

S. F., OAL May Lose Special Track Status

By SYD RUSSELL

There is a very good chance that tomorrow will be the last time that the winners of the San Francisco and Oakland All City track and field championships will automatically qualify for the State meet.

According to Bill Russell, executive secretary of the California Interscholastic Federation, the addition of the San Diego section will necessitate the revision of plans for the 1961 showdown — "and there is a strong possibility that in the future performers from the two Bay area cities will have to meet one another in order to win berths."

Unlike the CIF's other sections, which are made up of several leagues, San Francisco and Oakland have been sections within themselves. This arrangement has been criticized for many reasons, the chief one being that

mediocre athletes have a relatively easy time of qualifying for the State final.

Time and again, the S. F. League (Academic Athletic Association) and OAL have been represented by performers who wouldn't have finished in the money at section meets contested by several conferences.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

Elwood Lang, supervisor of the AAA, is all in favor of the "merge" which, incidentally, was proposed by the CIF secretaries at a recent meeting. The same group also suggested an alternative that would call for a two day State meet with all participants qualifying on the basis of fastest times and best distances.

Both proposals will be studied by the CIF council at a June 3 meeting in Palo Alto. That's the day before this year's trackfest at Stanford University.

As for the two All City

battles, they figure to be dandies.

Records are expected to fall at a brisk pace in the S. F. test at Kezar Stadium, starting at noon.

Headliners here will be Poly's Bob Ely, who smashed the city's 27 year old pole vault mark Wednesday when he cleared 13 feet 6½ inches, and teammate Alex Darnes, the discus thrower who got a 179 foot 7 inch measurement at last weekend's Fresno Relays.

POLY FAVORED

Poly has been installed a slight favorite to capture the team title. However, most experts say Washington and St. Ignatius could get the job done with a few breaks. All three tied for first place in the round robin race.

Castlemont, perhaps the best dual meet team in the West, is a "cinch" to be wearing the Oakland crown following its efforts at the University of California. This one begins at 1:30 p. m.

It's big guns are quarter-milers Ray Saddler, whose :48.1 is the best in northern California; Ben Whitfield, a :14.4 high hurdler, and :09.6 sprinter Bobby Simpson. Also, Castlemont's relay is virtually assured a blue ribbon as its 1:27.1 is a State low.

Highlight of the U. C. program is expected to come when Simpson tangles with McClymonds Chuck Patton, another :09.6 century man.

Three North Coast sub-sectional meets are scheduled for tomorrow, as follows:

1. At Richmond (1:30 p. m.), between the Alameda and Diablo Valley loops.

2. At Westmoor (10:30 a. m.), among the Peninsula, Santa Clara and Coast County leagues.

3. At San Rafael (1 p. m.), involving the Catholic, Marin, North Bay, Bay Counties and Northwestern.

The first five finishers in each of the three divisions will advance to the section finals at Berkeley a week from tomorrow.

At Westmoor, fans will have an opportunity to watch three brilliant half mileers match strides. They are Rob-in Ruble of Los Altos, 1:53.1; Ralph Lee of San Mateo, 1:53.9, and Matt Tielemans of Los Gatos, 1:56.0.