

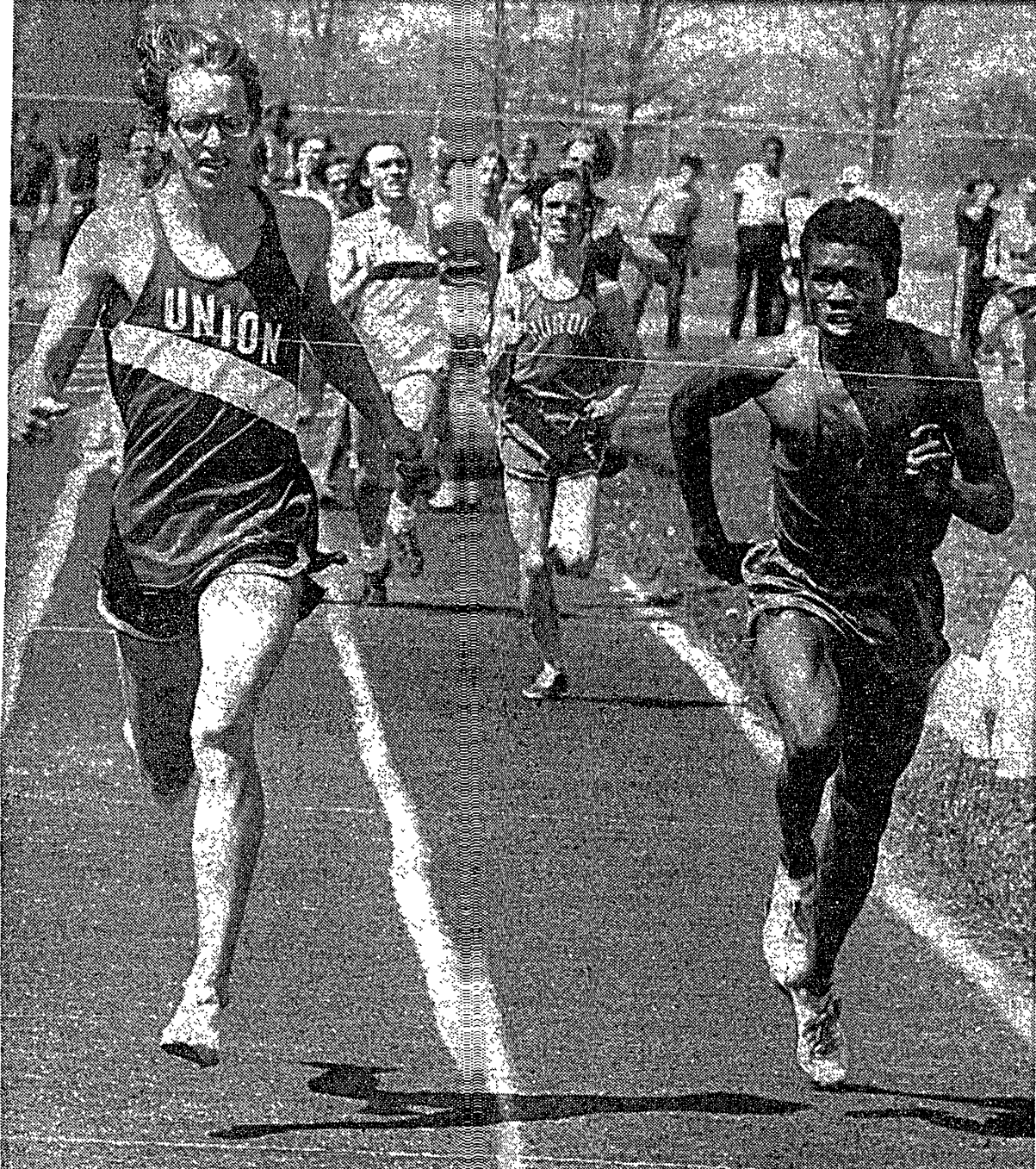
DOUBLE CHAMP — Reggie Jones, Saginaw, raises his arm to break the string and win the 100-yard dash in 9.8 seconds Saturday in the state Class A track meet at Houston Stadium. Jones also won the 220 in 21.6 and helped the 880 relay team tie for fourth. Oak Park's Mike Rollins (second from right) was second and Flint Southwestern's Mark Carrington (right) was third. (All Journal track photos by William M. Gallagher)



Prep Baseball Today
 Greater Flint Invitational Baseball At Lincoln Park Games Today
 Fenton vs. Central 2 p.m., Linden vs. Powers Catholic 4 p.m., Grand Blanc vs. Atherton 6 p.m., Ainsworth vs. Beech 8 p.m.

