

Kearsley ace great in duals

Hoops spreads track talent around

By BRUCE JOHNS

Greatness in high school track is based on outstanding times and distances.

Kearsley's versatile Greg Hoops doesn't have the statistics to be labeled great but that comes by choice, not chance.

Instead of concentrating 100 per cent on any one event, Hoops has spread his talents over four events to help make his team stronger. Kearsley has won 64 straight dual meets.

"GREG'S A good athlete, a year-around athlete," said Coach Don Marsh. "He is a good performer but not great because he's involved in so many different events."

"He's the most versatile performer I've ever coached. If he devoted the effort to one event he would be outstanding."

Because of the sacrifice to better the team, Hoops has the reputation of being a "great dual meet performer." He competes in the long jump, high jump and both hurdles and has been first 15 of 16 races this year.

AS A sophomore he scored 98 points, set the school one-year mark with 197 last year and has totaled 108 so far this spring. The 6-foot-5, 160-pound captain has missed the last two duals because of a leg cramp.

Hoops' up-to-date career total stands at 403 and the previous Kearsley record was 250 set by Joe Klobuchar in 1968-69-70.

"I think what Greg has accomplished is quite an achievement because we've had some pretty good athletes here," lauded Marsh.

The career point total probably doesn't mean much to nontrack buffs. In basketball terminology, it is equivalent to a three-year varsity performer averaging 25-28 points.

HOOPS, who last winter made first team on the Big Nine Conference all-league basketball squad, holds the school record in the high jump (6-5), long jump (22-3) and shares the marks in the hurdles with a 15.0 clocking in the highs and 20.2 in the lows.

"In 20 dual meets over the last three years Greg has finished first 50 times," Marsh pointed out. "Some people say he doesn't produce in the big meet but he

had 12 of our 32 points in the indoor CMU Relays this year and that was the first time we ever won it."

Hoops, the Hornets' cinder captain, scored 12½ points in the Big Nine meet last year and could have had 18½. He appeared to have won the low hurdles but was disqualified because of a trail leg infraction.

HOOPS WON the United State Track and Field Federation junior division decathlon in 1971 in Flint with a record of 5,390 points. It was the fourth best production in the nation by a 16-year-old.

Last year he advanced to the senior

division and placed fourth with 5,875 points. Two of those entrants finishing ahead of Hoops were the No. 1 decathlon performers from Drake and Eastern Michigan.

"Ohio State offered Greg a \$2,000 yearly scholarship," said Marsh. "They are real high on him as a decathlon performer. You know, he is a 12-foot pole vaulter, too."

HOOPS IS leaning towards Central Michigan University. The Chips have been rumored to have offered Hoops a full scholarship which covers everything but books.

"I think he can be an outstanding high hurdler in college because those hurdles are three inches higher," said Marsh.

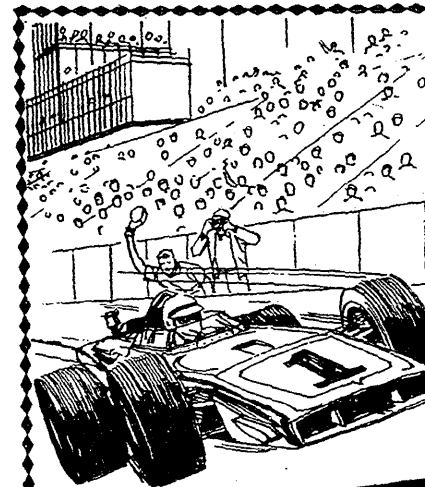
"Greg is a real competitor," adds Marsh. "He's always at the track in the summer, either competing in a meet or practicing. If I can't find him on the track, then I'll go to the gym and he'll be in there shooting baskets."

Greg Hoops loves sports and his enthusiasm should lead to better things . . . if that's possible.



—Journal Photo by ROBERT L. PARKS

Greg Hoops . . . Kearsley's versatile track performer



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