Dover boys seek repeat in Cardinal track meet

By MARK MASSARO T-R Sports Writer

On the remote chance that everyone in Ohio isn't building boats by the weekend, the Dover High boys' will defend their Cardinal Conference track and field title at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ashland.

The Tornadoes won the first conference championship in boys' track in the school's history last year, but the second one may have to wait with New Philadelphia and Ashland posing strong competition.

"We could be contenders... sure," said Dover coach Jim Heller. "Ashland and Phila are stronger teams, but it will be interesting."

AMONG DOVER'S top entries are the 400- and 1,600-meter relay teams, which qualified for the state meet a year ago. Returning from that 400 foursome are senior Chris Mills and junior Greg Arbogast, who are joined by newcomers Jeff Margletta and Dan Hurst.

Arbogast is the only returnee on the 1,600 and is teamed with John Feutz, John Craig and Hurst. The 400 squad has been clocked at 44.5 seconds and the 1,600 team at 3:33.

Also leading the Tornadoes are Arbogast in the 200 and 400, Mills in the 100 and 200, Dan Van Epps in the long jump, Chris Wagner in the high jump and hurdles and Fran Brogan in the shot put.

MEANWHILE, New Philadelphia coach Denny Edwards sees a two-team meet between the Tornadoes and the Quakers. However, he may be without his top sprinter in Blake Bailey, who is nursing a pulled hamstring.



Dover's Dan Van Epps will by shooting for first in the long jump at Saturday's Cardinal Conference track meet.

"He's the big key for us," Edwards said, "because Dover has tremendous sprinters in Mills, Arbogast and Bryan Miller. That's hard to overcome."

Bailey's availablility won't be determined until the day of the meet.

The Quakers' strength lies in their distances with Eric Lukens in the 1,600 and 3,200 and the 3,200 relay, in which he is joined by Dave Glass, Nick Shalosky and Tony Green. That foursome has been clocked at 8:11 — the 12th best time in the state, according to Edwards.

The Quakers' other top bids will come from hurdlers Doug Gibbs and Matt Dummermuth, long jumpers Chris Baker and Dan Reinhart and pole vaulters Chris Richmond and Todd Dummermuth.

IN THE GIRLS' division, New Philadelphia figured to have a good chance at bettering its runnerup finish from a year ago, but a rash of injuries has left Coach Pat Veltri rather discouraged. Ashland is the defending champion.

The Quakers' top five point-getters are scratched or questionable for Saturday's running.

Ginelle Hunter, a four-year letterman, has mononucleosis and may miss the remainder of the season, according to Veltri. She was a top candidate in the high jump and also ran the 400, 1,600 and 3,200 relay.

Freshman standout Arika Bleininger, who ran a 15.4 in the 100 low hurdles, is suffering back problems and is questionable for one or more of her four events, including the 100, 200 and 400 relay.

Also questionable are sprinter Traci Canfield (side), Lita Hasselbach (hip) and Linda Pryor (inner ear infection), All are four-event participants.

"Unless we have some drastic recoveries, that's the Cardinal Conference meet," said Veltri. "My report is like the weather... we'll have to wait and see."

THE DOVER girls' most promising event is the 3,200 relay with Kristen Herman, Cristi Wallace, Oldine Jean-Charles and Laura Hastedt. The quartet, which has lost only once this season, has been clocked at 10.19. The same girls run the 1,600, too.

"We'll be very competitive," said Coach Rich Staley. "We have a good chance if we just do our best."

With only one senior and three juniors on the squad, Staley is very hopeful for the future, saying: "I'll be surprised if we lose anything next year as far as meets. The girls are unpredictable as freehmen and sophomore, but very competitive."

Other top representatives from Dover are Jean-Charles in the 400, Michelle Kinsey in the shot put, Pam Randolph in the 100 and 200 and Chris Cargnel in the high jump.