The Flint Journal
Sports

Section Four, Pages 57 to 76
 Sunday, May 21, 1972



Dave Woop, Grand Rapids Union, Outlasts Amos Brown, Detroit Northern, in Thrilling 4:13.9 Mile Race

Five-Man Oak Park Team Wins State A Track Title; NW 8th

By **LEN HOYES**
 A perfect host but a tragic loser was the perfect description for Northwestern High's track team Saturday at Houston Stadium.
 Only 11 seconds from the end of the Class A state track meet, the Wildcats had a good shot at their first championship. Eleven seconds later they stood helplessly, disqualified for dropping the baton in the 440 relay, as Oak Park and its five-man team romped to the school's first state championship.

THAT WAS the only blot on an otherwise perfect day as sun-baked Houston Stadium's all-weather surface produced four records and seven teams went into the final event with a chance for the title.
 A separation of only .16 points between first place and 14th indicates the struggle among 147 teams. Only 65 scored, leaving 81 to chalk up the day to experience.
 Oak Park's 31 points were a far cry from the 54 by 1971 champion Detroit Northern.

SAGINAW HIGH, led by sprinting great Reggie Jones, was second with 26½ and Ann Arbor Pioneer was third with 26.
 Northwestern was eighth with 20½. Southwestern and Northern scored 7 points, Grand Blanc 6½, Central 4 and Davison and Lapeer 3 apiece.

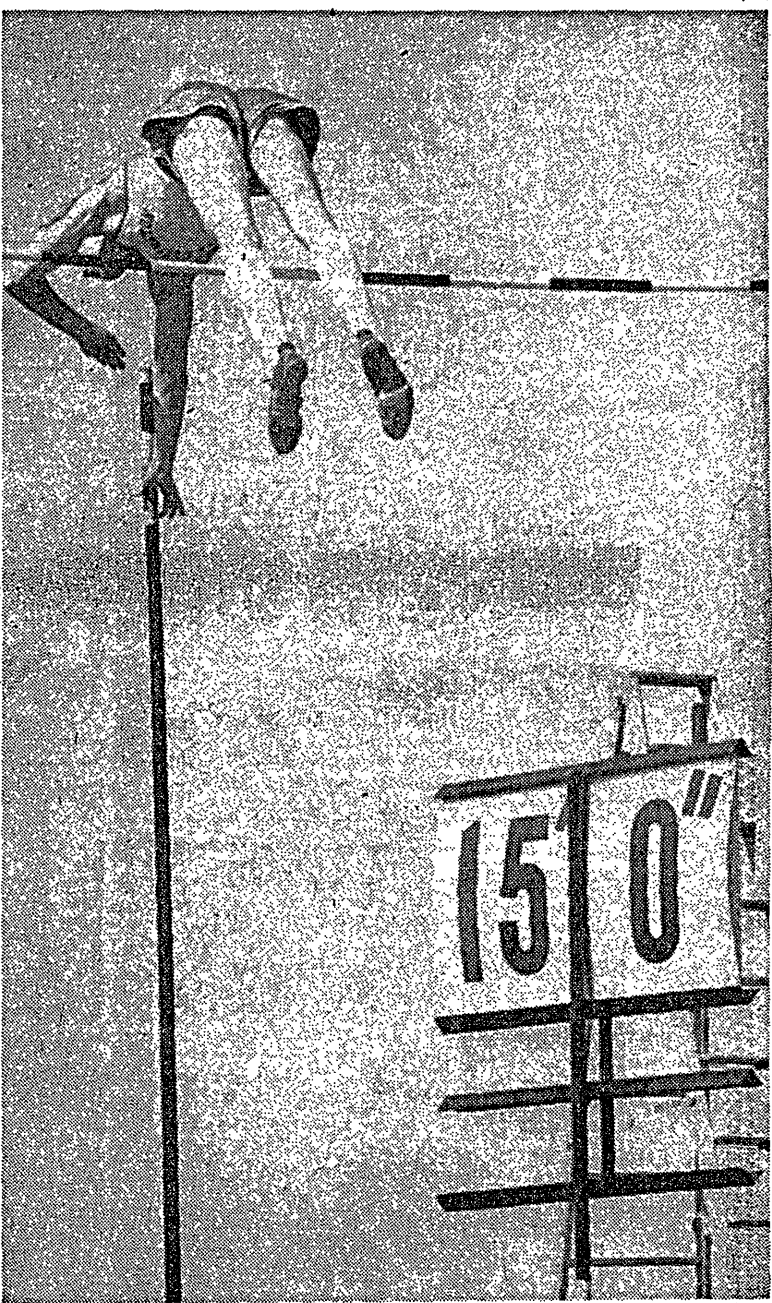
NORTHWESTERN high jumper Reggie Ferguson, a senior who never had competed until this spring, cleared 6-9 to erase the meet record of 6-8 set by Central's Freels Bacon in 1967. Teammate Doug Gibbs cleared 6-6 to take second place and give NW a great sendoff with 15 points.
 Ironically, Ferguson and Gibbs are close friends. They live a couple blocks apart and Gibbs talked Ferguson into trying the high jump. Gibbs had won in the Mansfield Relays and was city, Saginaw Valley West and regional champion.

