

DILL SKIPPED FOOTBALL FOR TRACK

MSU Sprinter Aims for Olympics

BY CHARLIE VINCENT

EAST LANSING — This has been the longest football season of Marshall Dill's life, because he hasn't been a part of it.

The multi-talented Michigan State freshman from Detroit Northern High decided to sit out the 1971 season to protect his body for his planned assault on the 1972 Olympic games in Munich.

"I saw all the home games and I really miss football," the 6-foot, 2½-inch, 198-pounder admits. "It's the first time in nine years that I haven't played football.

"But I decided to do it this way, then I went and asked my high school coach what he thought and he agreed it was a good idea."

YOU CAN bet State's football minds know Marshall's around, though.

"Sure, I've talked to (coach) Duffy (Daugherty)," Dill says with a sheepish grin. "We talked about where he'd like to use me. He said tailback, but if I had my choice I'd rather play flanker or defensive halfback."

But Dill's immediate goal is a berth with the United States Olympic team . . . then a gold medal in Munich.

"I wasn't on any real organized program until we started track practice here at Michigan State last Monday," he said. "But I'll be running pretty steady from now on."

DURING THE fall he stayed in shape by lifting weights, doing calisthenics and a little jogging.

Despite the fact he grew up in Houston and didn't move to Detroit until he was a high school sophomore, Marshall disagrees with the theory that all outstanding track men have to come out of the west and southwest.

"That's one of the reasons I decided to go to school here at Michigan State. I heard so much bad-mouth about the midwest, people saying you couldn't really develop here because the weather wasn't good enough and because there wasn't enough competition. I just decided to prove them wrong.

"I think their theory about running outside all year long is wrong. That makes for an awful long season. I believe in working out indoors during the winter, running the 60 yard dash instead of the 100 and gradually working up to the longer sprints."

MICHIGAN State's first indoor meet of the season is January 22 at Western Michigan and Dill expects to run in the 60, 300 and sprint medley relay. When the Spartans move outdoors he'll compete in the 100, 220 and relays.

And in spite of his Olympic goal, Dill will spend the whole track season with his Spartan teammates.

"A lot of people have asked me if I'll compete with the team the whole season, or if I'll go out on my own some.

"Well, my first obligation is to the school and I'll run with them all season."

MARSHALL doesn't think he'll have any problem getting an invitation to the Olympic tryouts anyway. He's already run a 10.1 in the 100 meters, a 20.1 in the 200 meters and finished second to Jamaican Don Wuarry in the Pan American Games 200 last summer.

"You have to run a 20.4 after August of 1971 to be invited to the trials," he pointed out, "and the Pan American Games were just before that. But I don't think I'll have any trouble making that time."

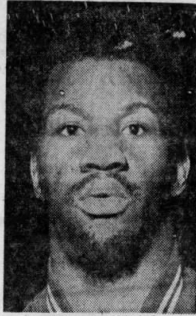
Dill expects his toughest competition in the trials to come from Larry Black of North Carolina Central and Willie Deckard of Southern California.

"They're both good," he concedes, "Black just runs the 220 but Deckard runs both the 100 and 220."

THE '72 OLYMPICS pose a unique problem for Marshall: He can't decide if should concentrate on the 200 meters or take a shot at both sprints.

"Right now my goal is to win a gold medal in the 200 meters. I'd like to win the 100, because that would establish me as the world's fastest man. But it's tough to qualify for both because there are so many qualifying races. That makes it pretty stiff."

Marshall, it may be even stiffer than running against Notre Dame.



Marshall Dill

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