

Kielty fights rigors of decathlon

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

After finishing up a meet, it's safe to say decathlete Craig Kielty has put in a full day.

Which ranks up there with saying the sun is hot and water is wet in terms of understatement.

But imagine the two-day schedule the Central Michigan trackster pucks in when he competes in the decathlon. On the first day, there's the 100-meter run, the long jump, the shot put, the high jump and the 400 dash.

Then Kielty gets up the next day, yawns and deals with the 110 hurdles, the discus, the pole vault, the javelin and the 1,500 run.

Competing in just half of those events would wipe out most mortal persons.

Along with the abundance of events, the conditions are not always the most ideal either. Last weekend at the Mid-American Conference championships at Miami University, for instance, temperatures reached the 90s.

YET IT didn't deter Kielty from

taking first overall in the decathlon with 7,018 points and first in the javelin with a toss of 222-feet-5.

"It was more of a survival than a track meet," said CMU coach Jim Knapp. "He was back 8 a.m. the next day when most kids can't even walk, throwing the javelin."

Even for Kielty, who graduated from Farmington High, things are beginning to take their toll. He's yet to qualify for the NCAA in either the decathlon or the javelin.

Kielty's hoping to make the NCAA standard of 235-0 on Saturday at the Toledo Rocket Relays. His best javelin throw this season is 224-11.

The decathlon, where the standard is 7,450 points, will have to wait until at least the following weekend of May 31 at the Central Collegiate meet. Kielty's best this season is 7,172 points.

Still, if he were to qualify for decathlon at the Central Collegiate meet, it would only allow him a few days to prepare for the NCAA meet on June 4 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Kielty said it takes at least three weeks to recuperate.

"I'M REALLY whipped," said Kielty, who recently graduated from

CMU. "This is the first time I've been able to do three decathlons in one season without a serious injury."

That's not to say Kielty has totally been unburdened from injuries. Before the season started, he had shoulder surgery to correct a separation which occurred in the joint while pole vaulting.

A part of his bicep muscle was placed on his shoulder and fastened with a 1/4-inch screw.

"I see it on an X-ray," said Kielty. "It looks like a strap on my shoulder."

Kielty thought he would be strapped not being able to participate in the decathlon this season after the surgery. He wasn't able to take part in the decathlon last season, but still took first in the javelin at the MAC championships.

He rebounded quickly, though, and was pole vaulting before doctors anticipated.

STILL, THE pole vault seems like climbing a steep mountain to Kielty.

"I really enjoy the pole vault, but it's a pressure event," said Kielty, whose brother Dave Kielty was also

a standout on the CMU track team. "If you don't make your height, that's it."

And Kielty doesn't like to miss his height, or not to do well in any other event for that matter. His coaches have noted his fierce competitiveness.

"Craig doesn't have a very aggressive personality," said Farmington track coach Dave Catherman, who introduced Kielty to the decathlon in an advanced physical education class. "He's very intense and very well organized. He was good at blocking things out of his head and just concentrating on the event at hand."

"He just gets things done," said Knapp.

In the decathlon, a person can't blow a gasket after a bad first in an event since there's nine others to

compete in.

OF ALL the events, though, Kielty's favorite is the javelin, mainly because it's the second to last event. His least favorite is the 400 dash.

At CMU, there's been as many men's track coaches as events in the decathlon in Kielty's four years there. Don Szalma was replaced by Craig Fuller last season.

This is Knapp's first year. Kielty doesn't need long to pick his favorite of that group.

"I was kind of getting upset with all the changes," said Kielty. "When (Knapp) first came in, I was apprehensive. After two weeks, he completely changed me. As far as I'm concerned he should've been the coach at Central for the last 10 years."

Which to Kielty, is an understatement.

Harrison blanks Falcons

Gary Schwedt allowed just two hits as Farmington Harrison zipped Farmington 8-0 in one of the few Western Lakes baseball games played on a cold, rainy Monday.

Schwedt walked five and struck out four in his seven innings of work.

Tom Blase was the hitting star for the Hawks. He had two singles and knocked in three runs. His two-run single capped a four-run third inning that put the Falcons away.

