



G-K WOMEN'S TRACK SPARKLERS - From left, front row, Debbie Dunning, Liz Shon and Kay Barstow of Kalamazoo Central. Back row: Donna Dobbs, Parchment; Brenda Whitney, Loy Norrix;

Melody Golland, Portage Central; Carrie Pierce, Portage Northern; Sandi Lambers, Kalamazoo Christian; Brenda Ray, Comstock.

Gazette photo

Class A Standouts Dominate In Track

BY DEL NEWELL
Gazette Sports Writer

Karl Marx would have blanched with disappointment at the news.

There wasn't the hint of a "class struggle" when The Gazette's Greater-Kalamazoo All-Star men's track and field squad was picked.

The larger enrollment schools—the four Class A—completely dominated this spring's team, picking off all 13 places.

And, as was true throughout the season, Loy Norrix was again in a class by itself when it came to All-Star consideration, winding up with seven performers on the list of the elite.

Four members of Coach Don Lukens' Norrix team repeated as G-K All-Stars, including sprinter Daryel Pruitt, high hurdler Alan Kiel, high jumper Bill Heath and pole vaulter Jim Laatsch.

Portage Central's Ed Bevan, in the low hurdles, also was an All-Star repeater.

Joining them on this year's team, from Norrix, are two-miler Jeff Scott, miler Cooper Tomlinson and Dan Robbins, who shared with Laatsch the best clearing in the pole vault on the G-K scene.

Shot putter Jeff Ward of Portage Central, Kalamazoo Central's long jumper Jimmy Ross and half-miler Eddie Starks and Portage Northern's quarter-miler Scot Zuidweg and discus thrower John VanArendonk complete the team.

All are seniors except for Heath and Robbins, who are juniors, and Ross, who is only a sophomore.

Coach Don Lukens' large Norrix All-Star delegation was again headed by Pruitt, G-K's "Mr. Speed" who matched the all-time best in the 100 with a :9.7 time. Hackett's Jim Holmes had covered the same distance in the same time back in 1969.

Pruitt also had the top G-K clocking in the 220 (:21.9). Kiel lowered his high hurdles mark to :14.9 this spring, while Scott had the best two-mile (9:26.0) and Tomlinson the mile (4:20.7).

Laatsch and Robbins both had 13-foot clearings in the pole vault while Heath, a lanky 6-5, moved up to 6-7 in the high jump, four inches better than his top of a year ago.

Ross came close to shattering an all-time G-K as he reached 23 feet, 7½ inches in the long jump, two inches shy of Dennis Johnson's best leap for K-Central back in 1963.

Starks, a cheerleader during the fall and winter months, turned his versatility to the competitive stage for track and reeled off a 2:00.1 in the half mile.

Bevan, who lowered his standard by two-tenths of a second from a year ago, was No. 1 in G-K in the low hurdles with a :20.3, while Ward, his muscular teammate, put the shot 51 feet, 5½ inches.

Zuidweg recovered from a leg injury that had bothered him most of his senior season and turned in a :50.6 in the 440, with VanArendonk the best in the discus with a toss of 145 feet, 3 inches.

Nine Sparklers On Girls' Track Squad

BY DEL NEWELL
Gazette Sports Writer

With the stopwatch and tape acting as both judge and jury, it wasn't difficult to render a decision on the composition of The Gazette's Greater-Kalamazoo All-Star women's track and field team for 1976.

In fact, going by that criteria leaves little if any room for an appeal by those who finished second, despite trying harder, or those who were also-rans.

Nine girls are on this year's team, including four repeaters from a year ago who were on the first women's all-star track squad selected by The Gazette.

Kalamazoo Central, continuing to roll merrily along unbeaten through another dual meet season, dominated the squad by placing three girls on it.

Sprinter Liz Shon was tops on the

women's G-K honor roll in both the 100 and 220, Debbie Dunning was the best in the long jump and Kay Barstow was the class of the high jump field.

Brenda Ray of Comstock also had two honor roll bests, in the 880 and 440. Joining her and the K-Central trio on the 'Star team were Loy Norrix shot putter Brenda Whitney, Portage Central's Melody Golland in the discus, Portage Northern's two-miler Carrie Pierce, Parchment miler Donna Dobbs and Kalamazoo Christian hurdler Sandi Lambers.

There's a good blend of youth mixed with experience on this year's team, too. Dunning and Pierce are juniors, for instance, with Lambers and Ray sophomores and Dobbs only a ninth grader.

Shon, Barstow, Whitney and Golland are all seniors.

Shon's G-K bests were a sizzling .10.8 in the century and :24.3 in the

220. Ray, meanwhile, had a :58.1 in the quarter and clocked a best-ever 2:16.2 at state in the half-mile.

Barstow's best in the high jump for Coach Georgia Hall's K-Central squad was a 5-4½, with Dunning hitting the 17-6½ mark in the long jump.

Whitney had a 36-10½ in the shot put—a foot better than her nearest G-K challenger—and Golland was almost 20 feet ahead of everyone else in the discus, going 110 feet, 10½ inches.

Dobbs and Lambers both finished their seasons with a flair. Dobbs picked off the No. 1 spot by a strong showing in state competition, eclipsing her previous best by 12 seconds in running the mile in 5:34.2.

And Lambers came through with a :15.9 in the hurdles, also at state, moving her all alone into the top spot on the G-K honor roll.



G-K TRACK'S TOP PERFORMERS - From left, front row, Jim Laatsch, Jeff Scott, Cooper Tomlinson, Daryel Pruitt, Dan Robbins and Alan Kiel, all of Loy Norrix. Back row: Ed Bevan and Jeff Ward,

Portage Central; John VanArendonk and Scot Zuidweg, Portage Northern; and Jimmy Ross and Eddie Starks, Kalamazoo Central. Norrix's Bill Heath was absent when picture was taken.

Gazette photos by Carl Bennett