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Prep Star of the Week

Marshall Dill: 'Fastest Run' in the City League



Marshall Dill of Northern High

Marshall Dill, a fast horse and even Chester might have trouble catching up with Detroit Northern High's transplanted Texan, Marshall Dill, this year.

Dill, a tailback on the Northern football team, has been showing his heels to Public School East Side opponents with amazing regularity to earn the Free Press "Prep Star of the Week" award.

The 6-2, 190-pound speedster has been around Detroit only 14 months but has taken to the Motor City like a native.

DILL WAS born in Louisiana but spent his childhood days in the wide open spaces of Houston before migrating to Detroit in July, 1968.

He made the Northern varsity as a sophomore last fall, catching nine passes as a split end for 284 yards and four touchdowns. On defense he intercepted five passes from his safety position.

He was converted to the backfield this season and has already surpassed last year's marks with 321 yards in 56 attempts for five touchdowns and another 21 yards on eight

pass receptions—all coming at the tender age of 16, a birthday he celebrated just two months ago.

"I may not be very old in years but I've been playing football for an awfully long time," Dill confessed. "I started when I was nine, in the fifth grade at F. H. Holden Elementary in Houston."

Texas-style football competition begins in grade school.

"We won our championship at Holden and were district champs when I played at Hamilton Junior High. I made All-City," Dill remarked happily.

THE NORTHERN prepster's athletic prowess isn't limited to football. Dill competes in track—something akin to a vacuum cleaner attacking a bunch of cinders.

The youthful barrier finished second in the league trials in the 100 and 200-yard dashes under the handicap of a strained muscle.

In the state meet, Dill ripped off a 22.1 to take the 200 sprint while finishing the 100 in second place, although matching the winner's 10.1 time—a pretty good day for a 16-year-old youngster.

During the summer, Dill competed in weekly "Federation" track meets sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and swept the boards clean—11 meets, 22 titles in the 100 and 200 sprints.

In the P&R semifinals at Cobo Arena in July, Dill had a field day—a third in the 60-yard dash, third in the 40; second in the mile relay; first in the 88-rebay; first in the broad jump, but then a disqualification in his 220 specialty.

"I GUESS I hit someone in another lane," Dill said, "but it's really funny. They held the state finals at Wayne State the next week and... I won the 220. None of the other qualifiers showed up."

Dill, however, professes to liking football better. "There's no money in track," Dill admitted, with an economic eye at a possible future livelihood.

Principals are important to Dill—also principles. The Northern student spent five days during August at a camp

in Mt. Pleasant devoted to the "Fellowship for Christian Athletes."

Home to Dill is on Detroit's mid-northwest side. Three brothers—Jeffrey, 13, Wayne, 12, and Rex, 11—all are trying to emulate their older brother.

Dill maintains an A minus classroom average and holds office in the Northern Student Council, Pep Club and Ski Club.

"THE SKI Club? Not any longer, if I have anything to do about it," said football coach John Dean. "That's more dangerous than football."

Yes, coach. Give the colt his head, but keep a tight rein. And then watch him run!

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