

A Victory to Remember!

By ED KENYON

With a blistering homestretch drive, Les Nagy of Niles McKinley High School yesterday sped to a new mile run record in the Mansfield Relays and won his place in the history of Ohio high school track competition.

As Nagy snapped the finish line tape, the officials' stop watches snapped 4:13.8, smashing the old Relays mile record of 4:16.5 set last year by Reginald McAfee of Cincinnati Courler Tech.

Nagy's mile clocking at Mehock Field was also the second fastest time ever recorded in an Ohio high school mile race. Ironically, it was McAfee who ran the best high school mile in the Buckeye State's history. Last year in the State Class AA meet, McAfee turned a 4:06.5.

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The second place finisher in the Relays' mile, Mike Pierce of Grand Blanc (Mich.) High School, pushed Nagy to his record-breaking performance. Pierce also did better than the old Relays mile record by posting a 4:15.5 time.

Yesterday's mile was a classic race to watch. The mile field came through the first lap bunched up at 63 seconds. Nagy was barely in second place at the half mile mark with a 2:09. At the end of the third lap, Nagy was tied for the lead with Doug Brown of Harper Woods (Mich.) Notre Dame, who finished third in the race with a 4:18.5. Time at the third lap was 3:14.

With about 220 yards to go to the finish, Pierce came blasting out of the trailing pack. He swept by Brown and started to inch ahead of Nagy.

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Then, some 110 yards out, Nagy seemed to smell the tape and turned it on. He ran away from Pierce and won going away. For his last quarter mile, Nagy ran 59.8 seconds — a blazing last lap for a high school runner.

On Friday in the Relays, Nagy anchored the Niles McKinley four-mile relay team to victory. His leg in the relay was a 4:22 mile.

"I was very disappointed with my performance Friday," Nagy said. "We won, but I ran badly. After the Friday race, all I could think about was doing better today."

Nagy said the cold temperatures yesterday didn't bother him. "I was more worried about the other guys in the race than about the weather." Nagy did, however, wear a blue nylon sweat shirt under his track jersey.



LES NAGY

The 18-year old senior finished third in the Relays mile last year. He never made the state meet in 1969 because of injuries to both knees. In 1968, he won the state two-mile run with a 9:27.

Nagy, who next year will be at the University of Pittsburgh on a track scholarship, is slenderly built at 5-10, and 138 pounds. His training consists mainly of a combination of long distance running and shorter interval work.