

Alcorn Sets New State Vault Mark

School Medley Relay, Mile Records Also Fall

By LES LINE
Sports Editor

FERRY FIELD, ANN ARBOR—Bill Alcorn attained one of the greatest achievements of any Birmingham high school athlete in the past 20 years here Saturday afternoon.

The pole vault—track's most difficult single event—is Alcorn's specialty. Saturday the blond Maple junior soared higher than any prep predecessor in state competition in any class—12 feet 11 3/4 inches.

You would almost have to go back 20 years—to 1938 when Birmingham's phenomenal half-miler, Quentin Brelsford, turned in his historic 1:55.4 880 time—to find THE PRIOR STATE class A

vault record had stood untouched for 16 years. Monroe's Forest Naveux set the standard—12 feet 7 1/2 inches—back in 1942.

It was shattered twice here Saturday, the first time—at 12 feet 9 1/2 inches—by both Alcorn and Muskegon's Dick Cahill.

Cahill, who beat Alcorn when they met in the Central Michigan college relays May 3, was Saturday's favorite. But he failed on

Cranes 7th In 'B' Meet

EAST LANSING — Cranbrook, with 12 points, was seventh in the state class B track meet here Saturday. East Grand Rapids won the title, scoring 30 3/8 points to 29 for River Rouge and 21 1/2 for Willow Run.

The Cranes had one first, by their captain, Tom Noteware, in the 440. He had a 51.7 time. Rick Williams was third in the 880 in 2:04.3, Doug Graham was fourth in the 1100 in 2:48.5 and the Cranbrook medley relay team topped a fourth in 2:34.4.

all three tries at 12-11 3/4. Alcorn made it on the third.

ALCORN'S GREAT effort gives Birmingham two state records. Brelsford holds the other—in the class B half mile.

His state record doesn't quite equal Birmingham's school standard of 13 feet 5 1/2 inches, owned by Tom Segal and set in the State AAU meet at the end of last season. (See ALCORN, Page 1-D)



the tape read 12 feet 11 3/4 inches . . .

seconds after this, Bill Alcorn's state record-smashing pole vault on his third try, shattering a 16-year-old standard of 12 feet 7 1/2 inches, Saturday afternoon in the Michigan class A championship meet at the University of Michigan. The Birmingham junior cleared the record height— set by Monroe's Forest Naveux back in 1942. (Eccentric photo by Les Line).



Best Half Since '38

Birmingham half-miler Dick Boyd strains across the finish line for a second place and a 2:00.4 clocking in Saturday's state class A 880-yard run at Ann Arbor. The time is the best by any Maple runner since Quentin Brelsford's phenomenal 1:55.4 in 1938.

Ford Opens Western Title Defense Today

Low Scoring Forseen For Classic at Red Run

ROYAL OAK—Dr. Cary Middlecoff, Sam Sneed, Dick Mayer, Doug Ford, Bill Casper, Arnold Palmer, Dow Finsterwald, Ken Venturi—just a few of the golfing world's real big names who'll start swinging away today for top money in the 55th annual Western Open at Red Run golf club here.

The touring professionals—plus a host of Michigan's top "home" pros, including Franklin Hills' Walter Burkemo—will be after the crown won last year at Plum Hollow by Ford. It took a three-hole playoff to decide things between Ford, George Bayer, Gene Littler and Billy Maxwell in last summer's affair.

Sensational low scoring is forecast for the \$25,000 four-day links classic. Frank Metzger, host pro, predicts a winning score of 273, adding that putting will be the key to success on Red Run's flat but deceptive layout.

METZGER BARES his estimate on the 74 Lloyd Mangrum posted to win the 1950 Motor City Open at Red Run, beating Sam Sneed by a single stroke. Middlecoff turned in another 274 in 1954 in the Motor City event. That score is 14 under par and an average of 68.8 strokes per round.

B'ham LL Play Opens

Play in Birmingham Little

Maple Linksmen State 'A' Kings; Repeat at Pontiac

Birmingham high is Michigan's new class A prep golf champion.

Cocher Carl Lemie's linksmen won the coveted state title by a single stroke at Battle Creek country club Saturday. Pete Green shot a 38-38—76 to spark the Maples to a 314-315 victory over runnerup Flint Central.

Ann Arbor was third in the 16-school field with 316. Grand Rapids Union finished fourth with 319.

Dick Taylor contributed a 78 to the Birmingham cause, with Gary Moore and Warren Sumner adding 80's.

Grosse Pointe's Joe Belfore, Jr., was medalist with a 35-35—71 card.

