

Mackenzie girl a favorite for state 'A' track titles

By **KEN WILLIAMS**
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Delisa Walton, a Detroit Mackenzie middle distance runner, is one of the favorites for a state Class A track title at Brighton today.

Miss Walton, a junior who started her career as a sprinter for the Motor City

Track Club at the age of 13, has turned in the season's best 440- and 880-yard times of 54.1 seconds and 2:09.7, respectively. The 440 clocking is the fastest ever run by a girl in Michigan.

Delisa is a strong bet to eclipse the current state Class A records in both events. Ruth Hubbard of Walled Lake Western set the 440 mark of 56.7 seconds two years ago and Sue Parks of Ypsilanti posted the 880 mark of 2:14.4 in 1974.

This season, Walton is unbeaten in the 440 and 880, both indoors with the Motor City team and outdoors with Coach Jan Chapman's Public School League squad.

Later this month (June 24-25), Walton will compete in the National AAU Junior Women's Track and Field Championships at the University of Indiana in Bloomington. She is entered in the 800 meters and the one mile relay.

For the last three years, Walton has anchored the Motor City Track Club's winning one mile relay team in the Knights of Columbus Games at the Cleveland Coliseum.



DELISA WALTON
Unbeaten runner

Outdoors this past year, Walton anchored her relay teams to three Canadian junior records at Brantford, Ontario — the 400-meter relay in 46.9 seconds, the 800-meter in 1:37.6 and the 1,600-meter in 3:45.3 — and one national record at the U.S. Track and Field Federation's 16-17-year-old championships in Xenia,

Ohio, where the team won the one mile relay in 3:44.6 and was second in the two-mile in 9:17.2.

Walton also has competed successfully in Burlington, Vt., Louisville, Huntington, W.Va., Dayton, Ohio, and Knoxville, Tenn.

One of the most closely watched competitors in the state Class D meet at Lansing Sexton will be high jumper Kelly Leighton of Northport. Kelly has cleared 5 feet 9 inches while Ellie Hayden of Capac, who

is competing in the Class C meet at Haslett, also has duplicated that effort.

Another Class C headliner is long jumper Rosalyn Price of Memphis, who has leaped 18 feet, 7½ inches for the season's peak performance.

The Class B meet is slated for Otsego and one of the headliners there will be Lori Bennett of Livonia Ladywood, a favorite in the mile who will be challenged by Denise DeLong of Big Rapids and Leeann Yanik of Madison Heights Bishop Foley.