

Aside From The Scores

Olympic Dream Closer For Francie Kraker

By Wayne DeNeff

Francie Kraker's Olympic dream, a flickering vision while she was a student at Slauson Junior High and Ann Arbor High is near reality today.

Another step has yet to be made before she actually is representing the United States in the Olympic Games in Mexico City but if confidence and hard work are the stepping stones to success, Francie will be there.

Both Miss Kraker and her coach, Ken Simmons, are confident she has the speed and stamina necessary for top international competition in the 800-meter race.

The program now is more hard work for another month to qualify for the U.S. team and the trip across the border.

"I think she's on her way," said Simmons, stop watch in hand as Francie whirled around the Michigan track at Ferry Field yesterday in a series of runs and sprints which tested her limits of physical punishment.

"She'll be training with the best at the Los Alamos camp in New Mexico and should get below the Olympic qualifying time which is 2:06."

But Francie isn't waiting for the Olympic camp to try and hit the magic 2:06.

On Monday, she's scheduled to race in the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto where she'll be matched against Canada's best, Abby Hoffman, and Madeline Manning, the Tennessee State speedster who was declared the winner in a photo-finish windup in the Olympic Trials last weekend.

Both Doris Brown and Miss Manning were timed in 2:03 and are bound for Mexico City along with third-place finisher Jarvis Scott, who had a time of 2:04. Miss Scott also qualified in the 400-meter race, which she won.

The 21-year-old Miss Kraker was greatly disappointed by her fourth-place finish on 2:07.2 but the Olympic selection committee, recognizing her fine work in high altitude at Denver earlier this month and concerned about how the other qualifiers might fare in thinner atmosphere, named Francie to the Los Alamos squad.

Actually, the final make up of the U.S. women's team may not be known until just a few days before the Mexico City events start.

Francie is anxious to show 'em and feels a tactical error

was costly in the trials which pair off with Miss Brown for extensive training and in the past has found Miss Brown a most helpful companion. The Olympic coaches also will be there to help.

In an earlier contest with Miss Manning, Francie had let the Tennessee State flash set the pace and lost the race in a comparatively slow time for each participant.

This time she decided to set the pace herself and put on a burst of speed, actually sprinting the first 200, to get to the front from her fifth lane position. Then she paced too fast, led the field for the first 600 meters but was overtaken in the stretch.

"I learned something from that race," said Francie. "I've got to even out my pace."

At Los Alamos, Francie will

The Los Alamos camp starts next week and runs for about three weeks. In addition to the competition among themselves, the women will face teams from West Germany and England which also are preparing for the Olympic Games.

ANN ARBOR BUICK

New Buicks • New Opels • Used Cars
3165 WASHTEAW • TELEPHONE 662-6576

We Have a COMPLETE Line
of TENNIS EQUIPMENT
including Restrings

Moe Sport Shops

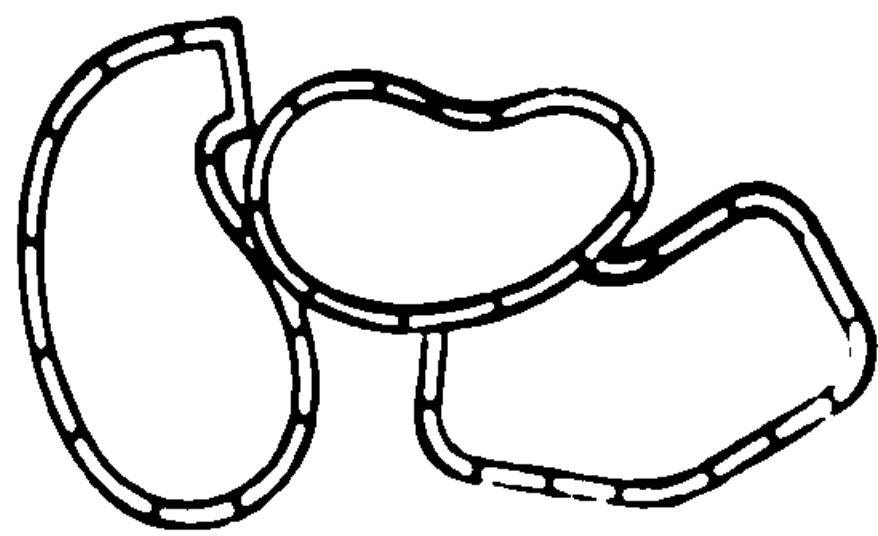
717 N. University

Harold S. Trick

902 S. State

Still Time . . .
To Swim In Your Own
Fabulous Swimming Pool

A Shape and Size to fit your Taste —



at a PRICE
To Fit Your
BUDGET

Built by

Donald L. Snyder

To Fit Your Family Needs
in a Shape that You Prefer

DONALD L. SNYDER

Phone Chelsea 479-1771

Serving All of Washtenaw County