Bikemen refuse to predict winner in marathon race

By DOUG McNEAL

There were the much vaunted Beer-Bike race only two days away, what are the various bike team captains releasing for publication?

Gerry Moorhead, captain of the Baker team, rates his team as "fairly strong." The main problem is lack of experience. About seven of the ten team places have already been filled; about ten men are competing for the remaining slots.

Moorhead characterized the Hanszen College team as "always a formidable foe," but he predicted the order of finish, as Hanszen first, Baker second, and Will Rice third.

Close Second

Dave Linick, captain of the Wiess College bike team, reports that he has had a great turn out this year—about 40 people came out at one time or another. Right now there about 15 men competing for the top ten spots.

In relation to the other teams, Linick suggested that Hanszen is probably slightly faster, but Wiess is close. He issued the prediction that Wiess will "finish the race," but he suggested, "If anybody falls, he better not get up."

Linick noted that Mickey Trichelle will be riding his ninth consecutive time for the team this year and may ride a tenth time next year. Spectators can also expect a repeat of the Wiess College parade as usual.

Italia

"Last year proved that this is anybody's race," Linick stated, but he would issue no prediction about the outcome of the race.

Jim Moyer, Will Rice bike captain, revealed that things are "looking better" now, with a team average of about 2:09:5 on the Rondelet race course.

He noted that the team will not be selected until the last day. This year there are no WRC college bikes; the three

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Bike race Saturday

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Wrecks

This is Moyer's third year on the team and his second as captain. He sees Will Rice as different from the other colleges in that last year "we planned very hard not to have a wreck."

As the result of his experience and his feeling of responsibility to the riders, Moyer is opposed to the present road course around the academic quadrangle. The problem centers on inexperienced riders and a bad course.

Moyer singled out three factors in the traditional bike-race format which make the Rondelet contest especially difficult. First, the event is a time trial, which requires the riders to be in "fantastic physical shape."

Sprint

Second, it is a matched sprint, involving the hazards of side-by-side competition. Finally, the race is a relay, "the most difficult kind of race."

In addition, Moyer asserted that, though "we're much worse than amateurs, there is no strict control" of the race, as in regulation amateur meets.

Moyer suggested that the race could be made safer in either of two ways—by getting off the present course or by returning to the "American balloon-tire tanks" used several years ago. He would prefer to leave this course, perhaps for a University-built velodrome.

With regard to Saturday's race, Moyer suggested that Baker and Hanszen have a bit of an edge, "but they better not slip," he warned. Pressed for prediction, he would say only "Wait till Saturday."

Harvey Sachs, one of the leaders of the Hanszen bike team, estimated that 15 to 20 men have tried out for the team, and many of them are returning riders.

A committee will select the ten fastest men Thursday afternoon, considering both low times and consistency.

Strong Second

Sachs rated the Hanszen team "a strong second," suggesting that "we're not as cocky as in previous years." The team average as of Tuesday was 2:08.5, Sachs stated, noting that Hanszen's tradition of honesty and openness about team times contrasts with the practice of the other teams. Sachs' final prediction was that "Hanszen will be competitive."

Asked to comment on the present bike course, Sachs said, "I personally look forward to moving the course; this one is unsafe." He would prefer a flat course in the stadium parking lot, for good spectator visibility.