

Enquirer and News, Battle Creek, Mich., Thurs., May



Disappointing debut

Ypsilanti gal runs last in boys track

YPSILANTI (AP) — Ypsilanti's Sue Parks has become the first girl to compete in a Michigan high school dual track meet, but her debut Tuesday was a disappointing one both for the 16-year-old blonde and her team.

Miss Parks, the daughter of Eastern Michigan University track coach Bob Parks, finished fifth and last in the 880-yard run. Her time, a dismal two minutes, 22 seconds, was way off the 2:03 pace set by teammate Dane Fortney.

Ypsilanti lost the meet to Jackson, 73-50.

"I really feel bad," said Miss Parks, a veteran of international competition with the U.S. Pan American team and of U.S.-Soviet Union in-

door and outdoor track meets.

"I just didn't run well at all and I let the team down. I know I can do better than this. I've run in 2:10 before."

Miss Parks actually made her coed track debut Saturday in the Howell Relays but Tuesday's competition marked the formal breaking of the sex barrier in league track competition.

The Michigan High School

Athletics Association recently liberalized its rules to allow girls to compete with boys in noncontact sports.

Fortney says Miss Parks' presence on the team has been good for the boys.

"It's made a lot of difference in the morale of the team," Fortney said.

Some of these guys who really didn't care much before are really killing themselves because they don't want to get beat by a girl. Besides, this could help her in making the Olympic team."

Miss Parks is rated as having a good chance of going to Munich, Germany, this summer with the U.S. Olympic women's track team.

Jayvee results

Track

St. Philip defeated Lakeview, 72-51. Lakeview's Rick Wilbur won the long jump and 220.

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Thu, Jan 24, 2019