HURDLER Brian Coles was fifth in the highs and the mile relay team of Don Mosley, Herman Thomas, Dwight Forte and Willis Lewis shared ninth place.

That gave the Wildcats 20½ points with one event to go. At that point Saginaw had 22½, Oak Park 21 and Lansing Sexton 19. All were in the final heat. All had shots at the title.

AFTER TWO baton exchanges, Northwestern and Oak Park were the class of the race. Going into the final exchange it appeared that NW was ahead although the staggered lanes made it impossible for a sure judgment.

In exchanging the baton, Tim Davis and Odell Hall got fouled up and the Wildcats were finished.
 Neither should be faulted. At that point they needed a perfect exchange to win the title and didn't get it. Even if they had exchanged perfectly, there's no guarantee that Hall could have held off Oak Park anchorman Mike Rollins.



ROLLINS ALREADY had finished second in the 100 so he had a clear edge in ability.
 Had NW won the 440 relay, it would have been champ by one-half point.
 Tough luck also dogged Northern pole vaulter Barry Benton.

HE CLEARED a personal best of 14-7 and appeared to have first place locked-up when Farmington's Nat Durham cleared 15-0 on his final leap. Benton had fewer misses and Durham had to become Michigan's first 15-foot vaulter in the state meet to beat him.

Nick Ellis of Detroit Cooley ran a strong race to claim a meet record of 9:14.8 for two miles. Detroit Pershing's mile relay team claimed another record with 3:19.5. Oak Park's 440 relay time of 42.9 was an automatic record for a new event.

Oak Park's points came in four events. It was second in the 880 relay and Tony Craighead was fourth in the 220. Craighead, Henry Staton, Dave Kaplan and Rollins were the 440 relay team and Adolph Mongo substituted for Kaplan in the 880 relay.

COACH AL DELIDOW has been at Oak Park 10 years but track coach only the last four.

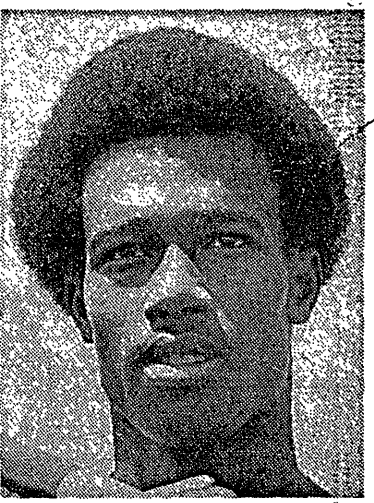
Southwestern's Mark Carrington was third in the 100 and Tom Goggins eighth events. It was second in the 880 relay team was seventh with William Chatman, Greg Davis, Duane Hill and Al Thompson.

