

# SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John D'Ala

An unprecedented cross country meet involving representative runners from all school leagues in the state has been scheduled for Nov. 16 at Van Cortland Park, the Bronx.

The meet, which will be considered by many as the first genuine, but unofficial, state XC championship, is to be known as the New York State Federation Invitation Cross Country Run.

There will be two races, one a team championship (with a maximum of 38 teams) and the other for top individuals (maximum 190) who are not part of any qualifying team.

The distance will be three miles, taking advantage of a new state ruling that extended the previous distance of 2.5 miles. Few meets this season are expected to utilize the new distance, however, since new course layouts would have to be measured, marked and surveyed very quickly.

The state has also reduced the minimum waiting time between XC matches from 72 to 60 hours which means dual meets can be held Wednesday afternoons (instead of Tuesdays) and runners can run again on Saturday.

All coaches should receive word of the big meet and the new distances etc., through their league chairman. Our source was Marc Bloom in the New York State Sports Writers Association's weekly newsletter.

While we're on the subject of running, the first N.Y. State Girls' Track and Field championship for the benefit of high school girls across the state, has been scheduled for June 7, 1975 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The girls competed in two events at last spring's boys' inter-sectional meet at Schenectady: Mount Pleasant (100 yard dash and 880 run) and next spring they'll have a day-long meet of their own.

The NYSSWA picks East Rochester, Rush-Henrietta, Webster (but which one?), Aquinas, Madison, Fairport and Greece-Arcadia as the big football powers of Section 5.

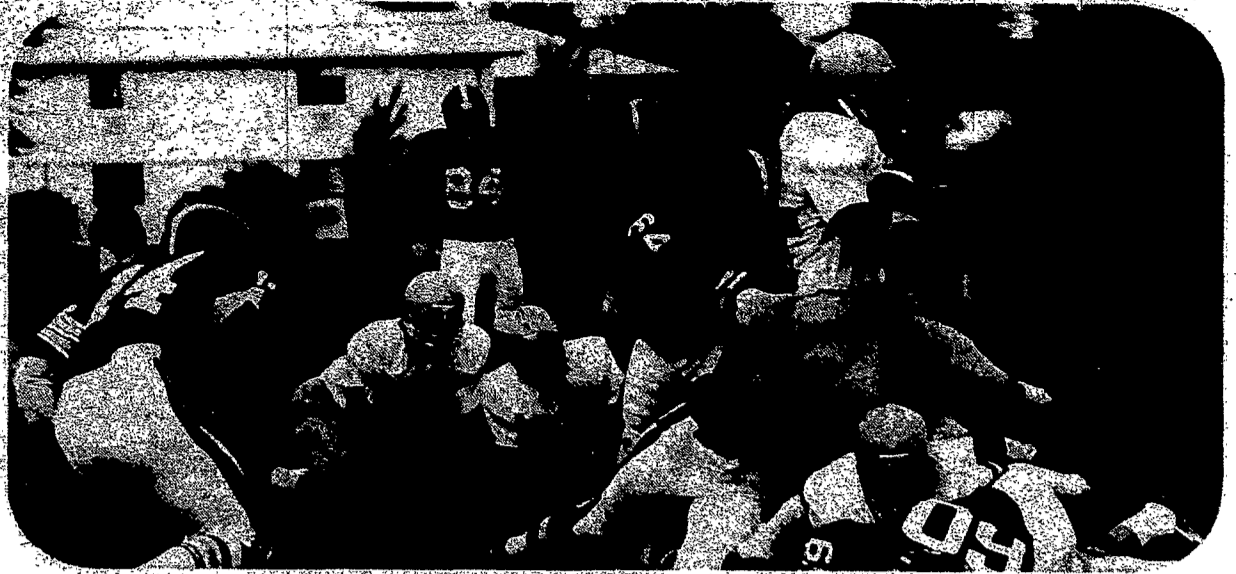
Last year ER finished No. 4 in the final state poll and Webster was 15th.

