



# The Prep

## Beat . . . .

By Joe Vanderhoff

**EAST LANSING**—Quality rather than quantity prevailed Saturday for Flint Northern in winning the state class A track championship at East Lansing.

The northern school, a second-place finisher in the state meet for the last seven years, walked off with its third state title in its history with only five individual performers and two relay teams.

In other years Flint Northern has sent as many as 14 to the meet and had to be satisfied with playing second fiddle. It was a different story Saturday.

Coach Norbert Bader, in his seventh year at the track helm, said this was his finest balanced squad in years. "A state champion must have depth in the sprints, must have a better than average hurdler and at least one good field event boy," he explained. Northern packed all the requirements.

Northern was represented by two outstanding hurdlers who doubled in the 880 relay. In Dennis McGee and Dalton Kimble, the Vikings had terrific speed as both boys have traveled the 100 in 10 seconds this year.

Power in the sprints paved the way for Northern's championship. The new state kings chalked up six points in the 100, duplicated the feat in the 220 and the relay unit added six more. Five points were in the 440 with a first place, while the broad jumper took 5½ tallies on a tie for first and the mile relay team took third for four points.

This is Coach Bader's first state title and finishes out his season on a cheery note. The team won eight dual meets, won the Saginaw Valley Conference crown and placed first in the Class A Regional last week.

For Flint Southwestern, a school in its second year of operation, it was a heartbreaker. All year the school placed a close second behind Northern and lost out in the conference meet by less than three points.

Grand Rapids South's Larry Bolden, took a nasty spill in running the anchor leg on the 880 relay.

Bolden, running in fourth spot and making his bid to overtake the leaders, was felled when a runner in front of him tripped and fell. Bolden couldn't stop and tripped over the lad and hit the cinders, forcing South out of the relay. Bolden wasn't hurt seriously.

A big improvement was made in the handling of the tournament this year. Officials started the pole vault in the morning and for the first time in a number of years the event was through before the meet had ended.

One of the biggest surprises of the meet came in the hurdle preliminaries when Muskegon High's Bob Green failed to qualify for the afternoon finals.

The Port City youngster, rated one of the better timber jumpers in Southwest Michigan, pinched a nerve in his leg Thursday and wasn't up to par.

Eighty-five teams, one of the biggest fields in years, competed in the colorful classic.

Grand Rapids was well represented in working officials. The Ernst brothers, Dave and Dick, were the official starters. DeGay, father of the pair and veteran track starter in the midwest, was referee.

Clarence Arnold, South High runner, qualified for the 440 run but was scratched. Coach Fred Veenkamp decided to insert Arnold in the 880 relay instead of running him against the stiff quarter-mile competition.