

Northern Is Champion In Class A

Zitty Finally Cuts Mile Mark

BY HAL SCHRAM
For Presses news

EAST LANSING — Some of the oldest and most respected Michigan High School track and field records were erased from the books here Saturday as Flint Northern, in Class A, and St. Louis, in Class C, were crowned State Champions.

Northern's power in the 800-yard race and broad jump brought the Vikings a top-heavy 57 points to second place. Flint, 24 1/2, was Northern's nearest rival in history and first from 1926.

St. Louis took home its first state crown today by getting 50 points in six events in Detroit tonight.

It was the individual heroics of a half dozen athletes here who captured the state 1953 title. Over 1,000 spectators here witnessed the annual Michigan State Track and Field Championships at Michigan State College.

FORBESON'S Jerry Elroy got the Class A mile record for which he has been pushing all winter. The 17-year-old Detroit native, in a 2:24 effort in winning by a wide yard from Grand Rapids' Murray Terry Black.

Elroy was coached by 13-year-old coach of Jackson, Jay Woolsey. Elroy's best was one of his best in the 1952 season while a seventh grader was 2:24.

Flint Northern's Len Burston came up with the state's most sensational single performance.

Burston slipped over the 100-yard low hurdle in 21 1/2, only two tenths of a second off the National Collegiate record of 21.8 held by Bruce Turner, of St. Charles (Mo.) High and set in 1950.

ONLY ONE sophomore, Jim Roberts of Elyria, Ohio, was able to set 21 1/2 in the event in national schoolboy competition a year ago.

Burston's effort slipped 1/2 second off the old Class A record set by Orlan for CCFW of Kalamazoo in 1950.

Burston's second specialty record in the broad jump setting at the Flint High, a 25-foot 10-inch effort better than 25 feet. The broad jump was set by Alvin Harris, of Pontiac, who also was the 218.

Harris matched the school record on the books when he was clocked in 21 1/2 in the 100-yard dash of George Elmer, Detroit Northern and of the 1952.

Harris' double in the broad jump and 100 was a 1:14 in the 100, recorded by 18 of Pontiac's 24 point total.

JOHN PALMER, the St. Louis High Track and Field star, won both the low hurdle and broad jump and was beaten by a scant few inches in the high.

Palmer hit the post in the 100-yard dash in 20 seconds flat to beat the former Class C mark of 20 1/2 held by Marsha Benjamin, Detroit Kalamazoo.

Johnny Johnson, lucky Kalamazoo sprinter, beat through with the day's major surprise.

Johnson, a highly regarded double in the 100, slipped lower the winner on an inside lane with the exception. Burton and Harris, were leading it out in the middle of the track.

Johnson was clocked in a 1:05.6, one-tenth of a second off the state record.

Other records were set by Flint Northern's Henry Hake, coach of Jerry Miller, Art Johnson, G. D. Johnson and Gary Johnson. Hake's 1953 title George Price in the Class C pole vault 17 1/2 and Dick Taylor of Stratton, in the Class C 120 (12 1/2).

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