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PERSHING WINS FIRST TRACK TITLE

One-Third of Point Ends 10-Year

BY GEORGE PUSCAS

They dreamed up a new payoff Wednesday. There's Win, Place, Show and now Ha-Ha!

Ha-Ha is the last laugh surging Pershing High bellowed as it streaked—on the strength of an ordinary fourth-place finish in the meet's final event—to the City League's East Side track and field championship.

The margin of victory was a mere one-third of a point, the doughty Doughboys overhauling Miller, 68 to 67⅔, in perhaps the tightest sectional title meet in 35 years.

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IT WAS PERSHING'S first track title, the first time in 10 years that long-time champion Miller goes uncrowned.

Overshadowed completely were:

A record :12.9 over the low hurdles by Northeastern's Willie Adkins, and Adkins' personal accounting of 21 of Northeastern's 22 points, plus a brilliant 19¼-point effort by triple-winner Fred Hopgood, of Eastern.

There was clear evidence that the duel between the East Side powers would be a strenuous one, and it developed just that way on the Denby track.

After 13 events, Miller held a 65¾-65 edge over Coach Carl Holmes' Pershing squad. The Trojans needed only to stay ahead of Pershing in the final and climactic event, the 880-yard relay. It was an ideal setting, the perfect showdown.

BUT SO intent were Miller and Pershing that they paid no heed to other racers.

A speedy Cass unit, Eastern and Northern romped off with the first three places. But there came Pershing in fourth with Miller's anchorman Jerry Green five yards back watching the title run away from him.

Miller Coach Leroy Dues had predicted long before that Miller's weakness in the sprints would cost it the title. The Trojans sagged badly in the 100 and 200. While Pershing was blanked in these events, the Doughboys delivered magnificently where they figured.

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A 1-3-5 FINISH by Wright, Art Clover and Paul Jones gave Pershing a 12-point cluster in the high hurdles. A 1-2 push by Bob Williams and Ron Hodge in a 2:04.4 half-mile gave the Doughboys another 11-point collection. Pershing won only those two events but scored in all except the sprints and shot put.

Adkins, Northeastern senior, and Hopgood were easily the two brightest performers in the meet.

Adkins' :12.9 in the lows erased the :13 record set by Willis Ward in 1930 and tied by Joe Howard in 1950—both of Northwestern. He also won the pole vault at 11' 4", took second in the broad jump and tied for first in the high jump at six feet.

Hopgood whipped up a :10 flat winning 100, took the 220 in :22.4, the broad jump at 22' 8¼" and ran a leg with Eastern's 880 relay unit.

Eastern, only team to win more than two events, finished fifth with 31 5/6 points behind Northern with 35 and Cass with 33.

Prep Track Summaries

EAST SIDE FINALS

TEAM TOTALS—Pershing 68, Miller 67 2/3, Northern 35, Cass Tech 33, Eastern 31 5/6, Northeastern 22, Southeastern 9½, Denby 4.

120-YARD HIGH HURDLES—Won by Wright (P). 2—Dowdell (M). 3—Clover (P). 4—Harper (M). 5—Jones (P). 6—Davis (P. Time—15.1.

MEDLEY RELAY—Won by Northern (Thomas, Taylor, McDonald, Stone, Tate, Burrell). 2—Pershing. 3—Miller. 4—Eastern. 5—Denby. 6—Northeastern. Time—2:05.3.

100-YARD DASH—Won by Hopgood (E). 2—Willis (N). 3—Gardner (C). 4—Pierce (C). 5—Pettway (M). 6—Green (M). Time—:10.

MILE—Won by Richardson (M). 2—Wheeler (P). 3—Wilson (M). 4—Beach (P). 5—Borri (D). Time—4:36.6.

440-YARD RUN—Won by Whittington (C). 2—Adams (P). 3—Daniels (N). 4—Hills (E). 5—Bolden (E). 6—Howard (N). Time—:51.8.

SHOT PUT—Won by Crowuler (M). 2—Vinson (N). 3—Stith (N). 4—Dowdell (M). 5—Jones (SE). 6—Adams (E). Distance—53 feet, ½ inch.

120-YARD LOW HURDLES—Won by Adkins (NE). 2—Wright (P). 3—Harper (M). 4—Dowdell (M). 5—Chapman (P). 6—Mayhon (E). Time—:12.9. (Better league record :13.0, held by Willis Howard, Northeastern).

220-YARD DASH—Won by Hopgood (E). 2—Willis (N). 3—Gardner (Cass). 4—Pettway (M). 5—Crutcher (Cass). 6—Singleton (SE)—disqualified. Time—(22.4.

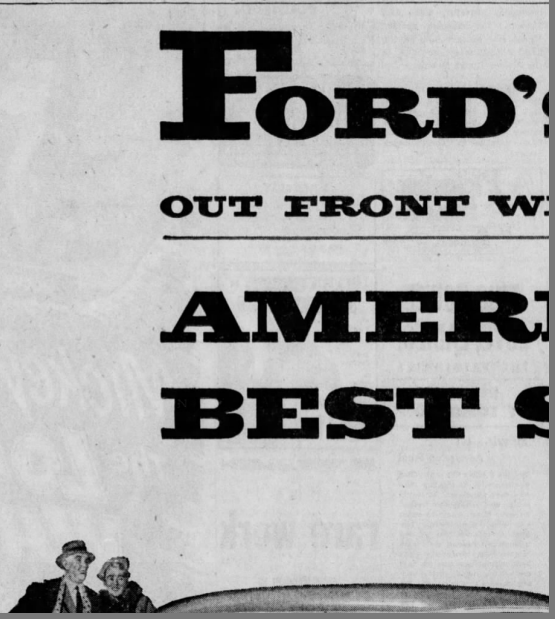
880-YARD RUN—Won by Williams (P). 2—Hodge (P). 3—DeMonbreun (C). 4—Holston (M). 5—Marshall (N). 6—Davis (M). Time—2:04.4.

HIGH JUMP—Five-way tie between Dowdell (M), Jackson (M), Mitchell (C), Harrington (P) Adkins (NE) 6—Tie between Hill (M), Clark (M), Bullock (Cass). Height—6 feet.

POLE VAULT—Won by Adkins (NE). 2—Tie between McQueen (P), Burger (M). 4—Tie between Hagler (P), Rollins (M). 6—Tie between McDonald (SE), Allen (E). Height—11 feet, four inches.

BROAD JUMP—Won by Hopgood (E). 2—Adkins (NE). 3—Wright (P). 4—Singleton (SE). 5—Day (P). 6—Rollins (M). Distance—22 feet, 8¼ inches.

MILE RELAY—Won by Cass (Godowski, Crutcher, Whittington, Pepper). 2—Eastern. 3—Northern. 4—Pershing. 5—Miller. 6—Southeastern. Time—1:31.3.



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