A number of Rochester area gridders are included among the NYSSWA's Top 100 players: Madison linebacker Ken Forsett; Aquinas' linebacker Glenn Williams; ER defensive end Jim Bruce; Cates-Chili defensive end Phil Recchio; Cardinal Mooney halfback Virgil Cotton; tackle Ed Dorris and QB Dennis Murray; Webster kicker Bob Grocki; and Madison defensive end Ike Knight.

Mooney coach Tony Merola reports that last year's Greater Rochester halfback Tony Shaw "must be doing OK" at the U. of Wisconsin.

Shaw, who got himself into a little hot water with remarks made last June at a student assembly, had a head shot and an action photo (he was playing defensive halfback) on the sports pages of the Madison, Wis. State Journal recently.

Shaw is considered by U. of Wisconsin head coach John Jardine as an outstanding freshman prospect with some speed. Around here we appreciate that equating Shaw with the words "some speed" is an understatement.



Ouch

Robert McDonald, McQuaid fullback is brought down in the first game of the season, last Saturday. Webster-Schroeder won 13-7.

## IN THIS CORNER

George Beckon

College football has been taking credit for building character as long as guys have been bumping heads on 100-yard long playgrounds. So how come it took so long to put a former star into the White House?

Make no mistake about it, Jerry Ford was a star in the collegiate area. He is the first true "jock" to become president.

The years diminish memories and obscure records, which is why hundreds of prominent businessmen who barely earned their varsity letters become "almost" All-Americans 30 and 40 years later.

Ford was a legitimate college star but he did not make All American. He was a blue-chipper out of Grand Rapids, where high schools developed livestock for three of the nation's college powerhouses — Michigan, Notre Dame and Michigan State. In 1930 he was captain of state champion South High. Ford played center in days when the center actually had to pass the ball back and he went both ways, playing linebacker on defense.

He was a classic of the times, making the top 10 per cent of his 1931 graduating class, taking top level courses including Latin. Ford was recruited much like today's prime prospects, spending a weekend at the Michigan coach's home and getting the full entertainment treatment. The Big Ten did not give athletic scholarships then, but Ford made it to Michigan on a scholarship from his own high school. Like Frank Merriwell, of course, he had to wait on tables to make the nut.

When Michigan won national championships in both '32 and '33, Ford had an injury problem played behind an All American one season, and actually was in action only for about 25 per cent of the team's playing time.

Ford made it big on a losing team, something he joked about in a recent press conference. With the 1934 club decimated by graduation, Michigan lost seven

of eight, but Jerry Ford was named MVP.

Strictly off that record, you might say he may not have been such a biggie in college football. But he was chosen to play in the East-West Shrine game in San Francisco on New Year's Day. And the next summer he played for the College All Stars against the Green Bay Packers in the Chicago Tribune's annual charity game, the one the NFL players blew out last month, because of their strike.

After those All Star game appearances, Ford was offered a contract by Curly Lambeau, Green Bay's coach. The Detroit Lions matched Lambeau's offer. It was for \$200 a game, 14 games. In those days it was a good offer.

Instead, Ford took slightly less money, \$2,400 a year, to work as assistant football coach and head boxing coach for Ducky Pond at Yale.

Two years ago the College Football Hall of Fame recognized Ford's contributions with one of its prized annual awards.

Football builds character? In a recent interview with the Daily News (N.Y.) Washington Bureau, Ford said it: "If it's a cliché to say athletics builds character as well as muscle, then I subscribe to the cliché."

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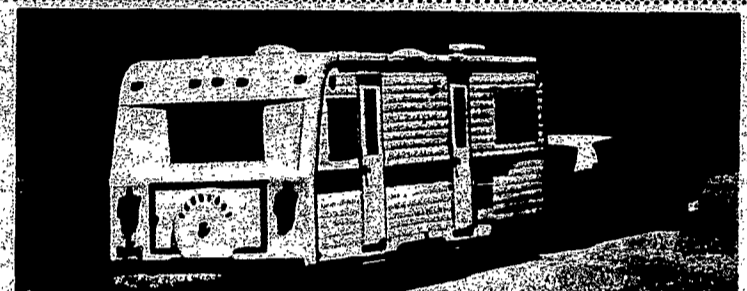
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