

'Stranger' Hits Fast In Mansfield Relays

BY HAL SCHRAM
Free Press Sports Writer

MANSFIELD, O. — A stranger slipped into town Friday, and nobody was laughing.

Hammond (Ind.) High, making its first appearance ever here, virtually locked up the team title in the 44th annual Mansfield Relays in Friday's opening three events at Malabar High.

Boasting two of the nation's foremost schoolboy distance runners, Hammond came up with two firsts and a second for a 28-point start on a cold and windswept afternoon. Although 16 more events are slated Saturday, track officials admitted Hammond's lead appeared almost insurmountable.

LAST YEAR, 42 points won the meet. Pontiac Central tied for the title here in 1968 with 16 points.

Carey Pinkowski anchored a medley relay team (that's 1 7/8ths miles) which barely missed the record in 7:29.9.

Then junior Rudy Chapa, who had run a 4:11 mile Thursday night, came back to win the two-mile in 8:59.2, bettering Pat Davey's old mark by almost 10 seconds.

Pinkowski will come back Saturday to battle Pontiac Central's Steve Elliott in the

mile and Hammond coach Dan Candiano admitted he expected his two-mile relay team to "do very well".

Although he finished fifth in the two-mile, Alan Scharisu of Austintown (O.) Fitch set a world record for a 14-year-old when he covered the distance in 9:24.8, four-tenths of a second ahead of Grosse Ile's Jack Sinclair. It marked only the second time Alan had run the two-mile outdoors.

EVEN THE four-mile relay title was an all-Indiana affair, with Terre Haute North winning for the second straight year and Hammond finishing second.

Needless to say, it was not a banner day for Michigan, but the state's distance runners are bound by an outmoded rule which does not permit them to run a mile or two mile on successive days. Both Elliott and Flint Northern's Keith Young skipped Friday's action to compete Saturday.

All other states in the Midwest permit their distance runners to compete on consecutive days.

Michigan is expected to show its heels here Saturday in the dashes and hurdles with such performers as Harlan Huckleby of Cass Tech, William Copeland of Cooley and

Ed Poindexter of Inkster among others.

Jackson High got a fourth out of its four-mile relay team. Free Press carrier Ed Sullivan was leadoff runner on a quartet which included Rich Bennett, Steve Banovic and Tom Calvert. Groves High of Birmingham placed sixth in the same event.

Those two finishes, along with Sinclair's sixth in the two mile, was all Michigan runners could muster out of a long afternoon.

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Relays Summaries

MEDLEY RELAY: 1. Hammond (Ind.) High (Rick Hudson, Curt Kronger, Vic Luso, Carey Pinkowski); 2. Cleveland Bay Village; 3. Hammond Phillip Noel. Time - 7:29.9.

TWO-MILE RUN: 1. Rudy Chapa, Hammond High; 2. Pete Kummant, Am-

herst (O.) Steele; 3. Rick Musick, Fairborn (O.) Baker. Time - 8:59.2 (new meet record).

FOUR-MILE RELAY: 1. Terre Haute (John Reedy, Gary Goffardi, Brad Ridgway, Dave Coleman); 2. Hammond; 3. Toronto Monarch Park. Time - 18:09.4.

Mansfield 1

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