Track Picture Looks Good As Veterans Return

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Spring is rapidly approaching and with it comes the season, in which athletes of all shapes and sizes try to run faster, jump higher, and throw farther than their competitors. This is track season. Rice has won the conference for the last two years in a row, and the question that is continually being asked is “Can they do it again?”

The answer is “Yes, they can.” This year will require hard work and a good day. Returning in the sprints are Jimmy Epps (9.6, 21.1), followed by Ronny Conner and Scotty Midlebrook. Sophomores Fred Cloud should also add some points here. Only Captain Jimmy Ellington, co-holder of the 440 record, remains from last year’s quarter milers, but he should be helped by converted soph sprinter John Bruin and soph quarter-miler Jeff Smith.

In the half-mile Jeff Moss, co-holder of the school record (1:54.9) and second in conference, will be backed by a wealth of soph talent in Greg Peters, Bob Alexander, and converted quarter-miler Bob Thompson.

Milers Strong

In the mile, veterans Gene Timberlake, third in conference, and Jerry Sadler will be followed by soph Pieter Cramerus. Rice has one lone, but fine contender in the 3 mile, George Stroup, who has the school record in the 2 and 3 mile. In the hurdlng events Rice has only one left from last year’s powerful quartet, Jimmy Wilkerson, who, with soph Tommy Moore will continue the hurdles tradition.

In the field events Joe Wil- liams, who holds the school discus record, and soph Gerald Holtzman, who holds the school record in the shot put, should place well in both. They will throw the shot, and last year’s winner of the javelin throw, Ricki Jacobs, will be aided by Bob Thompson.

No Broad Jumper

In the pole vault Gerald Kesselfine, who won the conference in the freshman division, will join Tommy Marshal, who got points in his division also. In the high jump Lynn Morris has been progressing and has cleared 6’6” in practice, leaving only one field event without any sure contenders, the broad jump.

In the sprint and mile relays, Rice will be strong again this year. In the 440 relay last year’s veterans Ellington and Epps (the anchor man) will be backed by Conner and Cloud, and they will try to equal last year’s record performance of 40.7. In the mile relay veterans Moss and Ellington (anchor man) will probably take baton from Bruin and Cloud, in an effort to run below 3:10 again this year.

Good Frosh

This year’s freshman team has an exceptionally good group of runners. In the sprints they have Dale Beinauer, a 9.4 speedster, and Doug Belzung, an excellent 220 man. In the quarter-mile blue chipper Charley Brown, Mike Casey, and Mike McKeel will do well. In the half-mile Tommy Maupin (1:58.4), 4A state champ, will endeavor to remain a champion, while milers Steve Montoya (4:14) and Jim Metzger (4:20) will run against many of those whom they defeated in cross-country meets in the fall.

Doug Belzung and David Hairston will run the 120 high hurdles, Hairston will also run the 440. The field events may be frequented by football players Leland Winston and Paul Fields. Finally, the relays should show the merit of the team when quarter – milers Brown and Casey will show their speed along with Belzung and Biernoe. The mile relay should be a sight to behold when McKeel, Brown, Casey, and Beinauer show their heels. All are capable of splits in the 46-48 second range.

The only home meet will be the afternoon of March 19.