

C-2 THE STATE JOURNAL Friday, May 18, 1973

State Finals Saturday; Area Strong in Class C

Quality Key in Prep Track Now

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Now for what might be called the quality portion of the prep boys' track season: the state finals.

Up to this point, a lot of teams have been able to go a long way on quantity.

BUT IT won't necessarily be the outfits with the greatest numbers who take home state titles Saturday. It's talent that counts now and a handful of talented kids is often all it takes to do the job.

The Class A runoff is right here at Michigan State's Ralph Young Field. Flint Northwestern High School hosts Class B. Central Michigan University has Class C, and Class D is assigned to Caro High.

All four meets feature late morning preliminaries, followed immediately by early afternoon finals in all events.

LOCAL PROSPECTS look something like this:

CLASS A

Only a select few local ath-

letes survived the fast-paced Ypsilanti regional, and only a couple of them appear to enjoy the prospect of scoring.

Eastern long jumper Greg Terry has come on very fast since regaining his health just a few weeks ago, and go off an exceptional leap of 22-9½ in Wednesday's Seven-A meet. Something in the same general neighborhood Saturday would put him in good shape.

DASHMAN CARL Johnson of Everett has done pretty well for himself of late, too, running several 10.1 centuries. Physically, he has the size and strength to hold up under the strain of the multiple heats which dashmen and hurdlers must run.

Reggie Jones of Saginaw is defending champ in both dashes, but appears to stand alone. Johnson won't challenge him (neither will anyone else) but could find himself in line for one of the eight scoring places.

CLASS B

Mason's Randy Foss could be a bona-fide title contender, particularly if he can come up

with something like his season best in the shot put of 55-7.

MASON ALSO has some potential in the 880 and mile relays, and Okemos' 440 unit can fly.

Dave Stebbins of Ionia in the mile is another strong challenger.

CLASS C

Here's where most of the action is for the Lansing area. Both Haslett and St. Louis entertain notions of being up near the top when the points are added up.

AND, THERE'S more to watch in this class than just what Haslett and St. Louis do.

Like Bath quarter-miler Joe Green, who turned out Mid-Michigan's best 440 of the year in the regional, 50.7. Or, a couple of solid Perry contenders, shotputter Harry Bradley and sprinter Greg Young. Or, DeWitt puffer Rich Albertson.

Haslett's greatest strength is in two field events, pole vault and long jump. In vaulters Steve Wren and Mike Brook, the Vikings have two lads who finished 2-3 in the Class B finals a year ago. Wren has done

14 feet this spring, Brook 13-6.

GARY BYINGTON and Glenn Ray both exceeded last season's winning state meet distance in the regional long jump, going 21-9 and 21-8 respectively.

Haslett's 440 relay is formidable, too, although it's slow in comparison with St. Louis'. The Sharks ran under the Class C 440 relay record in the regional when they clocked in at 44.45.

THAT'S ONLY one of their outstanding features, though. Sam Onstott is one of the better triple threats around with his season bests of 10.0 in the 100, 22.8 in the 220 and 22-8 in

the long jump. He scored in the long jump last spring in Class B.

Andy Kovac is another Shark who already has a solid effort in state final competition behind him. He was sixth a year ago in the "B" mile.

CLASS D


Potterville could make a little noise here, and Dansville and Morrice aren't likely to go unnoticed, either.

DASHMAN BOB Nemeth of Potterville was fourth in the 220 and fifth in the 100 a year ago, and is back to try for improvement. And, quite a few of his teammates are withinin.

Dansville miler Elden Hummel and two-miler Dale

Darling earned fifth and sixth respectively in '72, and they too aim for improvement.

So does another good local two-miler, Ken St. John of Morrice, who finished fourth in the state the last time around.



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state preview LSJ 5-18-1973

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Wed, Dec 26, 2018