

World Record Holder Spruces Prep Relays

By DAVE MATTHEWS
State Journal Sports Writer

Nothing enhances an athletic event quite like the presence of a truly brilliant performer.

This is particularly true of track and field, where the stopwatch and tape measure stand in cold, impartial judgment of what constitutes brilliance.

The State Journal-Spartan Relays will boast a number of outstanding prep athletes

among its 2,500-plus entries this weekend. Many of them are record holders in their own sphere of competition. More than a few are threats to firmly established meet records.

But only one has proven himself worthy of description as brilliant... Herb Washington of Flint Central.

At the tender age of 17, Washington will lend the presence of a world record holder

to The State Journal-Spartan Relays when the Class A section of the giant meet is held Saturday.

He holds an exceptional collection of epistles, the battle among whom will be one of the feature attractions of the Class A meet. Class B, which occupies the spotlight Friday, also boasts a strong sprint field.

There is no weak field in any of the 13 events on the program in each class. With more than 150 of Michigan's finest track schools competing — over 75 in each class — action will be both fast and hot throughout.

Notre Dame's Dave Hurdler this year.

In 1967, as a 18-year-old high school junior, Washington was just one-tenth of a second off that mark when he set The State Journal-Spartan Relays record of 6.2. He's a year older now, and more than a year

better as evidenced by his 5.1 '68' two weeks ago at Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

The week before that, he had registered an identical time in running what appeared to be a dead heat with Nebraska's Charlie Greene (current star of the collegiate sprint world)

in the Milwaukee Journal Games. Greene was declared the winner, amid considerable controversy, and awarded a \$1 time.

Last week at the Huron Relays, running without spiked shoes (he wasn't allowed to wear them on the main-made

indoor track surface), he clocked 6.2 in the 60. It marked his first competitive 60 yards of the season, and snipped the meet mark of 6.3 he had set in 1967.

Washington will have three record shots here Saturday; early in the afternoon in the

first round of the preliminaries, a bit later in the afternoon in the semifinals, and in the night-time finals. It is usually, though not always, the case that a best comes in the finale.

He'll also anchor a very fast Flint Central 880-yard relay team.



BRILLIANT SPRINTER HERE WASHINGTON

Preliminaries begin at 12:30 p.m. each day. Finals follow starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for adults, \$1 for students. One ticket is good for both preliminaries and finals.

Washington isn't just a world record holder—he's also a world record threat. The mark he holds (along with several great collegiate sprinters) is 5.1 seconds for the 50-yard dash.

The mark he'll be courting Saturday is that for the 60-yard dash, 5.9 seconds.

Meet director Jim Gibbard, veteran MSU assistant track coach, feels Washington has an excellent shot at the record. Even should he miss the world mark (and let's face it, the odds are against him), Gibbard is confident that he'll run faster than anyone has ever run in Jenson Fieldhouse.

That covers a lot of years and even more gifted dashmen. The existing fieldhouse record for the '60' is 6.1 seconds, set in 1946 by Bob Moreland of MSU and equaled by

Has 3 Hits and STOLEN BASE Horton Belts White Sox

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)—Veteran right-hander Earl Wilson, who will be Detroit's opening day pitcher, continued tuning up with seven strong innings Tuesday as the Tigers defeated the Chicago White Sox 5-1.

Willie Horton led an 11-hit Detroit attack with a single, double and home run. He also stole a base.

Horton's homer came with none on in the eighth inning off Don McMahon.

Wilson got the victory and held Chicago to six singles in his seven-inning stay. It was Chicago's final Florida exhibition before the Sox' homeward jaunt.

The Sox broke the shutout in the sixth when Sandy Alomar led off with a single, advanced on two infield outs, and scored on Tom McCraw's single.

Joe Horlen, a 19-game winner last season, was the loser. The Tigers reached him for a run on fifth inning singles by Mickey Stanley and Bill Heath. Detroit scored two more in the sixth when Horton, Jim Northrup and Stanley singled successively.

The Tigers met the Houston Astros today at Ocala, in Pompano Beach Tuesday.

DETROIT (AP)—The Boston Red Sox announced that left-hander Dick Ellsworth will pitch the opener against the Tigers in Detroit April 5.

Ellsworth was obtained by Boston in an off-season trade with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Manager Dick Williams of the defending American League champions said he was starting Ellsworth because he wants the southpaw to pitch twice on the road before the April 15 home opener, also against Detroit.

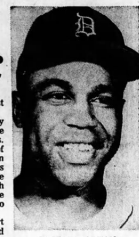
Williams said he will start Jose Santiago for the second game in Detroit.

CHICAGO (AP)—The United States Track and Field Federation and the NCAA have rejected the decision of the Sports Arbitration Board for settling the long dispute with the Amateur Athletic Union over control of major amateur sports.

This was announced today by Marcus Plant of the University of Michigan, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

LAKELAND, Fla.—It hardly seems right to call 35-year-old Mel Stottlemyre an old-timer, but that's just what he is with the New York Yankees.

Mel, along with limping Mickey Mantle, Joe Pepitone and Tom Tresh, are the only so-called "old Yankees" who played back in the glory years for the New York team.



WILLIE HORTON



BOB HOERNER

Bob Hoerner
'Old' Yankees Seeking Climb

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