

Meter readers needed for Mansfield Relays

By HAL SCHRAM
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The 48th Mansfield Relays coming up this weekend has taken on a modernistic flavor. The metric system is here whether you like it or not and the school kids, at least, are ready for it.

That excellent eight-lane all-weather Malabar High track on the south side of the Ohio city has been converted to meters in compliance with the Ohio High School Federation. The best high school track and field athletes from five states and Canada will converge there Friday and Saturday for the prestigious relays.

In Michigan, too, the metric system will take over within a few years. It has been recommended by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and already several new plants, at Grand Blanc and Grosse Pointe South for instance, are metric tracks.

"It's here and we have to accept it," says Tom Gauerke, the successful track coach at Grosse Pointe North. "Central Michigan University already has a metric track and that was our first experience with one last year at the Central Michigan Relays.

"The kids like it," said Gauerke. "All the track and field magazines show top performances in metric times and our kids like to compare their performances with those they are reading in the national magazines."

SO AT MANSFIELD the open mile run will be the 1,500-meter run (slightly under a mile) and the open two mile will be the 3,000 meter (slightly shorter than the old two mile.)

The 100-yard dash is now the 100 meter and the 120-yard high hurdles now becomes

the 110-meter high hurdles.

Mansfield meet director Doug Castle said the excellent records established down through the past 47 years will remain on the books, but there will be a new set of marks, also.

"This week we will establish 19 new records. We are toying with the idea of converting the field event records (pole vault, long jump, shot put, high jump and discus) to the metric measurements but there's no realistic way you can do this with the running events. All running events starting this year will have to be new records."

Castle has a classic field on hand for the high jump. "We have 20 high jumpers entered who have already cleared 6-foot-7 or better and three who have hit seven feet," said Castle.

One of those seven-foot high jumpers is John McIntosh of Sterling Heights Stevenson who hit the mark in a Michigan Federation meet a month ago.

Also in the high jump field is Jon English, the All-State quarterback from Birmingham Brother Rice, who won the Spartan Relays last Saturday with a leap of 6 feet 8 inches. Among those he'll be competing against is his brother, Steve, who is entered as a high jumper from Pittsburgh Central Catholic.

Paul Piwinski of Warren Cousino and Steve Jones of Detroit Central have both hit 6-foot-10 in the high jump and must be considered threats for the title.

MICHIGAN, HOWEVER, will be without one of its brightest stars at Mansfield. Hurdler Marcus Allen of Cass Tech, who pulled a thigh muscle in the Spartan Relays prelimi-

naries last Saturday, has been scratched from the meet.

Other Michigan performers with hopes of winning at Mansfield are Paul Babits of Redford Union in the pole vault, Philip Wells of Warren Mott in the shot, Cass Tech's 3,000-meter relay team, Vincent Bean of Southfield in the long jump and Chuck Broski of Hazel Park in the 1,500 meter.

Babits has a 15-foot-1 3/4-inch effort to his credit, Wells has thrown the shot 61 feet. Bean won the Spartan Relays with a jump of 23 feet 5 1/2 inches and Broski is crowding 4:20 in the mile.

There'll be four final relay events run Friday starting at 1:30 p.m. with the rest of the 19-event program scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Saturday.