

On The Sidelines ...

by Mike Knapp

Thinclads Keep Running

My heartiest congratulations to the Potsdam High Track team and its brilliant Coach Bill Lewis. The Sandstone thinclads have again proven to be the top team in the Northern League, and one of the outstanding clubs in Northern New York. Their dual meet victory over Gouverneur several weeks ago was their 20th straight in two years, while their first-place finish in the Sectionals was also a major achievement. I've said this before, but it is again interesting to note that Potsdam High was not even considered a major track school four years ago, but under the tutelage of Coach Lewis and the fine assistance he is given by various members of the athletic staff at Potsdam High, track and field is now "big time" at PCS.

Bill Lewis is a very conscientious individual, and also a very modest one, so he probably will shy away from these accolades being thrown his way, but they're well-deserved. Anyone working in schoolboy sports will tell you that coaching track and field is no easy task. There's a vast difference between this sport and a team sport such as football or basketball. First of all, team victories depend upon individual performances, and thus much more responsibility is placed on each player. However, it is difficult for a coach to "instruct" in such a sport. He can advise his performers on certain techniques, and can do his best to boost morale, but as Lewis admits himself, there is just so much that a track coach can do. Secondly, it is almost impossible for a coach to devote the necessary amount of time to each individual performer, since a team often consists of over 50 members. This is especially true if only one person is coaching the club, as is the case of Potsdam High.

So just what has been the secret of Bill Lewis' success? Well, first of all he will say that "you must have the material." And nothing could be truer. No matter what the sport, the talent and ability among the participants must be there for any coach, no matter how effective he may be, to succeed. So it is established that in the past couple of years, Potsdam High has had a wealth of material. But that's not all. In many cases, the material may be there, but the guiding force must have that little "something extra" in order to mold not only a winning team, but a championship one. In Bill Lewis' case, much of what he has done is psychological, and has to do with "attitude." Although he laments the fact that he can not spend more time with each of his individual performers, he does manage to instill a kind of undeniable spirit and competitive force within his charges which has brought great success in the past two seasons. It's more than just winning. It's a responsibility and cooperation between the various participants which makes it possible for Lewis to spend a maximum amount of time on a particular weak spot in his team, while the other participants practice with maximum effort, and with the assistance of other members of the squad. This is total devotion to a cause, and Lewis exemplifies this himself, and thus has instilled this spirit within his team members.

Of course, the boys win the events and do the work and struggle through the rigged practice sessions, and they certainly deserve a good share of the credit. I have always had a certain admiration for participants in track and field events, for I feel that these men and boys are truly exerting themselves both physically and mentally in a trained, disciplined way, or they couldn't win. We often chide our youngsters of today because they are "soft", and because the automobile and television set have replaced the gymnasium, bar bells, and even the bicycle. Well, those participating in sports in today's schools—

Jr. Olympic Day Saturday; Dr. Molnar Will Speak

The simple but striking lines of the famous words of the Olympic Oath will be the living code of over 300 Potsdam youngsters as they participate in one of the most unique events ever held in this village — THE JUNIOR CHAMP OLYMPIC DAY. — on Saturday.

The Potsdam Jaycees, sponsors of the event, are busy making final plans for the Olympic Day, which will include all the elaborate pomp and pageantry of the actual Olympic Games, as was played this past fall in Japan. The main portion of the Olympic Day will be, of course, the track and field competition on Saturday afternoon in which the youngsters, ranging in age from 2 to 15 (grades six through 10) will compete in a variety of events from Relays to Pole Vault.

The youngsters will be divided into four Nations: Canada, Denmark, Australia, and the United States. They will remain members of these

teams throughout the day, including the parade, ceremonies, and competition. Each youngster will be identified by a colored sash pinned to his or her shirt at the General Convocation Saturday morning at 10:30 in the Civic Center Auditorium, and by an identification card which must be pinned to his back when he arrives Saturday morning.

