

## Jim Shoup

### The State CC Meet

YPSILANTI—It's quite a sight, this colonial styled, immense clubhouse and colorful rolling green.

Here is a rippling brook running through the landscape and dotted clumps of woodlots to add spice.

The event wasn't any Bulck Open or PGA tournament. There are no Gary Players or Arnold Palmers. In fact, few golfers are on the course and it is not an amateur's invitational, either.

What just took place was the mammoth, high school state cross-country championship.

Mammoth it was, as five separate races were run. Class A and B each had two races . . . for teams which qualified from the regionals and one for "Individuals" who placed high in the regionals, but not members of competing teams . . . and a single race for C-D teams and high individuals.

In class A, 28 schools had a total of 140 runners scheduled for the team race and 90 boys were entered in the Individual A. Class B had 18 schools with 126 runners and 90 more in the individual meet.

Class C-D which combined the team and Individuals had 144 running at one time.

If my math isn't too far out, there were just under 600 runners trying for state medals, championships and, if nothing else, trying to make a good showing and keep from getting spilted by the other runners.

Estimates run from 5,000 to 10,000 the total number of people on the course. That includes runners, coaches, sports writers, spectators, cheerleaders and pep bands.

Did I say cheer leaders and pep bands?

That's right!  
I could hardly believe it as this was my first time covering this meet. Cheerleaders were dressed in their finest school colors and a couple of pep bands let loose with music as their favorite runners come pounding up the hill to the finish.

And that was some hill! Just before the tape, the boys had to run up a rather steep hill, turn half way up and continue hesteward until reaching the waving flags and white painted gates of the finish.

And getting back to crowd, some schools who apparently take cross-country as a steady appetite brought two and even three bus loads of students for cheering support.

### Cross Country Facts And Stats

—Kalamazoo won the Class A and Dearborn the B state cross-country championship back in . . . 1927! Those two schools repeated and C was added in 1928 and was won by Ypsilanti Roosevelt. And finally C-D came along in 1959 when Crosswell took the state trophy. So this sport isn't new!

—Ruben Gomez, Ludington's master, took his first team to Ypsilanti when he was coach at Mason County Easters in 1958.

—Don Tamminga, this year's state champion in Class B team meet, was this year's Ludington Invitational winner (see Daily News 10-5-70).

—Grand Rapids Central Christian which nipped Mason County Central in the Ludington Invitational finished 10th today in B.

—Roger Bradshaw beat Randy Lawrence (Holland West Ottawa) in the regional but Lawrence beat Bradshaw today. In fact Tom Breeding also beat Lawrence last week in the regionals.

—Randy Lawrence was second in this year's Ludington Invitational.

—Herb Lindsay (Reed City), who was third in this year's Ludington Invitational, finished third today in the C-D meet.

—Chris Villadsen beat Muskegon Christian's Dale Johnson and Dick Vandenberg in the regionals, but not today. Johnson was 5th, Vandenberg 7th, Villadsen 8th.

### More Cross-Country Notes

—The Spring Lake regionals which MCC won last week made a good showing today as MCC won third and Wyoming Lee and Muskegon Christian tied for seventh.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clayton "Doc" Spencer's nephew—Scott Van Alsburg of Grand Rapids Creston—finished seventh today in Class A.

—Bill Thompson, the Spartan's fourth man, had an uncle coaching Williamston. Central was third, Williamston 18th. (Bill, be nice to your Uncle, now!)

—The All-State members are chosen by taking the top 15 runners in each class at the state meet.



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