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E IS....19 YEARS 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for U.S. Pole Vault Mark

BY GEORGE PUSCAS

Nineteen-year-old Fletcher Gilders smashed the 19-year-old National scholastic indoor pole vault record Thursday with a spectacular leap of 13 feet, 3½ inches and a bit of good fortune.

The versatile Northwestern High School athlete easily eclipsed the former standard of 13 feet, 2 inches. The old mark was established in 1930 by John Wonsowitz, of Froebel High School, Gary, Ind.

Gilders, a trim 155-pounder who is also National AAU junior tumbling champion and City League diving titlist, thus became the second local athlete to join the Nation's prep greats within the last six months.

REDFORD HIGH School's Burwell (Bumpy) Jones claimed the National individual medley record in the league's swimming championships last November.

Gilders, one of the finest athletes developed in the Detroit schools, claimed the mark in his first shot at the new height Thursday. He had tried for the record last week, but failed.


A small lad as pole vaulters go, the 5-foot-8 star soared cleanly over the bar in his record effort. As he cleared and began to straighten for his long descent, however, he scraped the bar lightly with his ribs.

THE BAR ROCKED crazily for a second, but finally steadied on its pins. Gilders glided gracefully down from a height never before attained by a high school vaulter.

He was promptly mobbed by dozens of fans attending the Northwestern-Southwestern dual meet.

With the record finally realized, the tow-headed youngster raised the standard to 13 feet, 6 inches. Two fruitless

efforts at that height, however, convinced him that he had done enough for one day.



FLETCHER GILDERS

He shrugged off the opportunity of a third attempt.

The record-breaking leap was Gilders' fifth in the meet. He remained out of competition until the field eliminated itself (at 9 feet, 6 inches). Then the standards were sent up to 11 feet 6.

Gilders gave the near-capacity crowd of 2,000 a bit of a shock as he brushed clumsily against the bar and sent it sailing. He came back to clear the height easily and succeeded at 12 feet and 13 feet 6.

From the latter height, the bars shot up to the record distance. Actually, the steel tape measure read 12 feet, 3¼ inches. But a remeasure after the jump showed it to be 13 feet 3½.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION of the effort appears a certainty. Officials Paul Bernd and Wally Laury, and Coach Jimmy Russell, had the record application form ready to mail minutes after Gilders smashed the record.

He had given fair warning of his intentions, having soared 13 feet 6 in recent drills.

Ironically, Gilders' record will not be recognized by the City League. The league has no indoor championships and all its records must be made in title or qualifyin' meets.

Northwestern gained an easy 54-23 triumph over Southwestern, although Gilders' performance overshadowed the Colt sweeps in the 440 and 880 runs.

REDFORD GRABBED 11 first places to roll over Chadsey, 87½ to 16½, in an outdoor meet. Ted Kress led the Huskies with victories in the 100 (10.8) and 220 (24.8), a tie for first in the high jump and a leg of the winning relay team.

Miller trounced Northeastern, 63 to 20, with double victories by Isaac Groves (high hurdles) and a tie in the lows) pacing the squad.

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