

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.

★ ★ ★

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 1965. 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 Roscoe Washington, former trackman at Western Michigan University; Bob Wiesniski, a graduate of the University of Michigan; Tom Mile, a Michigan State University graduate who is considered the chief talent scout in finding new runners for the Parkettes; Mickey Stern, who scouts the Western Michigan area, and Mildred Chenault, of Detroit.

★ ★ ★

Expects to Win National Crown

BEYST IS EXPECTING an improved Parkettes' cross country team next fall, which means that he expects to win the national championship. The Parkettes missed by a single point last fall, but their "Big Three"—Pam Bagian, Kathy Moore and Jacki Ford—will be back to lead the squad in another try.

Three top freshman runners—Vicki Slater, Karen Zimmerman and Sandi Hammerle—are set to blend in with the veterans. Others on the roster providing the depth necessary to win championships are Sherice DuChamp Patti Ford, Lynn Hammerle, Marcia Rall, Petie Gilliam, Jeanne Bocci, Mary Kefalos, Sue Anderson, Janet Luppino, Sheila Owens, Cheryl Gall and Marcia Lester.

The junior Parkettes (11 years old and younger) also have a talented group that should result in plenty of championship trophies. Included in this group are Chris Spolsky, Kathy Bell, Mariann Jones, Patti Fisher, Rosemary Gaulin, and Dianne Hammerle.

An intermediate unit (for 12- and 13-year-olds) also is expected to be strong. This group includes Sue Parks, Darla Grumwald, Lynn McNamara, Chris Slater, Phyllis Krzywicki, Marti Sassack and Karen Durham and could repeat as state champions in their age class.



Parkettes Dominate Indoor Meet

THE PARKETTES wrapped up the indoor track season Saturday at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse in
See CLUBHOUSE—Page 13-A

(Continued from Page 12-A)

typical fashion, winning the girls' division title and placing second to Mayor Daley's Youth Foundation team, of Chicago, in the women's competition.

The younger runners rolled up 58 points to take the girls' division crown. Scarborough Optimists, of Toronto, took second, with 45; followed by Detroit's Motor City Track Club in third, with 42½ points, and Trinity Track Club, of Ontario, fourth, with 36.

First-place winners in individual events for the Parkettes were Karen Buford, 50-yard dash; Sue Parks, 440-yard dash, and the 880-yard medley relay team of Sue Parks, Nancy Sik-kenga, Donna Jonson and Karen Buford. Chris Spolsky also won an 880-yard run for girls 11 years old and younger.

In the women's division, the Parkettes placed in 10 of 13 events, winning three.

The winners were Jeanne Bocci who took the 880-yard walk in 3:36.5; Pam Bagian, 400-meter dash in 59.9 seconds, and Jacki Ford, 1500-meter run in 4:38.5.

In the team scoring, the Mayor Daley squad posted 90½ points to edge the Wolverines (who had 86½) out of the first-place trophy.

Beyst served as director of the event, which attracted 20 teams from throughout the Midwest and Canada.

Girls' track and field is growing all across the country and the Parkettes rate with the best, due to the work of Beyst, his coaching staff, and many other Downriver residents. Among them are Leo DeJohn, Louis Kolak, Simon Bagian, John Abela, Troy Alley and many more who are assisting in the tasks of providing equipment and travel expenses for this outstanding group of girl athletes.