

Tigers Whip Adversity For Class A Honors

By JIM DELAND
Sports Editor
ANN ARBOR — Just call it a triumph over adversity.
That's the most fitting description of the way Benton Harbor won the Class A track championship here Saturday afternoon.
With their coach injured when a section of bleachers collapsed during the meet and a key member of their crack half-mile relay team left behind for missing practice, the Tigers had every excuse in the world to fold up and quit.
They did not.
Instead, they made the most of the talents of four fine sprinters to capture Benton Harbor's first state track title since 1941.
It was the crowning moment of glory for coach George McGinnis, who had won their conference championship earlier in the week and shut-

tered bushels of records during the season, and it was a shame McGinnis was not there to see it.
Like some 26 other spectators injured in the bleacher collapse, he was taken to an Ann Arbor hospital for examination and returned just in time to see his team accept the trophy.
He did see the Tigers come from behind on the strength of their tremendous 20.9 second

anchor leg by Don Hopkins in the 800-yard relay. And he saw Rhodes and Hopkins finish 3-4 in the 100-yard dash to add 11 points to the 10 Benton Harbor won in the relay.
But McGinnis was not there to see Rhodes battle grimly down the stretch to take second place in the 220-yard dash and nail down seven more points that gave the Tigers the title.

That was all. Only four runners scored points for the Tigers, but they scored a total of 29 — six more than any other team in the field of 125 schools competing here Saturday.
Touting here for the Tigers was Frank Atkinson, a competitor who has tumbled in the shadow of Rhodes and other Benton Harbor runners for two seasons.
Although his times have been improving during the year, he was bumped off the 800-yard relay team by Leroy Hunt early in the season and never was able to regain his position until Saturday afternoon.
Then Atkinson was called on to fill in for Al Williams, who was left home after missing practice Thursday and Friday, and he came through to help the Tigers edge Wayne and Edsel Ford for the relay victory in 1970 — only three-tenths of a second short of the state record

needed, however. Highland Park finished second with 23 points, while Detroit Northern tallied 22. Grosse Pointe North, Flint Northern and Port Huron 21 each and Flint Southwestern 20.
Two records were set in the meet, one at the expense of St. Joseph's distance area.
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That was all the Tigers

despite the substitution.
Benton Harbor's hopes for an individual sprint championship were thwarted by big Marshall Hill of Detroit Northern, who swept both dashes in 10.5 and 21.9 while running into a head-wind down the straight.
Rhodes placed third in the 100 in 10.1 after hitting 9.9 in the 100 semifinals, but the Tiger senior was obviously running out of gas after his strong relay performance, finishing fourth in the 100 and eighth in the 220.
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"He was fine for three-quarters of a mile, but he just couldn't keep it up," St. Joe coach Ron Waldvogel said of Parrett. "It just wasn't there. He had a cold a couple weeks ago and he's seemed tired since then."
The other record was established by Kansas-bound Kevin Reabe of Waterford Kettering, who clocked off a sensational 1:30.9 half mile to wipe out his own record of 1:32.7 set last year.
Mel Reeves of Pontiac Northern joined Hill as a double winner by sweeping the hurdles races in 14.4 and 15.6 and Mike Pierce of Grand Blanc came

close to the mile record with a 4:14.5 clocking while noting out Doug Brown of Harper Woods Notre Dame by one-tenth of a second.
Benton Harbor hurdler Ron Patterson was eliminated in the preliminaries and then slightly injured when the stands collapsed, but was released after examination at University Hospital.
The only other southwestern Michigan qualifiers — St. Joseph pole vaulter Mark Engelhardt and Niles high jumper Lewis Garner — both failed to match their regional performances and failed to



Grand Slam Beats Detroit Rick 'Stuck' As Star

DETROIT (AP) — Rick Reichardt's "superstar" bill was uncollected, and it has always served as a ball and chain around his neck.
He wants to shake that tag, but he didn't help those plans Sunday when he belted a grand slam home run in Washington's six-run second inning enroute to a 6-4 win over the Detroit Tigers. The homer, his third career grand slam, was one of eight hits off Mickey Lolich in just 2 1/3 innings.
"This business about making me a superstar here is ridiculous," Reichardt said afterwards. "I feel better here. I like it here and think I'll do well. But this business about hitting 40-50 homers — well, I don't know."
Reichardt was with the California Angels last season before being dealt to Washington in a trade for Ken McMillen.
The victory gave the Senators

haven't done a good job, I think I was a good ballplayer with California."
In three full seasons in the majors his batting averages have been .288, .285 and .255, with 16, 17 and 21 home runs the last three years.
He said Senators manager Ted Williams, himself an all-time superstar and slugger while with Boston, "is my friend."
"He has been trying to ease me in this new situation and help build my confidence up,"

he said.
"He is someone you can relate too. You have to hold him in high esteem because he is the master. It's best to get advice from someone you believe in."
He credits his grand slam to Williams' advice.
"He said I should look for any pitch and swing hard," Reichardt related. "If you strike out you strike out."
Washington had already pushed across two runs in the sec-

ond inning, one on a sacrifice fly by Tim Lincecum and another on a single by former Tiger Wayne Comer. With two men on, Lolich walked Frank Howard to load the bases and then Reichardt unleased his sixth homer of the year.
"I had an inkling in the back of my mind I'd get a good ball to hit," Reichardt said. "That's something he (Williams) tries to do. He tries to instill a mental awareness in you."
Winning pitcher Joe Coleman, 3-0, allowed only four hits in the seven innings he worked, but two were two-run homers by Bill Freehan and Jim Northrup.
With two out in the bottom of the second Dalton Jones singled and Freehan followed with his seventh homer of the year. Coleman walked Mickey Stanley in the third and Northrup cranked his fifth homer.
One bright spot for Detroit was the performance of rookie



AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division				East Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.	Team	W	L	Pct.
Baltimore	21	12	.636	Chicago	17	15	.529
Detroit	21	13	.615	St. Louis	20	19	.513
Minnesota	19	12	.613	New York	20	21	.486



CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONS: Benton Harbor's Tigers show off their trophies after winning Class A state track championship Saturday at Ann Arbor. Standing in front are head coach George McGinnis (left) and assistant Dick Brame. Standing are (from rear) Leroy Hunt, Don Hopkins, Rodney Rhodes, Ron Patterson and Frank Atkinson. (Staff photo by Pete Mitchell)

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