

**Prep Star of the Week**

## Ol' Aches 'N' Pains Hurdles To Glory



Track observers swear that Floyd Jenkins has the veins in his veins, but the star hurdler from Western High School begs to differ. It isn't the veins, it's the pain.

Both he and pain have become a regular ritual for Jenkins ever since he pulled a muscle in his right leg during pre-season practice.

The leg often drags a trifle during the school day, but a mere blast from a starter's gun seems to evoke great healing powers.

**THE 5 FOOT-11, 165-pound center** didn't lose a race in any dual meet this season and climaxed the year by winning the high and low hurdles at the City League championships at Osborn last Thursday.

For his efforts, Jenkins has been named the Free Press Prep Star of the Week.

Jenkins' injury has never had a real opportunity to heal, and the rigors of competition are always followed by ice packs and heat treatments on the raw part of the troubled limb.

"We kid him about his aches and pains," Western coach Don Smith joked, "but he takes the kidding in stride—now. He's a dedicated worker and a very strong runner. It's hard for outsiders to believe that he can do so well under the adverse circumstances."

"I called Wynn State's trainer, Bob White, and asked some advice on treatment and he almost sneered. He told me that no boy can be hurt and run a 10-flat, 100-yard dash."

**JENKINS ACCOMPLISHED** that feat in a meet against Central. His lone venture at the 100 has been bettered by only seven men in the metropolitan Detroit area the whole season.

No one at Western was able to save Jenkins' dead toe long. He aggravated his muscle pull in the meet and spent the next two weeks on the sidelines, helping his coach record his teammates' times.

Jenkins' proudest moment came after that period of enforced rest. He took part in the Schaefer Relays and broke the meet low hurdles record with a 19.8 time in a preliminary heat.

He hit 19.1 in a semifinal heat and ultimately finished second in the finals behind Mel Reeves of Pontiac Northern, the state's premier hurdler with a 18.4 clocking, despite increasing pain with each run.

The season's low point took place in the state meet.

"Western doesn't have a track and the hurdles are set up on a straightaway," Jenkins said. "The curve at Ann Arbor bothered me and I wound up fourth in the lows. I was happy to finish."

"**IT WASN'T THAT** lucky in the highs. I was running even with Henry Brown of Highland Park in the prelims and got hit by his left arm. I was thrown off stride and fell through the fourth hurdle."

The City League qualifying round last Thursday was almost another disaster. Jenkins pulled a muscle again on the seventh hurdle of the lows and barely finished.

"It was a good thing I had a big lead, or else I wouldn't have made it," Jenkins said. "I was just dragging along."

"The pain reached its peak on Thursday. When I finally crossed the tape, I sat down on the grass and felt like never getting up."

Jenkins' loyalty to Western is something to be admired. His family moved to the east side of Detroit in January of 1969, but Floyd chose to remain at Western. That meant rising at 5:45 each morning to catch two buses for a 30-minute ride to school.

When the situation demands, Jenkins will run and jump for the Cowboys. He has also marched.

"**THE DETROIT** school board had a fight some months ago about increasing revenue for Western High School," Jenkins said. "The kids at school decided to show the board how they felt."

"We met at Kennedy Square and marched down Woodward Avenue to the School Center Building, carrying signs that expressed our needs."

"Have you ever been to Western? The lack of facilities is a shame. A lot of kids will graduate without any chance of going to college. They deserve the right to be trained for their adult life in the best possible way."

"And that won't happen without marked improvements—from the machine shop right down to the gym."

Give Jenkins a cause, and no pain is too great.

**Western High's Floyd Jenkins: Ice packs and heat lamps . . .**

Clipped By:



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