

# Michigan Olympic Champion, Eddie Tolan, Dead At Age 57

By Joe Broshear

Eddie Tolan, one of the greatest figures in the history of Michigan track, is dead.

The former Wolverine star, known as the "Midnight Express" when he was the Big

## No Tie Expected This Time

EAST LANSING (AP) — The first Michigan State-Notre Dame athletic clash since the famous 10-10 football tie in the "Who's No. 1?" contest comes tonight on Notre Dame's basketball court.

"We know they won't be playing for a tie and we won't either," said Michigan State Coach John Benington.

The Irish will be playing for an extension of their six-game winning streak, which has brought their season record to 8-7. MSU has an 8-4 record and is second in the Big Ten with a 3-1 conference mark.

Benington said he would start 5-foot-7 sophomore reserve Richie Jordan of Fennville at guard in an experiment.

One of MSU's regular guards, Steve Rymal, has been a pace-maker in recent Spartan games. In the four Big Ten games, he has scored 12, 15, 17 and 21 points.

Notre Dame's leaders all are sophomores. Forward Bob Arzen has an average of more than 20 points a game. Center Bob Whitmore, 6-8, scored 43 points in Notre Dame's 101-80 victory over Butler Monday night.

The Spartans face another road game Monday, against Indiana. The Hoosiers are third in the conference with a 2-1 record.

Ten's leading sprinter in the late '20s and early '30s, died at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Detroit yesterday at the age of 57.

"It's hard to estimate Tolan's impact on Michigan track. His influence was very considerable," said Michigan track coach Don Canham.

"He was probably the smallest sprinter of all time. He certainly was the smallest Olympic champion," added the coach.

Canham's Olympic reference was to 1932 when Tolan defeated favored Ralph Metcalfe and George Simpson in the 200-meter with a record time of :21.2.

Ohio State's Jesse Owens lowered Tolan's 200-meter mark in the 1936 games at Berlin but Tolan's :10.3 in the 100-meters stood until the early '60s and the advent of America's Bob Hayes and Germany's Armin Hary.

Prior to Tolan's success in the Olympics he was a track sensation at Cass Technical High in Detroit. His :09.8 in the 100-yard dash, although tied several times, has never been bettered despite the efforts of Michigan's top prep sprinters during the past four decades.

Ironically, Tolan picked Michigan in hopes of making the football team but Steve Farrell, the Wolverine track coach spotted the 5-4 speedster and Tolan wound up on the Ferry Field cinders instead of on a Fielding Yost football team.

Tolan won the 100-yard dash in a conference and world record time of :09.5 seconds. He also flashed to a 10.4 in the 100-meter, a mark he later shaved by a tenth of a second in the vic-

tory over Marquette's Metcalfe.

"He was one of a group of real great athletes (at Michigan)," said Canham in ranking Tolan along with sprinter Ralph Craig, a double Olympics winner, and DeHart Hubbard, a broad jump standout. After Tolan's twin victories



EDDIE TOLAN

in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, he became a track professional and toured from America to Australia until the mid-30s.

Tolan's favorite good-luck charm, stemming from a victory in his first race, was to wear a bandage on his left knee.

Even after completing his track career at Michigan, Tolan still retained the "bandage" habit.

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One of the favorite stories about Tolan, as related by Phil Diamond, Michigan's nationally known track expert and "handicapper," centers around 1932 when Tolan, while teaching at a Virginia college, returned to Ann Arbor.

Michigan Track Coach Charley White took the pint-sized speed merchant in tow and Tolan, then out of condition and overweight, clocked a 75-yard time of 7.9 seconds, a less than earthshaking time.

Despite Tolan's sluggish performance, he still showed enough style for White to come up with a prophetic comment. "There goes the next Olympic champion."

And Tolan, who worked back into shape and into top form under the guidance of White that summer, fully justified the coach's predictions during the '32 Games.

In later life, Tolan worked in several different fields and has been a physical education instructor since 1956.

The 1931 Michigan graduate had taught his regular classes Monday and yesterday went to the hospital for regular treatment of a kidney ailment.

Tolan, a bachelor, is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Martha Lombard and Mrs. June Brown, and a brother Hart H. Tolan Sr., all of Detroit.

## Michigan Tech Cagers Lose

HOUGHTON (AP) — Dominic Jacobetti scored 23 points pacing Northern Michigan to a 90-78 basketball victory over Michigan Tech Tuesday night.

David Kovack added 22 points for Northern Michigan, which chalked up its sixth straight triumph and first road victory.

## M Freshman Game Postponed

The Michigan-Michigan State freshman hockey game, originally scheduled for East Lansing 7:30 p.m., today, has been postponed. No new date has been announced. The Michigan-Michigan State freshman swim meet is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Thursday in East Lansing.

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