

District meets might be added to schedule

By STEVE MORSE
Staff Writer

A two-step state qualifying process may be on the horizon for Michigan high school track and field.

Sturgis High track coach Jack Grant, a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association 1982 track committee, said he believes there is support for a proposal to add district meets to the regional competition which currently precedes state meets in the four classes.

"We've been getting a lot of flak," Grant said of a rules change this year which reduced the number of qualifiers for the state meet in each regional event from three to two.

"I've been getting a lot of calls from coaches around the state who aren't too happy with it."

Grant said the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association is working on a survey of its membership concerning district meets.

The extra level of competition would have to be approved by the MHSAA's Representative Council to take effect.

KAREN NIELSEN, who coached Harper Creek High's girls' track team to Twin Valley and regional championships last spring, came back to see her former team in action at the All-City Track Meet.

Nielsen, one of many teachers who lost jobs in the wake of the Harper Creek district's financial

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problems last fall, now teaches and coaches girls' track at Cypress Fairbanks High on the northwest side of Houston.

"Some of the kids called and asked if I'd come. I miss 'em," said Nielsen, who stopped at the meet en route to her hometown of Ludington, where she plans to spend some time this summer.

She said she doesn't miss the uncertainty of Harper Creek's school systems.

"I really feel bad for this system," she said. "I don't see a whole lot of hope around here. I think that's sad."

R. DOUGLAS TRITES, commander of Gen. George A. Custer Post No. 54 of the American Legion, couldn't have been happier with the outcome of the 22nd annual Al Geisler Memorial All-City Track and Field Meet.

"We're going to keep sponsoring these kids," Trites said of the meet, in which no team scores are kept in order to highlight individual performers. "We like it a lot."

Robert Wright, starter at the meet, was given a special award for his community service work.

District meets? 6-13-1982

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Thu, Dec 27, 2018