the athletes with area connections who will be attempting to make their mark in the Olympics there is probably none who runs a greater risk of having his performance affected by the thin air of Mexico City than Ellis.

The entire, sprawling Games complex, distributed over an era of approximately 150 square miles, is 7,800 feet above sea level, an altitude where the air's oxygen content decreases by at least a fourth.

According to Dr. John Faulk-

ner, professor of physiology and physical education at Michigan, the air at 7,500 feet carries 28 per cent fewer molecules, consequently, the oxygen flow to the blood is substantially reduced.

Other scientists agree that reduced oxygen is likely to take a toll on the athletes, particularly in events such as distance running or swimming.

For example, a swimmer like Robie, former Big 10 and NCAA butterfly champion, will be required to considerably alter his stroke-breathing ratio.

While the altitude is expected to keep runners and swimmers from establishing any new records, it's expected to be less of a factor where shorter bursts of energy are required, as in the sprints.

Faulkner also said, however, that three or four weeks of training in higher altitudes will boost performance and that after acclimitization, the effect of the higher altitude is expected to reduce the athlete's capability in their best marks.



Olympics Flame Passed

Two Greek runners exchange the Olympic flame in the first series of relays at Olympia, Greece, Friday. The torch will be carried to Athens and then to Mexico City.

Commentary On Athletics Quarter Horses Attract Fans

By Melvin Durslag

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif.

— LABOR DAY WEEKEND — JUDY COLLINS