

Echoes in the Valley

By John Steve

Bill Hamilton, Northern High School's "athlete of the 1942-43 school year," winds up his scholastic athletic career with two Saginaw Valley Conference scoring titles — in football and track.

The two touchdowns he scored in the City game last Fall gave him 11 for the season, and a total of 66 points for the best mark in the Valley. That season was climaxed by his achievement of being named on the Associated Press All-State eleven.

During the 1943 track season, Willie, the duration state champ in the high hurdles, saw the Regional-Valley laurels in that event go to his teammate, Leo Sloan, but as an all-around scorer, Hamilton was the best in Valley track circles. Bill wound up with nine firsts, seven seconds and a third for 71 points in five meets. Sloan copped eight firsts, losing to Hamilton twice, and chalked up 47½ points.

The Vikings' second best scorer in track, however, was Sophomore Nate Howison, who had 52½ points. He had one less first place than Sloan, but picked up additional points by running five times on the winning relay team. Showing how well balanced the Viking squad was, there were four other boys who won more than 20 points. Les Gratton copped 33½, Ray Hehn earned 24½, Dick Whitman 23½ and Archie Morrison 21.

Hamilton scored in four events in two dual meets. The only other Viking who earned points in four events the same day was Dick Smith, sophomore dashman, who won 4½ points for three thirds and a leg on the winning relay team.

The leading scorers of the Central track team were Corny Oxendine and Eugene Woods, Oxendine, specializing in the shot put and high jump, but competing also in the low hur-

dles, racked up 49 5/6 points with six firsts and two ties for first in six meets. Woods collected 46 points on six firsts and three ties for first.

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To save transportation, the statewide football rules conference for coaches and officials has been abandoned, and instead 12 area meetings will be held early in September. Local coaches and officials may be obligated to attend the regional meetings to obtain ratings. Members of the committee include Guy Houston, Northern football coach.

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Maybe Alpena High's track team should have stuck to telegraphic meets. The Northerners lost by only 62½-41½ to Arthur Hill in a meet in which times were compared via Western Union, but in the Regional competition, Alpena got only six points while Arthur Hill collected 32.

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Nothing in the Saginaw Valley Conference in recent years can compare with the 32-game winning streak piled up by Muskegon High in baseball. The string extends over three years. And Grand Rapids Creston has won 12 dual track meets in a row, six of them this year.

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Give Ray Hehn, the Northern trackster, a laurel wreath as "assistant coach" of the Vikings. Ray, who dropped his dual role of baseball-track star last season to concentrate on the running and jumping sport, took a hand in working with two speedy sophomore dashmen, Nate Howison and Doug Smith. Ray, a senior, beat them all through the indoor practice season, and in early workouts outdoors, but so well did he impart his instructions, that Howison invariably ran a yard or so ahead of Ray in meets, with Smith not far behind. *