OVER AT KALAMAZOO, Hillsdale and Tecumseh tied for the state class B crown at 326. Bloomfield Hills finished far down the list in a tie for 10th at 343, but the Barons didn't go home empty handed. Bud Badger shot a two-under-par 70 for medalist laurels. The Maple golfers, meanwhile,

First Practice For Legion 9

Birmingham's American Legion baseball team will hold its first practice session Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Pierce field. Boys not 15 by Sept. 1 are eligible to play. The season opens June 11.

Undergrad Meet To Birmingham

PONTIAC — Birmingham out-pointed Pontiac Central and Waterford here Thursday afternoon in a triangular meet of the three teams' undergraduate tracksters.

The Maples, with several seniors adding strength, tallied 67 1/2 points to 62 1/2 for Pontiac. Waterford picked up only six points. Birmingham won or shared seven firsts.

The Birmingham Eccentric



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BOWLING

In and around Birmingham

LAST THREE DAYS—YONELY

Matinee 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31

Alcorn

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son. Alcorn tried that height three times unsuccessfully here.

But no one expects that one lone inch to be elusive for long. Alcorn still has the U of D relays Saturday, the Eastern Michigan league meet Wednesday and next month's meet of champions in Kalamazoo in which to top the Maple mark—a record which is important but far less so than his new state mark.

And if he doesn't do it yet this spring, there's all next season left.

BIRMINGHAM finished fifth among 63 schools in the University of Michigan's class A state championship meet, and the Maples had some tremendous efforts from six of their running stars.

Rich Riley shattered Doug Wugazer's school mile record. Riley finished fourth in 4:31.8 Saturday, breaking the 4:34 standard established in the 1956 state meet at Ann Arbor. Grosse Pointe's Rene Purdy won the mile in a record 4:21.8.

Bob Stephenson, Les Danielson, Bob Kulow and Phil Ingraham pooled their sprint talents for a new school medley relay record, 2:31.9. It was good for second behind Flint Central's 2:30.7. The old mark of 2:32.4 had been set last May by Steve Hunter, Jim Macdonald, Kulow and Steve Pew in the meet of champions at Kalamazoo.

DICK BOYD registered the second-fast 880-yard run time in Birmingham history. His 2:00.4 was second in his race and bettered the winning time in the first heat. Flint Central's Wylie Rogers won Boyd's race in 1:59.7.

Stephenson and Chuck Gibson contributed additional points to Birmingham's 19-point total. Stephenson was in a six-way tie for fourth in the high jump. Gibson was sixth in the shotput.

Pontiac won its fourth straight

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THE BIRMINGHAM

Mount Clemens, Cranbrook Win Tennis Honors

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Mount Clemens in class A and Cranbrook in class B won regional tennis championships on the Cranbrook courts Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Mount Clemens totaled 18 points to 10½ for runnerup Birmingham. Birmingham's team of Tom Watson and Jeff Crawford won the doubles title. Mount Clemens' Martin McDoniel was the singles titlist.

CRANBROOK'S 22½ points walked away with class B honors. Second was St. Clair with 6½. Pete King and Bob Kline gave Cranbrook the doubles title while Crane Tom Bray copped singles honors.

The scoring:

Class A—Mount Clemens 18, Birmingham 10½, Ferndale 4½, Southfield 4½, Pontiac 3½, Dandero 3½, Port Huron 3, Berkley 1½, Kimball ¾.

Class B—Cranbrook 22½, St. Clair 9½, Fitzgerald 4, Lakeview 3, Port Huron St. Stephen 2½, Bloomfield Hills 1.

state title, totaling 43½ points to 41 1/5 for Flint Northern, 31 1/5, Flint Central and 22 for Muskegon Heights. Farmington was sixth with 12.

The class A scoring:

Pontiac 43½, Flint Northern 41 1/5, Flint Central 31 1/5, Muskegon Heights 22, Birmingham 19, Farmington 12, Grand Rapids Catholic 10, Lansing Sexton 10, Grosse Pointe 10, Muskegon 9, Lincoln Park 8, Lansing Eastern 7½, Saginaw 7, East Detroit 7, Jackson 6, Highland Park 6, Bay City Central 5½, Dearborn 5, Walled Lake 4, Inkster 4, Thurston 3, Mount Clemens 3, Ann Arbor 2, Edsel Ford 2, Redford Union 2, Traverse City 2, Bay City Handy 1, Berkley 1, Hamtramck 1, Grand Rapids Central 2/5.