Steve Howell took the loss for Farmington. Art Eastman and Jim Howell collected the two singles.

Harrison is 10-12 on the season.

sports shorts

HILLS KICKERS MAKE STATE SELECT TEAM

Amy Trunk and Margaret Martin, both 13-year-old Power Middle School students, have been named to the 1986 Michigan state select girls soccer team based on statewide tryouts.

The state select team, 14-under, is coached by Paul Scieluna. Martin was a member of the squad last year.

The team will travel to Racine, Wis., June 19-22 to compete against a Midwest select team. Michigan was undefeated in competition last year.

GEORGE ALL-ACADEMIC

Farmington Harrison senior Ken George has been named to the 1986 Academic All-State basketball team by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

He will be honored at the 7th annual All-Star Festival at Central Michigan University Saturday, June 14. There is a chance that George will be selected to play in the boys B-C-D game.

ANDERSON TAPPED

Speaking of the All-Star Festival, North Farmington senior Rick Anderson has been chosen to play in the Class A all-star game (7 p.m. at CMU's Rose Arena).

Anderson was a two-time All-Area performer at North and will play next fall at Eastern Michigan University.

FARMINGTON LEGION BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Anyone living in the Farmington, Novi or Walled Lake area interested in competing for the Farmington American Legion baseball team should attend tryouts Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1, at Novi High School (10 Mile and Taft). Practice will begin at 1 p.m. both days.

For more information, call coach Randy Meier evenings after 9 p.m. at 477-6838.

COACHES NEEDED

The Farmington Public School District is accepting applications for two non-teaching coaching positions for the fall of 1986. Openings are for a boys junior varsity soccer coach and a girls varsity tennis coach.

Resumes should be sent to Ronald

G. Holland, 32500 Shilwassee, Farmington 48024 or call 471-6337 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ATHLETE HEALTH SCREENING

The annual spring schedule for the 1986-87 Farmington Public Schools pre-athletic participation health screening has been established in conjunction with staff physicians at Botsford and Providence hospitals.

The screenings for both male and female athletes, will take place Thursday, May 29, at North Farmington High School.

Middle school athletes will be examined 5:30-7 p.m., high school athletes 7-9 p.m.

The cost is \$5 (cash only).

CALLING WOMEN GOLFERS

The 70th annual Michigan Women's Golf Association championship will be held July 14-18 at the Monroe Golf and Country Club.

Amateur women golfers with a handicap of 10 or less and who have been Michigan residents for at least four months are eligible. A maximum 112 golfers will qualify for match play.

There is a \$50 entry fee and deadline is June 21.

Entry forms may be obtained by writing Mrs. John Bull, 2610 Vanel Drive, Orchard Lake 48033.

RUN AT CRANBROOK

The eighth annual Cranbrook Run will be held Saturday, June 7, starting at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Cranbrook Run '86 will include 10,000-meter (6.2 miles), 5,000-meter (3.1 miles) and 200-meter (124 miles

for children) events. Check-in time will be 8:15-8:45 p.m., followed by the adult run at 9 a.m. and the children's run starting time at 9:45 a.m.

Cranbrook will open its trails and grassy areas — one of the few times during the year they're accessible for public viewing.

Official times will not be recorded. Registration fee is \$5.

For information, call 645-3230.

NORRIS LUNCHEON

State athletic officials have planned a retiree-run luncheon for Vern L. Norris, who will be stepping down at the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Executive Director effective Aug. 31.

The luncheon is scheduled for noon Friday, Aug. 15, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

Tickets may be obtained by sending \$15 (per ticket) to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1019 Troybridge Road, East Lansing 48823 by Aug. 1. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

All of Norris' friends, relatives and business associates are welcome to attend.

WOLVERINE BIKERS

Joe Matthews, 30, of Rochester biked through the entire 24-hour Wolverine Bike Marathon over the weekend at Belle Isle. He logged 445 miles.

The 27th annual race attracted 3,300 riders. More than 400 of them finished 200 miles, including David Freed of Troy and Gary Cummins of Auburn Hills.

Kevin Degan, 28, who has cerebral palsy, rode 145 miles on his tricycle.



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