

Skirt-in' Sports

By Mary Garber



Maryland Coach Speaks for Peace

Peace between the AAU and the NCAA is a must for the future of the United States in track, according to Jim Kehoe, track coach at the University of Maryland.

Kehoe took no sides on the squabble but insisted it had to be settled.

"I'm hopeful there will be some solution," said Kehoe when he attended the North Carolina High School Coaches clinic at Greensboro last week. "But surely something must be done and it looks as though settlement will have to come from a third party, a group that can be objective."

Kehoe said that at least part of the defeat by the Russian track team could be attributed to the squabble between the AAU and the NCAA. "The loss of our college boys is bound to hurt," said Kehoe. "We're just not at the point in U.S. track where we can afford to write off any group."

Outside of the jurisdictional squabble, Kehoe thinks track in the United States is coming along well.

"We have made fantastic progress," he said. "Our track picture is in excellent shape except for this accursed and unnecessary fight."

Women's Program Needs Help

Kehoe would like to see more effort devoted to women's track, which he feels is our big weak spot.

"Our women need a lot of work in track," said Kehoe. "One problem is that track is not well received by the girls themselves in this country. Too many of them think it is unfeminine. It doesn't have the standing of say competitive swimming."

"Though there are a few good programs for girls, we need more. There's no reason why our girls cannot be as strong internationally as our men."

Kehoe feels there's no limit to what can be done in track.

"I used to think there was a foreseeable limit to times and distances in events, but I don't think so now," said Kehoe. "We will continue to have records broken as long as there is track competition. I believe the biggest improvement will come in the longer distances, say, two miles and up. We should see considerable improvement in events like the javelin and the discus. Other records will be broken but the improvement will be more gradual."

"Athletes are working harder and longer today. The human body seems to be improving and we are finding out it can endure much more than we ever thought and it seems to stand up to and improve under fantastic workouts. I'd say the greatest improvement we've made has been in the development of endurance."

Kehoe said the workouts at Maryland and at most colleges were longer and tougher than they were even a few years ago.

"We used to run three or four miles a day, now some of our top runners nationally go 22 miles a day. We used to work once a day, now it's twice. We used to work a few months out of the year. Now the track boys have to work year around."

Kehoe has developed Maryland track from an also-



Staff Photo by Mary Garber

Jim Kehoe of Maryland thinks U. S. track is growing.

ran in the ACC to champion.

"North Carolina used to win eight of ten track titles in the ACC and Duke won the other two," said Kehoe.

He feels that a college or high school coach who is dedicated and enthusiastic can build a track program.

"The coach must be sincere, interested, willing to work and make use of the help he can get," said Kehoe. "He must be interested in the boy, not just as an athlete but in his academic progress as well."

"Track is a good foundation for citizenship. It's a sport in which a boy is on his own. He can't depend on anyone else or blame anyone if he loses. There's a watch or a tape on every move. Once the race begins, there's no time out and he can't call for someone to substitute. But it's a sport that has a place for every kid, whether he's large or small, fast or slow."

Kehoe said it was important to have at least two men in every event so that teammates could compete against each other.

He praised the job done by Bill Jordan, track coach at Wake Forest. "Jordan has done an excellent job of pulling up the Wake Forest program," said Kehoe.

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Conference outdoor and indoor titles, asked this question when he saw the Greensboro Coliseum Tuesday:

"Why don't you hold big indoor track meets in there?"

The Maryland coach pointed out the late Dale Ranson's interest in this project before the Carolina track coach died. "Coach Ranson always talked of promoting indoor track meets in places like this in North Carolina."

He said this would be a natural because of North Carolina's growth in track. "I know of 25 schools in North Carolina with new track programs," he said.

Kehoe said track's growth is mushrooming because of the impetus given it by "TV exposure and the Olympics."

"In basketball a boy has to be a six-footer to compete—and in football it takes a big rugged boy. Track can be for boys of every size. There are no physical limitations."

Football becomes the No. 1 clinic topic today with Coach Bob Devaney of Nebraska taking over at 9 a.m.

Devaney has the best won-lost record of any active major college football coach. His record is 63-15-5 for an .808 percentage.

Kehoe Suggests Indoor Meet

GREENSBORO (AP) — Coach Jim Kehoe, whose Maryland track teams have won 10 straight Atlantic Coast