

1973 Buckeye Conference meet...

Buckeye Conference track teams collide for crown

SANDUSKY — Defending champion Sandusky retains the definite favorite's role, but the Blue Streaks are expected to have considerably more trouble than they have had in the recent past as the eight Buckeye Conference track teams get together for the annual league meet at Sandusky Saturday.

Only three teams have won the championship in the Buckeye Conference and the Blue Streaks have completely dominated the meet for the past decade.

Since 1964 when Sandusky broke a two-year reign by Marion Harding, the Blue Streaks have won every championship but one. Elyria's Pioneers spoiled Sandusky's string by winning the title in 1967. Sandusky has won it the last five times.

Marion had a strangle hold on the conference crown in the 50s and early 60s and the Proxies, Blue Streaks and Pioneers are the only teams to ever win the crown. Marion took the title in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962 and 1963. Sandusky won in 1961 and has a total of nine championships to Marion's seven.

A few outstanding competitors are expected to lead the

Blue Streaks to victory this year although Fremont Ross, Findlay and Lorain's Admiral King figure to make things hotter than usual for the Sandusky crew. The Ross Streaks apparently do not have the depth they have had in the past, but appear to have enough in their outstanding individuals to win the title.

Leading the Blue Streaks into the Buckeye Conference meet are Jim Fantozzi, Al Mayfield, Osman Pearson and Stan Johnson.

Fantozzi is the defending Buckeye Conference champion in the low hurdles, having taken the title with a 19.6 clocking last year. He also is heavily favored to win the high hurdles, where his best time (14.2) is eight tenths of a second better than the next best time.

Pearson won the Buckeye title in 1971, but was beaten out of the crown last year in the mile run. Johnson has the best distance in the shot put and the second best distance in the discus.

Mayfield edged Ross High's star sprinter Rob Lytle in both the 100 and 200 in a dual meet at Ross Wednesday. Lytle is the defending Buckeye Conference champion in

both events, but he will face tough challenges this year. Lytle won the century in 10.2 and the furlong in 22.5 in 1972.

The Ross team has another defending champion returning in pole vaulter Jeff Opeit. He took the crown with a vault of 13'3" last year.

The physical condition of Lytle, Jim Heidelberg and Tim Smith will play a big role in the Giants' chances. Lytle and Heidelberg are just coming off of injuries and Smith suffered a shoulder sprain Wednesday, but is expected to be ready.

The three schools among the top scorers in the Ross squad — Findlay and Admiral King figure to challenge for the title as well.

Both have strong spots throughout — field events, distance events and sprints.

Findlay's line rates as the favorite in the two mile, while Admiral King's Wickes is favored in the discus.

Whitaker of Admiral King won the 440 last year and is expected to run the quarter, the 100 and the 220 this year.

Other defending champions returning are Coleman of Mansfield in the long jump, with a 23'2" this year and Ira Perkins of Elyria in the high jump, with a best of 6'5".

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The Strobel Field meet gets under way with field events at 5 p.m. on Friday. The high and low hurdle preliminaries will be held at 5:30 p.m. with the evening program begins at 7 p.m. with the presentation of awards set for 9:10 p.m.

Scoring will be on the basis of 6-4-3-2-1.

The list of Ross High entries in the running events is as follows:

High hurdles — Julius Simms and James Scott; 100 yard dash — Rob Lytle and Randy Robertson; mile run — Mark Hoffman and Denny Byers; 880 yard relay — Doug Hopper, Scott Barnard, Randy Robertson and Jim Heidelberg; 440 yard dash — Tom Shaffer and Steve Cale; low hurdles — Julius Simms and Jim Scott; 880 yard run — Tim Smith and Mike Coleman; 220 — Rob Lytle and Jim Heidelberg; two mile run — Mark Root and Dave Damschroder.

Ross field event entrants are as follows:

Long jump — Doug Kridler and Jim Heidelberg; high jump — Larry Liggins and Paul Fahrbach; discus — Bob Koebel and Kurt Landig; shot put — Bob Koebel and Bob Harris; pole vault — Jeff Opeit and Keith Pettiford.

