Mt. Pleasant Faces Tough Track Test

Mt. Pleasant will be hard-pressed to cart off its first Central Coast Section Track & Field Championship, one that was considered a virtual certainty until a week ago.

Here is how the Mercury sees it on the track with season best marks following each athlete.

100—Glenn Cannon should win, but Duane Green has reached a peak at the right time and will challenge. Predictions: 1. Cannon (Mt. Pleasant) 9.5; 2. Green (Ayer) 9.7n; 3. Kim Nash (Cubberley) 9.9; 4. Herm Henry (San Mateo) 9.9; 5. Ken Meriweather (Mt. Pleasant) 9.6n; 6. Will Colling (Los Altos) 9.9n. Longshot—Ed Herbert (Serramonte) 9.6w and Varsie Littlejohn (Mt. Pleasant) 9.7n.

220—Don Coulter has good chance to out-race Cannon since he was voted out of his chance to repeat in the 440. Predictions: 1. Cannon (Mt. Pleasant) 21.0; 2. Coulter (Carlmont Harbor) 21.3; 3. Eugene Rachal (Yerba Buena) 21.6n; 4. Nash (Cubberley) 22.1; 5. Pat Holcomb (Hill) 21.7n; 6. Henry (San Mateo) 22.5. Longshot—Duane Barkley (Silver Creek) 21.6n and Green (Ayer) 21.5n.

440—Keith Taylor should dip into 47s if someone else runs a fast first 220. Predictions: 1. Taylor (Piedmont Hills) 48.0; 2. Asa Hilliard (South City) 48.8; 3. Pat Holcomb (Hill) 48.9; 4. Melvin Holland (Silver Creek) 49.5n; 5. Bill Breaux (Seaside) 49.7; 6. Kevin Groves (San Mateo) 50.0. Longshot—Wyatt Bishop (Carlmont) if he runs after the 880, and Franco Mitchell (Monterey) 50.1.

880—This figures as the most competitive race on the track with Wyatt Bishop, Clay Taylor, Jeff Maxwell and Tom Light in the battle for three State meet berths. Predictions: 1. Bishop (Carlmont) 1:57.0; 2. Clay Taylor (Piedmont Hills) 1:55.6; 3. Light (Pacific Grove) 1:55.7; 4. Maxwell (Westmoor) 1:55.8; 5. Jensen (Buchser) 1:56.8; 6. Dan Burns (St. Ignatius) 1:57.2n. Longshot—Al Pramann (Los Altos) 1:57.1n.

MILE—Another event that is up for grabs, could be even more competitive than the 880. Predictions: 1. Ross (Serra) 4:18.7; 2. Mark Stillman (Willow Glen) 4:19.3; 3. John Sup (Palma) 4:18.6; 4. Fred Behrmann (Los Altos) 4:20.0; 5. Hutchings (Del Mar) 4:21.1n; 6. Dyer (Saratoga) 4:19.5. Longshot—Lowmiller (Salinas) 4:20.1.

TWO-MILE—Camden's Bobby Paulin á solid choice with freshman Carlos Carrasco battling for second and a trip to the State meet. Fred Behrmann could finish much higher than fifth where we have him tabbed. Predictions: 1. Paulin (Camden) 9:13.4; 2. Carrasco (Mt. Pleasant) 9:18.6n; 3. Craig Corev (San Mateo) 9:31.2; 4. Bob Love (Carlmont) 9:27.4n; 5. Behrmann (Los Altos) 9:21.8; 6. Rich Munoz (Watsonville) 9:26.1. Longshot—Mello (Crestmoor) 9:33.6.

120 HH—Tom Bobertz has event all to himself. Predictions: 1. Bobertz (Serramonte) 13.8; 2. Tim Stafford (Los Gatos) 14.5; Richard Clark (Menlo-Atherton) 14.5; 4. Harold Ross (Hillsdale) 14.7n; 5. Steve Bertero (Gilroy) 14.8; 6. Gary Winfler (Monta Vista) 14.8n. Longshot— Gordon Bliss (Carlmont) 14.7.

The Mercury dopesheet sees Mt. Pleasant winning despite the loss of hurdler Don Reed who was also a valuable cog on both Cardinal relay teams. Mt. Pleasant is figured for 42 points with Glenn Cannon tabbed for a double in the sprints.

The CCS meet is set for Friday night at San Jose City College with trials starting at 3 o'clock and the finals at 7.

180 LH—Junior Andre Phillips has fastest clocking but he'll be running with a tender leg which keeps him out of highs and relays. Predictions: 1. Bobertz (Serramonte) 37.3; 2. LeCharles McDaniel (Seaside) 38.4; 3. Phillips (Silver Creek) 36.4; 4. Byron (Hurricane) Hawkins (Burlingame) 37.4; Ross (Hillsdale) 37.4n; Mark Chapman (Yerba Buena) 38.1. Longshot—Tony Viars (Monterey) 39.0.

440 Relay—Piedmont Hills nipped Mt. Pleasant when latter was forced to run without Don Reed who is on shelf with injury. Pirates should repeat, but they cannot afford poor passes. Predictions: 1. Piedmont Hills 41.9; 2. Mt. Pleasant 41.8; 3. Silver Creek 42.5n; 4. Yerba Buena 42.4n; 5. Seaside 43.0; 6. Ayer 42.9n. Longshot—San Mateo 43.1.

MILE RELAY—Piedmont Hills should breeze since Silver Creek and Mt. Pleasant will be minus one key runner each with injury. San Mateo could challenge for second. Predictions: 1. Piedmont Hills 3:18.3; 2. Silver Creek 3:18.5n; 3. San Mateo 3:21.6; 4. Mt. Pleasant 3:19.7n; 5. Seaside 3:23.3; 6. Ayer 3:24.6. Longshot—Soquel 3:25.6n.

SCORING LEADERS (Includes field event predictions in Wednesday edition) Mt. Pleasant 42, San Mateo 38, Piedmont Hills 38, Los Altos 31, Silver Creek 30, Camden 24, Serramonte 22, Carlmont 20, Hill 18, Menlo-Atherton 16, Capuchino 16, Del Mar 16, Seaside 14, Mills 14.