Order of Events
The order of events for the day are as follows:

10:30 a.m.: At this exact time the Junior Olympic Athletes are to arrive at the Civic Center where they will be greeted by Tom Enright, chairman of the General Convocation. Here the athletes will find out what team (country) they are representing. Each contestant will receive a satin sash and pin and will then be seated in the proper section of the Civic Center with their team. Preliminary Instructions will follow from their coaches: Floyd Dame - Denmark, Karl

Wisner - United States, Walt Wheeler - Canada, and Terry Davis - Australia. Also present will be four Jaycees to coach the girls.

11:00 — James Mulcare, Village Administrator, will welcome the athletes and then Dr. Samuel Molnar will give a short talk on the theme of the Olympics. Following this, Dr. Molnar, director of athletics at Potsdam State, will show a film on the 1964 Olympics held in Japan. It is entitled "The World Is One".

11:30 — At this time Bands, Boy Scouts, The Color Guard, and Dignitaries will arrive and take their stations on the Snell Hall lawn in preparation for the parade. The parade will be under the direction of James Hopkins.

11:45 — The Junior Olympic athletes will line-up on the Snell Hall lawn with their coaches in preparation for the parade.

12:00 — The parade will leave the Civic Center, proceed down Main Street to Market Street; down Market Street to Cottage Street, up Cottage to the parking lot of the Potsdam Central School athletic field. There the parade will disband, except for the contestants on the various teams, who will remain in line of march, preparing for the Grand Entrance onto the Olympic Field.

Pageant Begins
1 p.m. — The Olympic Opening Pageant will begin. Olympic Fanfare will signify the beginning of the games, and the four nations or teams will parade onto the field to the playing of the actual Olympic March. With WFDM's Con Elliott as Master of Ceremonies, Mayor Ted Anderson will be introduced

and he will welcome the athletes. This will be followed by the Council of Nations with the flags of each country being brought together in the center of the field signifying unity of all nations throughout the world. Then, the Olympic Flag will be raised followed by Dr. Molnar leading the athletes in the Olympic Oath. The most picturesque moment of the Olympic Pageantry will take place when the Olympic Runner will appear with the lighted torch and stride around the track and light the Eternal Flame symbolizing the spirit of the Olympic Games. After this, the flags of each country will be placed near the Eternal Flame and Bill Lewis, chairman of the games, will proclaim the opening of the Olympics.

1:15 p.m.: The contestants will march off the field to their respective "camps" or areas. The competition will begin, and each event will be called by Con Elliott. After each set of events, First (Gold), Second (Silver), and Third (Bronze) Medals will be awarded to winners, along with Fourth and Fifth place ribbon awards. When the First place winners are announced, the flag of that nation will be held up and the National Anthem of that Nation will be played.

Because of the elaborate plans for this Junior Olympic Day, there are several notes which might be of interest to contestants and parents:
1. The Jaycees have assured

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that medical and emergency assistance will be available throughout the day should they be needed.

2. Contestants should wear gym suits and sneakers, and the identification tags, and should arrive promptly at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

3. No lunch will be served or should be eaten by contestants taking part in the track and field events. Contestants are advised to eat a good breakfast NO LATER than an hour and a half before the convocation at 11 a.m.

4. Trained and qualified physical education instructors and leaders will be running the meet, and all normal safety precautions have been assured.

Can Still Enter
The boys and girls in all grades, six through 10, in the Potsdam Junior High and High School, Lawrence Avenue Elementary School, Congdon Campus School, and St. Mary's School were given application blanks from their gym instructors for the Junior Olympic Competition and were to have returned them Wednesday. However, Chairman Lewis has said that any youngsters still interested in entering, may do so by appearing Saturday morning at the Civic Center at 10 a.m. and filling out the blanks. However, the contestant must bring a slip of paper with his parent's signature on it signifying their permission for the youngster to participate. Either parent may sign.

The Potsdam Jaycees urge

all parents, friends, youngsters not participating and interested persons to watch this colorful and exciting event, both on the parade route and at the Olympic site. There is no admission charge or fee of any kind, and bleacher seats for nearly 1,000 will be available.

