

# State Prep Pole Vault Lasts as Long as 3 Marathon Runs

By BEN DUNN

The coach who prefers his athletes lean and hungry would have found more than he bargained for Saturday at the



**BILL ALCORN**  
Competes 8½ Hours

state high school track and field championships in East Lansing.

It was difficult to find anyone who wasn't lean from hunger. In another respect, however, everybody got his fill—waiting.

The cause of it all was the pole vault, an event that turned out to be a marathon of sorts. In fact, few stayed around the chilly field at Michigan State for its conclusion.

Counting the preliminaries and finals in Classes A and B, the pole vault ran for 8½ hours, practically without interruption.

The rest of the meet had been concluded and the respective team champions (Flint Central in Class A and Willow Run in Class B) decided almost two hours before Birmingham's Bill Acorn made the final vault at 7:21 p.m.

Alcorn soared over the crossbar at 13 feet, 3 inches to sur-

pass his own state record of 12 feet, 11¾ inches set in 1958.

"You know," cracked one judge, "they could have run the Boston Marathon three times (normal time for that 26-mile event is about 2½ hours) and we'd still be going with this thing."

Of course, having A and B meets run at the same site simultaneously is a rarity. It was caused this year by the Big Ten meet being at Ann Arbor.

"It won't be quite this bad in the future," explained a coach who stayed until the end. "These meets will be split up. But even then, the pole vault takes too long. They should run it off a day in advance."

While only a handful saw Alcorn lithely lift his body skyward to a pole vault record, practically all the 2,000 who were in attendance earlier saw Farmington's Warren (Rex) Cawley blaze his way to three individual titles.

The 18-year-old senior won

both the high and low hurdles plus the broad jump to become the first triple winner in the Class A finals since Pontiac's Hayes Jones captured the same events at Ann Arbor in 1956.

Flint Central won five events as it totaled 35 points for the team championship. Flint Northern was second on 28; Farmington third at 24 while Birmingham grabbed fourth with 20.

Willow Run racked up 34½ points for the Class B championship. Naosba Poe and Otis Harrison provided most of them. Poe won the 100-yard dash and placed second to Harrison in the 220.

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