



SETS HIS OWN RECORD PACE—Walt Wilson, of Inkster Robichaud, leads the pack on the first lap of his record-smashing half-mile run at last weekend's state Class A finals at East Lansing. Close to Wilson at this stage of the race, which went in

1:53.3—best in the United States this spring—were (in order): Neil Patterson, of Flint Central; Fred Grove, of Utica, and Dave Temple, of Livonia Bentley. Jessie Mitchell, of Northwestern, the eventual second-place finisher, was back in the pack

here. Wilson's performance, although not entirely a surprise, stunned prep track and field followers at the meet, held at Michigan State's Ralph Young Field. No Michigan schoolboy had ever come close to his time.—News Photo by Drayton Holcomb.

Future Bright for 880 Star

By JIM HIGGINBOTTOM

The coach of state half-mile champion Walt Wilson, of Inkster Robichaud, doesn't know just how fast the lanky prep star can run.

"I'm sure he hasn't reached his peak and I'm sure he could be a spectacular college runner, but I don't really know what he is capable of right now," said Robichaud Coach Bernie Ingle.

Wilson, who is scheduled to compete in tonight's Champion of Champions meet at Kalamazoo, currently is the fastest high school 880 runner in the United States.

The time of 1:53.3 he posted at last Saturday's Class A meet in East Lansing is a tenth of a second better than a clocking made by California schoolboy Larry Arnett.

Dennis Carr, of Whittier, Calif., who ran a sensational 4:08.7 mile a year ago as a junior, has a 1:53.5 half-time to his credit this spring.

ALONE AT FINISH

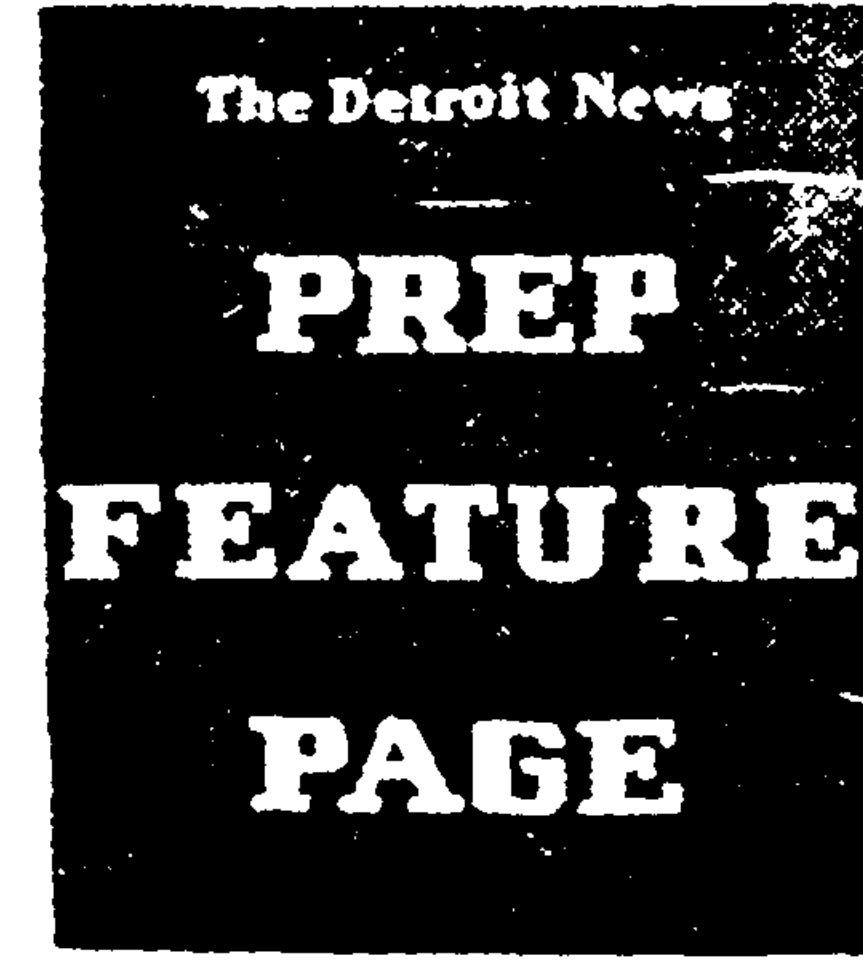
"I thought Walt might have gone a little faster in the state meet," Ingle continued, "but you'll remember he was all alone the last 50 or 60 yards."

It was a spectacular performance for a boy who was plagued by injury last season and didn't even get out of his regional. His time bettered the listed Class A record (1:57.2) by nearly four seconds and was almost two seconds better than the best ever posted here (1:55.0).

"The injuries that bothered him most of last season weren't actually what knocked him out of the regional," Ingle laughed. "Walt was tripped near the start when they were all bunched up. He fell right off the track and was disqualified."

CULPRIT ESCAPES

"No one else was disqualified, so the guilty boy got clean away. We never could figure out who it was, anyway. This year I told Walt to get



out of the pack as fast as he could."

Wilson, who is a lean 6 feet 2, did just that at East Lansing, where the half-mile was run with a staggered alley start. Bursting from the No. 1 position on the inside alley of five runners, Wilson was in the lead coming off the first turn and never was headed.

Other good collegiate prospects were much in evidence at East Lansing, at the Class B meet in Ann Arbor and the Class C-D meet at Mt. Pleasant. Their performances are included below in the weekly Detroit News track listings.

The final list for the season and the first Detroit News All-State track team will be presented on this page a week from today. State meet results will be given utmost consideration, but will not dictate final All-State choices.

With the season nearing the finish line, here is how Michigan's prep track stars rate at the moment:

ONLY 2 EARNED RUNS IN 69 INNINGS

Ace Gears St. Lad's Bid

By KEN WILLIAMS

St. Ladislaus, a perennial contender for the Catholic League baseball championship, will be a strong favorite to wrap up its fifth crown in 10 years against Catholic Central in their First Division showdown Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Tiger Stadium.

The Hamtramck squad, which has lost only one game in 15 starts and has a 10-1 league record, is anchored by three players who were members of a national Pony League title team two years ago.

They are right-handed pitcher Gary Wilczynski, shortstop Tom Paciorek and left fielder Greg Gargulinski.

STRUCK OUT 122

Wilczynski, a 5-foot-10, 157-pound junior, has al-

"Gary has the form and mannerisms of a right-handed Don Mossi," said Coach Jerry Socha. "He mixes up his pitches and also has the cool attitude of Mossi."

Wilczynski has punctuated his mound performances with two no-



hitters in the current campaign. He also has shared another no-hitter and turned in a pair of one-hitters. In his 10 starts the opposition has settled for a total of nine runs.

Gary, likewise, has established a reputation for

his slugging ability. He batted .300-plus last season and now is hitting around .400, ranking third on St. Lad's squad.

The three-year varsity letterman, who played both third and second base positions as a freshman, is competing this summer with the Hamtramck Post team in the American Legion.

HOCKEY AWARD

Last winter Wilczynski also earned letter awards in hockey as a goalie and in basketball as a substitute guard. In a league hockey tournament at Cobo Arena, Gary was voted the meet's most valuable player and received the Jack Adams Trophy.

St. Lad's title bid



TIRED BUT HAPPY—Inkster Robichaud's Walt Wilson was a tired but happy young man after smashing the state half-mile record last weekend. A lean runner who has astounding speed and stamina, Wilson suddenly became one of Michigan's brightest high school stars with his performance on the Michigan State track.