Lions To Honor Girl Scout Leaders June 22

Potsdam Lions will sponsor the King Brothers Circus on July 10, with tickets available in advance.

Potsdam Hospital Administrator James Clemons was presented with a check for \$500 as part payment of the Lions pledge to the hospital building fund, at their meeting this week. The money is to be used to furnish a room at the hospital.

On Tuesday, June 22, Lion Dr. Saul Fliegel has arranged a Girl Scout Leader Recognition Night, starting with dinner at the Town House, as usual.

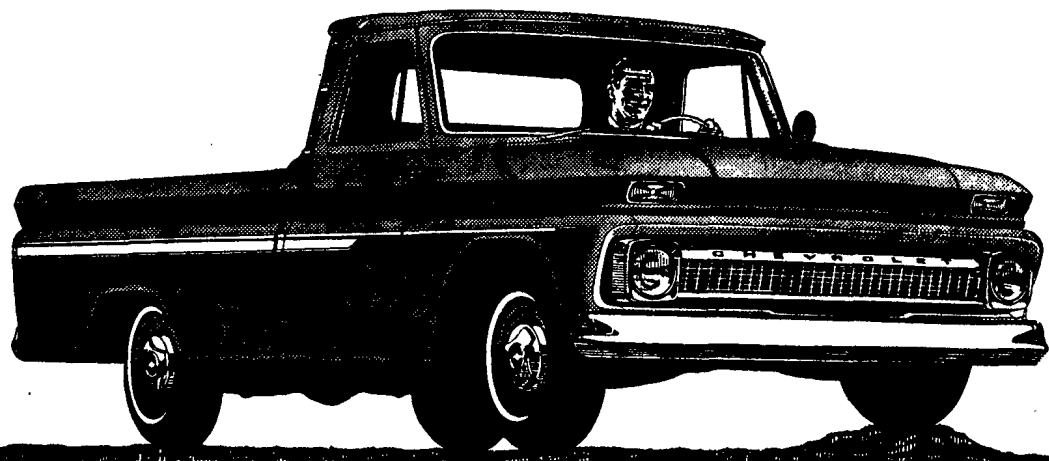
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and especially those in track and field—have not gone "soft", and they will grow up better men and women because of it. Again, a sincere salute to a job well done by the 1965 Potsdam High Track and Field team.

Speaking of track and field and Coach Lewis brings to mind an event which will take place this Saturday in Potsdam—the Potsdam Jaycees Junior Olympic Day. Among the many regrets that I have had in being forced to leave Potsdam for a few weeks because of my health is that I will not be there for this second annual event this Saturday. The Jaycees started this program last year, and it was a tremendous success from the outset. Not only did it give hundreds of youngsters the opportunity to participate in track and field competition, but it was colorful and imaginative with the triumphant parade through the village, the bands, the Olympic flags and symbols, the youngsters participating on various teams representing different countries, and the awarding of the Olympic medals. Some 200 participated last year, and an even larger number are expected to turn out for Saturday's event.

Bill Lewis has chaired this event for two years now, and it was through his efforts last year that it was initiated. So enthusiastic was he with the project, that he sacrificed a trip to Lake Placid last Spring with some of his trackmen for the Zone Track Meet to be on hand for the Olympic Day. The Jaycees have spent months in preparation for this event Saturday, as they consider it their number one project of the year for the community. I can't give an exact schedule of events, since it may have changed since I left town, but I'm sure there is a story elsewhere in this issue. In any event, I would like to urge everyone to come out to the Potsdam Athletic Field (where the football games are played) and see this unusual and grand spectacle. You will be delightfully surprised, as many were last year, and will have an enjoyable afternoon. Certainly we'd like to see the parents of the participants there. The event is free, and your youngsters would be ever so pleased for your support. Also, like myself, you'll be amazed to see what ability these young boys and girls possess for a sport which they aren't actually acclimated to, especially the girls. Good luck, Jaycees. I wish I could be there to help.

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