

Wednesday, May 12, '71 DETROIT FREE PRESS

He'll Make Up for Stubbing Toe

Phil Seibold can be excused for his surly temper on the day of the Michigan high school cross country championships in 1968.

The then sophomore at Cherry Hill High School in Inkster was standing on the sidelines, a trifle disappointed, even though he had earned a berth in the finals at the previous week's regional meet.

Seibold ran into an unexpected snag the night before the finale—he was sleeping on the top side of a bunk bed, rolled over, fell off and broke his toe.

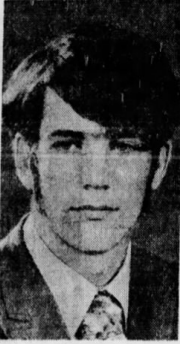
These days the 6-foot-1, 160-pound senior only breaks records.

Seibold ran a 1:55.5 half mile in the Albion Relays last week which not only set a state standard for the season but broke the field mark for any previous contestant—high school or college.

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

THE ALBION victory was highly satisfying for the Inkster youngster, who turned 18 less than a month ago. But hardly easy.

"I have my own set pattern when I race," Seibold explained. "I go out hard the first half—I like to lead at the



Phil Seibold

quarter I usually float up to the three-quarter mark and then close with a good kick.

"I didn't have much of a chance to run my race at Albion. Mark Clark of Grand Ledge—he's one of the finest half milers in the state—took the lead at the start and held it until the straightaway.

"When we turned, we hit a wind with gusts up to 45 miles an hour . . . right into your face. I passed Clark with 50 yards to go and beat him by

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four tenths of a second. It was really a tough race."

Seibold is a versatile man on a track, running any event from the 220-yard dash to the two-mile run with a flair.

He made all-Tri-River League in cross country for three straight years and was selected his school's most valuable track performer as a junior.

SEIBOLD IS ALSO an excellent competitor in a group—anchoring his sprint-medley team to a victory in the Huron Relays and his mile-relay unit to a first-place finish in the Dearborn Relays.

At Albion Seibold took over in the mile relay with a 100-yard advantage and coasted. It was a slightly different matter at the Western Wayne Relays last Tuesday in Belleville. The footsteps sounded like thunder.

"I can't believe it," Seibold said. "That was some mile relay. The (Livonia) Franklin man was too close for comfort."

"Both our teams were stacked. I was five yards up when I got the baton, ran a

49.2 leg and, so help me, I almost lost. We were clocked in 3:22.27. That's the best time in the state. Franklin? They hit 3:22.29. Whew!"

Phil neglected to mention a minor inconvenience. Measles!

"I went to the doctor on Monday with a fever of 102," Seibold said. "He told me not to run on Tuesday. The coach asked me what the doctor advised and I told him aspirin."

"When we went back to our gym after the meet, I undressed and they found red spots all over my body. Two kids on the team had measles during Easter. I guess that's where I got it."

SEIBOLD ADMITS to a few other setbacks.

"In the Spartan Relays I had a fair lead in the mile relay with 80 yards to go," Seibold confessed. "Then someone flew by me like I was standing still—Marshall Dill of Northern. Boy, does he run."

"We lost our only dual meet to Taylor Kennedy . . . strictly my fault. I had to win

the 220, the second last event. I ran a 23.1 and lost to a kid who did 23.0. It was only the second time I've run that distance. Some difference that makes. We still lost."

Phil Seibold can be excused for his surly attitude at finishing anywhere lower than the top.

The altitude makes life to much more pleasant. Ask anyone.

Petty Boosts Point Lead

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — (UPI) — Richard Petty only finished second in Sunday's Halifax County 100 at South Boston, Va., but the Randleman, North Carolina ace continued to pull away from the field in the NASCAR Grand National Winston Cup standings.

Petty has 1,466 points for a comfortable edge over James Hylton of Inman, S.C., who has 1,296. Hylton finished third at South Boston.

Benny Parsons, who won Sunday's race in a Ford, is in fifth place in the point standings.

Petty also has a wide lead in money earned with \$113,450.

Phil Siebold 5-12-1971 DFP

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