

Fast Company

Jones Faces Tough Competition at Mount Prospect

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Saginaw High's Reggie Jones will be running in fast and fine company Saturday in the second annual International Prep Track and Field Invitational at Mount Prospect, Ill., High School.

Jones, who was one of eight athletes from the U. S. and surrounding countries invited to compete in the 100 and 220-yard dash races, is the two-time Michigan sprint champ.

The 6-3 performer is one of two with the best recorded times in the 220 going into Saturday's competition. Jones' 20.8, which he turned out in the Mansfield Relays, is shared with Mike McFarland of Chicago Parker High.

There is one other performer under 21 seconds listed, and the slowest time is a very fast 21.3.

Jones is ranked with six other performers at the 9.5 second mark in the 100 dash. That is the slowest time in the field. Jesse Forbes of Tallahassee Leon High in Florida and McFarland have been clocked at 9.4 this season.

Both races should be something most of the area track fans have never witnessed before. All events will include the best from the country and some foreign nations.

The first two finishers in each event automatically qualify for the National Junior Championship Meet June 22-23 in Gainesville, Fla. Upon recommendation from the Mount Prospect games committee, some of this meet's top performers will likely receive invitations to the prestigious Golden West Meet in Sacramento, Calif., June 16.

Jones, who will enroll at the University of Tennessee this fall, will leave Saginaw Friday with Saginaw High Track Coach Claude Marsh.

The two will arrive in Mount Prospect Friday with enough time for a workout before the coaches and athletes gather at night. A banquet is scheduled following the meet Saturday. Jones and Marsh will return Sunday.

Most of the cost of the trip was picked up by Saginaw's Clarence Froeh. Mrs. Beth Korf also contributed to the trip fund as

well as a Saginaw High alumnus. Mr. Froeh came forward quickly after an article appeared in The News stating Jones would need financial aide to compete in the meet.

"Mr. Froeh met with Reggie and they hit it off very well," said Marsh, "They became good friends. Reggie is very fortunate to have someone show this much of an interest in his career."

Jones has been working out twice a day this week in preparation for the strong competition. He feels he has a very good chance of winning both events. It wouldn't be much of a surprise since Jones has a habit of coming up to the level of competition and doing somewhat better. He proved that in the state 100 dash competition last month at East Lansing.

"Reggie has a lot of poise and he isn't bothered by pressure. He loves to run and does it to win always. He figures he's going to tear them up in Mount Prospect. That could take some doing, but I think he's certainly capable of winning," said Marsh.

Last year's winners certainly set a mean precedent for this year's athletes. The winning times and distances were sensational.

Last year, Bob Lawson of Toledo, Ohio won the 100 at 9.3 and Howard Jones of

Evanston, Ill., took the 220 with a strong head wind at 21.8.

Ron Ray of Newport News, Va., won the 440 at 47.0, the 880 was won by Brian Guaschino of New Jersey at 1:52.2, the 120 high hurdles and intermediate hurdles by Al Misher of Houston, Texas at 13.4 and 37.5 respectively.

Jim Morrison of Yardley, Pa., took the mile with a 4:12.0 clocking and the two mile went to Jose Amaya of Los Angeles at 8:54.5.

Steve Riley of Wichita, Kan., won the pole vault at 15-6; Dennis DeLoach of El Paso, Texas the high jump at 6-9¾; Steve Rim of Clovis, Calif., the triple jump at 48-1¼; long jump by Bo Scott of Alton, Calif., at 25-1¾ and shot put by Randy Cross of Tarzana, Calif., at 63-5¾.

Three events not among those in Michigan competition were won by Scott Overton of Los Altos, Calif., in the discus at 192-1¾; Bruce Down of Hillsboro, Oregon in the javelin at 247-11 and Alvin Jackson of Providence, R.I.s. in the hammer throw at 219-8.

The meet was witnessed by 5,000 last year, and more are expected this weekend. One of the reasons being Craig Virgin of Illinois. He has turned in an 8:42.6 two mile and will be shooting for the national record of 8:41.5.

