

11/12/74

Dear Jim:

I hope you attend the track coaches meeting of Tuesday Nov. 19th. As you know, the big debate will be whether to keep the new scoring system that includes the dual meets and the league meet to determine the over-all track champion, or whether to count the dual meets only. As far as I can objectively see the problem here are the pros and cons of the argument:

DUAL MEETS ONLY: (to decide the SPAL champion)

Advantages:

1. No other team interferes with the score. Its your team vs another team.
2. No runoffs to determine who moves on to the Region meet. (you don't have to move men around to try and win the title in the league meet. The league meet is a qualifying meet only.

Disadvantages:

1. A dual meet champion measures just that. It does not measure a championship meet team.
2. A large squad with good, over-all depth but not great performers will probably emerge as dual meet champion. This is a handicap to the smaller schools in the league. Also, the dual meet champion may not be the best all around track squad.
3. It is possible to lose the dual meet championship by an injury, illness, judges controversial decision, etc. The league meet gives you another chance to make a comeback for the championship.
4. A coach can key his training program to reach a peak for the dual meet season, neglecting the careful bringing along of individual stars who must reach their peak later on in the season. Some teams in the SPAL have a definite let down by the time the SPAL comes along because of so much emphasis on winning dual meets.
5. There is a definite loss of interest in the SPAL meet if it is an unofficial meet, counting only for qualifying to the Region.

BOTH THE DUAL AND LEAGUE MEET COUNTING FOR THE OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP :

Advantages:

1. The best all-around team emerges as champion
2. The league finals should be official. Being league ^{MEET} champion should mean something and be just as important as being dual meet champion.
3. Interest in the league finals was at an all-time high last year because they counted in the final standings.
4. Probably over 90 % of all high school and college track championships in the U.S. are decided on the final league meet. If this is so, why are ^{we} not willing to count our league finals as official?

Advantages (Cont.)

5. The smaller schools in the league will have a chance for a day of success in the league meet that is usually denied them in dual meets because of lack of numbers.

Disadvantages:

1. The dual meet champion must prove itself all over again in the league meet.
2. Runoffs. (for a handful of 4th or 5th placers on the varsity level on a Tuesday before the Region meet.) There were 13 individuals that were in the Region Runoffs last season.
3. In some instances the runoffs could disrupt a day of training in preparation for the Region meet.

My conclusion is that it is better for the league to have both the dual and league finals count. Every coach in the Mid-Peninsula League favors this system. They have been using the system since 1962 and do not find all the hardships mentioned by the opponents of the league finals to be much of a factor. Jim, I suggest you phone the track coaches of Crestmoor, San Mateo, Aragon, Burlingame, etc. and find out from them how they feel about the league finals counting along with dual meets.

Sincerely,

Plato Yanicks
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