

# His 1:55.3

## Earns Sole Area Points

### Battle Creek Cops Title With Sprint, Hurdle Power

By JOE VANDERHOFF

ANN ARBOR — East Grand Rapids' Ron Kutschinski rules as the kingpin of Michigan's Class A half-milers, but the sensational distance runner failed in his bid to lower the state record in the track finals Saturday afternoon at university of Michigan's Ferry Field.

The East Grand Rapids junior, never beaten in the half-mile, and last year's 'B' state champion, won first place Saturday with the time of 1:55.3 for seven points in the state classic, which attracted tracksters from more than 85 schools.

Outside of Kutschinski, West Michigan tracksters failed to break into the point column. East ended with 7 tallies in its debut in the A ranks.

Battle Creek annexed its second state title by registering 28 points. In 1940 Battle Creek won its only other state crown.

#### Flint Central 2nd

Flint Central took second place with 26 tallies. Lansing Everett got 21, Ecorse 19, Detroit Central 15, Birmingham Seaholm 14, Mt. Clemens and Lansing Sexton 11 each, Flint Southwestern and Bloomfield Hills 10 each.

Kutschinski got off to a slow start in the second heat race of the 880. The blond junior runner took the lead on the first curve and was clocked in 57 seconds for the 440.

He lost the lead to Dearborn's John Spain on the backstretch, but regained the edge on the next to the last curve. A final kick in the last 25 yards brought victory. Spain finished second with 1:56.

Ken Dyer, Ann Arbor's outstanding high jumper, put his name in the 'A' record book with a leap of 6 feet, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches to better the old standard of 6-5, made by Flint Northern's Al Washington last year.

#### Jumps 6-7 $\frac{3}{4}$

Dyer, 6-3 senior, who is reportedly headed for Arizona State next fall, cleared 6-8, but official measurement had it 6-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ . He made the record on his second attempt at the height. Before that, he never missed on his first attempt until the bar reached 6-6.

LeRoy Blasingham of Flint Central and Bill Crawford of Flint Southwestern pushed Dyer to the record. The Flint jumpers stayed with the Ann Arbor race until 6-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ , when they dropped out.

The pole vault, which extended about 60 minutes after the meet was over, had a new standard Saturday. Saginaw Arthur Hill's Wayne Lambert set a new mark with a 13 feet, 11 7-8 inches. The old mark was 13-6, by William Lee of Flint Central in 1963.

Jim Haviland of Waterford Kettering leaped 13-7 7-8, but fell out at 13-11 7-8.

Brisk winds stopped the runners from setting new records. Battle Creek's Arnold Williams was clocked in 9.8 in the 100-yard dash, but was aided by strong winds. He also ran a 21.3, new mark, in the 220, but the wind was too strong again.

Dennis Lamimon of Roseville broad jumped 24 feet, 3 inches, but officials ruled he was assisted by a wind and didn't count the effort as a state mark.

Battle Creek displayed strength in the sprints and hurdles to win the state crown. The new champs rolled up 14 points in the sprints, 12 in the hurdles and 2 in the 880 relay, for all their points.

Lansing Everett's Henry Patino was a double winner in the hurdles. He ran the 180-yard low timbers in 18.8, but the wind was too strong for a new mark. He did the highs in 14.3 plus.

Grand Rapids schools failed to qualify a sprinter or a hurdler in the morning preliminaries for the finals. In the mile East Catholic's Lloyd Forsythe placed ninth in his heat race while teammate John Cybulskis was way behind the field in the second race.

Grand Rapids' Dave VerMeris, who set the Furniture City 440 record with a 50.5 earlier this season, failed to land in the first seven spots here Saturday. The Christian youth got a bad start and never recovered.

Bill Goodson, Ottawa Hills junior, who also established a new mark in the high jump with 6-4 this year, didn't compete in the meet. He's been bothered with a bad heel and didn't make the trip.