

## CITY LEAGUE RED TAPE TRIPS HIM

## What Gilders Can't Vault

BY HAL SCHRAM

Fletcher Gilders, Northwestern High School's pole-vaulting sensation, is the latest victim of the "bungling" tactics which characterize the Metropolitan League.

In a few days Fletcher is to be officially recognized as the holder of the National indoor interscholastic pole vault record of 13 feet 3½ inches. He soared that high in a dual meet last week.

GILDERS' NAME, however, will not be posted in the future books of City and State school-boy achievement.

Fletcher cannot vault over the "rules, channels and precedent" which have been set up in the offices of Vaughn Blanchard and

George Mead, czars of Detroit's high school sports.

City League rules forbid Fletcher from seeking to break the State outdoor record of 12 feet, 7½ inches held by Bob Naveau, of Monroe.

State records must be set in statewide meets at East Lansing.

And the City League has steadfastly refused to enter its teams in state tournaments and meets since 1930.

ALL INDOOR records must be set in citywide meets but that phase of the program has been abandoned, so Gilders' feat won't even be recognized as a City League mark.

Charles Forsythe, director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, said at Lan-

sing Monday that MHSAA "would be glad to have Fletcher establish a record in the State meet at East Lansing May 28."

"Like any other high school trackman in Michigan the boy would be welcomed," Forsythe said. "Obviously his accomplishments are worthy of recognition."

He pointed out, however, that an application for Gilders to perform would have to come from Northwestern High School officials and not from his office.

And that's where the "rules, channels and precedent" fit into the picture.

JIMMY RUSSELL, Gilders' coach, said Monday that it was nice to think about such things but he doubted that the league would make an exception.

## Gilders record controversy 4-12-1949

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