

Flint Team 'A' King

City Track Records Fall in State Meet

By JOE VANDERHOFF
ANN ARBOR—Two Grand Rapids City League records were shattered as Furniture City trackmen put on their finest showing in the state Class A finals in more than a dozen years here Saturday afternoon at the University of Michigan's Ferry Field track.

Flint Southwestern won its first state championship in the seven-year history of the school by totaling 39 points before 3,000

sun-bathed spectators. Pontiac Central and Flint Central tied for second place with 34 points each while Ann Arbor was a close fourth with 28.

Grand Rapids' schools failed to place near the top in the final point tabulations but displayed good individual talent to take over the Western Michigan spotlight.

Unbeaten Ottawa Hills led the Furniture City delegation with nine points, while West Catholic,

with only one performer, finished with eight. Grand Haven ended with 6½ and Muskegon Heights, 5.

Ottawa Hills' Bruce Davis and West Catholic's Tom Steele put their names in the Furniture City record book although failing to win a first place in the meet which attracted more than 90 high schools from the state.

Tops 440 Record

Davis, a blond-haired senior transfer student from Pennsylvania who had enrolled previously at Grand Rapids Catholic for the first two weeks of the school year, lowered the city 440 standard with a 49.7 effort while finishing sixth. The old

Haslett 'C' Champ

VanElst Sets Shot Record

MOUNT PLEASANT — Middleville High School sophomore Gary VanElst established a new state Class C shot put record with a heave of 56 feet, 10 inches Saturday, but Haslett emerged as state team champion.

Haslett held off defending co-champion Battle Creek St. Philip to win the title.

Though failing to win any events, Haslett collected 36 points to nip St. Philip by a point.

St. Philip, which shared last year's title with Fowlerville, won the mile relay and Haslett placed second for the final point margin.

Five records fell in the day-long meet, including one that has been on the books since 1938.

Gordon Aldrich of Akron-Fairgrove won the 440-yard dash in :49.45 seconds, eclipsing the mark of :50.8 set by Elwood Houser of Boyne City 28 years ago.

Jim Vogt of Freeland won the 880 in 1:58.0, John Hogan of North Branch set a new low hurdle mark with a 19.5 clocking.

Battle Creek St. Philip's mile relay team raced in first in the record time of 3:31.4.

Dave Carroll of Laingsburg was the meet's only double winner, taking the 100-yard and the

Hits Light Pole, Cuts Berlin Race

Art Bennett of Battle Creek, after taking over the lead on the 19th lap from Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio, was declared the winner in an abbreviated 21-lap feature race for super-modified stock cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The main event, scheduled for 25-laps, was halted on the 21st lap when Tom Pruner's car slammed into a pole and knocked out half of the lighting system. The race was called at this point and Bennett declared winner.

Ed Vanderlaan of Grand Rapids was second, followed by Gibson, Pruner, Mort Anderson of Greenville and Wayne Landon and Nolan Johncock of Hastings.

John Borman of Allegan out-drafted Ken Sutton of Muskegon



GARY VANELST

220-yard dashes.

Hartford finished third with 23 points.

Sixty teams scored at least one point in the meet.

Darden Is Tackers' No. 1 Pick

The Grand Rapids Tackers selected Michigan's Oliver Darden as their first-round draft choice in the North American Professional Basketball League's annual meeting Saturday at the Holiday Inn on 28th St. in Wyoming.

Darden was the first of 16 players drafted by the Tackers during Saturday's session of the newly-expanded eight-team NABL. Leading picks by the Tackers after Darden, in order, were Dorrie Murray of the University of Detroit, Johnny Green of the Baltimore Bullets of the NBA, Detroit's Lou Hyatt, Minnesota's Archie Clark, and San Francisco's Ollie Johnson.

The new Battle Creek Braves drafted Northern Michigan's Gene Summers as their No. 1 choice while the Chicago Bombers chose Leon Clark of Wyoming. Muskegon's Panthers tabbed former Muskegon Community College player Gene Visser, the champion Benton Harbor Twin City Sailors picked Michigan guard John Clawson, the new Columbus club selected former Ohio State eager Dick Ricketts, and the new Lansing Capitals chose Central Michigan's Don Edwards.

From the unprotected list put up by the five older NABL

Complete Class A-B-C-D state high school track summaries on page 32.

mark was 50.5 set by Central Christian's Dave VerMerris in 1964.

Davis' Saturday feat came on a rubber based track while VerMerris' came on Houseman Field's cinders.

Steele, established a new city 220-yard dash mark in the Saturday morning preliminaries. He was timed in 22.2 on a curved track breaking his own 22.4 record set last year. In the 220 finals he earned five points by his fourth place finish and added three more with a sixth in the 100-yard dash.

Andy Pierucki, Ottawa Hills' senior and No. 1 high jumper in Grand Rapids, registered six points with a third in the high jump. The 5-10 all-around athlete, who is considering enrolling at Grand Rapids Junior College or Western Michigan University, jumped 6 feet 3 inches, the finest effort of his career.

Four state records were smashed and a fifth tied here Saturday afternoon. Ron Short, 5-10 senior pole vaulter from Farmington, stole the show by breaking the 14-foot barrier. He vaulted 14 feet 5 inches and missed three tries at 14-8.

Breaks Hurdle Marks

Pontiac Central's Bill Tipton shattered both hurdle records. He was clocked in 14 seconds flat in the 120 highs to break the old mark of 14.2 set by Flint Central's Ernie Long in 1963. His 19.6 in the 180-yard lows goes into the record book since this was the first time it was run around a curve.

Detroit Mackenzie's Charles Robinson tied the 100-yard dash mark of 9.8. The other record holders include George Hester, Detroit Northern, 1925; Edward Tolan, Detroit Cass Tech, 1927; Sebert Dant, Alpena, 1955; Maurice Pea, Flint Northern, 1960; Wilbur Johnson, Flint Northern, 1963, and Arnold Williams, Battle Creek Central, 1965.

Flint Southwestern showed its power by scoring a first in the 880-yard relay for 10 points and came through with a key 13 points in the long jump.

Grand Haven's Dave Leitner gained a tie for second place in the pole vault. Muskegon Heights' five points came when the 880 relay team of Don Steele, Clinton Cooley, McKinley Copeland and Paul Myles placed sixth.