

Wed., April 29, '70

Prep Star of the Week

# Notre Dame's Doug Brown Has Wings on

Doug Brown is a hard youngster to miss on a cinder track -- unless the viewer happens to be a track official.

The Notre Dame High senior climaxed the 1969 scholastic track season by finishing fifth in the state one-mile run at East Lansing last May. At least he thought he finished fifth.

He could have grown a beard waiting for the public address system to confirm his position. No one noticed him crossing the finish line. Not one single person.

THE 6-foot-2, 150-pound miler hasn't run into any myopic officials this season. Leaders rarely do.

Brown has already collected a first-place medal for the mile in the Huron Relays this month, a second in the Spartan Relays and a third at Mansfield, O., in the Midwest's showcase meet.

Last week at the Birmingham Relays he anchored Notre Dame's winning four-mile relay to a new state record of 18:04.4 and has been named the Free Press Prep Star of the Week.

Last year's Michigan track finale was just another drop in a bucket of misfortune for the state's premier miler.

"Three men were ahead of me when I passed the finish line, dead even with another runner," Brown said. "I put on my sweats and waited to hear the announce-



Doug Brown  
... Notre Dame High Star

ment. The P.A. named the eighth guy, then the seventh and the sixth.

"WHEN MY name didn't come up fifth, I was pleased -- I figured I had finished fourth. Then the P.A. called off four more

names, none of them mine, and I began to wonder. I ran to the center and started complaining.

Redford's coach Bruce Waha was a spectator and took my part. Finally another coach came up and admitted that his runner had been awarded a high finish in the mile, an event he hadn't entered. They settled by placing me sixth. Isn't that something!"

The Mansfield mile was another disappointment for Doug, although his time of 4:18.5 is the state's third-fastest of the season.

"I would have won," Doug remarked, "if I had been healthy. I got the flu bug a week before the meet. What a time to get sick. I had to miss two days of school. I took cold shots on Thursday, then pills until Friday night. When I ran Saturday, I really felt weak."

Brown, dubbed "Beano" by Notre Dame coach Connie Vachon when Doug started prep competition four years ago, has always labored in the spotlight.

He entered the two-mile event in the Catholic League trials as a freshman and surprised everyone by finishing second.

A THIGH INJURY during preseason practice put Doug on the shelf for practically his entire sophomore season, while another bad

break interfered with his junior year practice schedule.

"I was playing in a Recreation League hockey game at Christmas time," Brown said, "when I got checked into the boards and broke my right arm. I had to wear a cast up to my shoulder for five weeks. I GOT SO MAD I gave away all my hockey equipment ... skates and all."

Life's cruel arrows sometimes misfire. Brown won the state cross-country title in November. It didn't hurt one bit when his chief rival, Rick Schott of Grosse Pointe North, collapsed in the final quarter mile because of illness.

"That was a tough break for Rick," Brown said in a consoling tone, "but I took the lead with one-half mile to go and was pulling away at the time. Anyhow, I just had to win. Schott had beaten me four straight times during the season and I couldn't endure another loss."

Brown, a B-minus student at Notre Dame, is weighing college offers from Michigan, Michigan State, Illinois and Villanova, but his mind is set on his future livelihood.

"When I finish college, I'm going to flight training school," Doug said. "I have my heart set on becoming a commercial airlines pilot."

What could be more natural for a youngster with winged feet.



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