Davison high jumper Vic Metar and Lapeer half-miler Roger Gerlach were sixth. Clio half-miler Dave Gembel was eighth.

Kearsley's Jim Stokes tied for sixth in the pole vault.

Summary on Page 65.

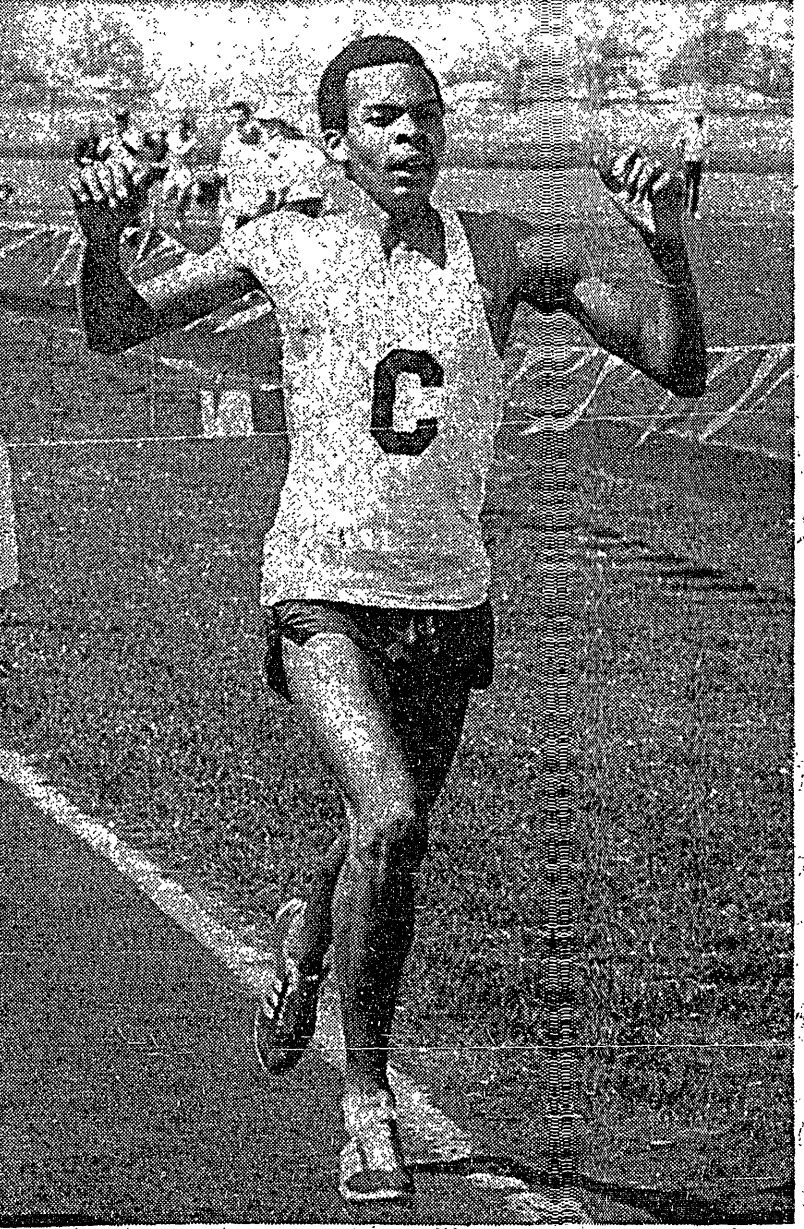
LAST TRY — Nat Durham, Farmington, is about to clear the bar at 15-0 and become the first pole vaulter to reach that peak in the Class A state meet. He made it on his final try, depriving Flint Northern's Barry Benton of first place. Benton cleared a personal best of 14-7, and had fewer misses than Durham.



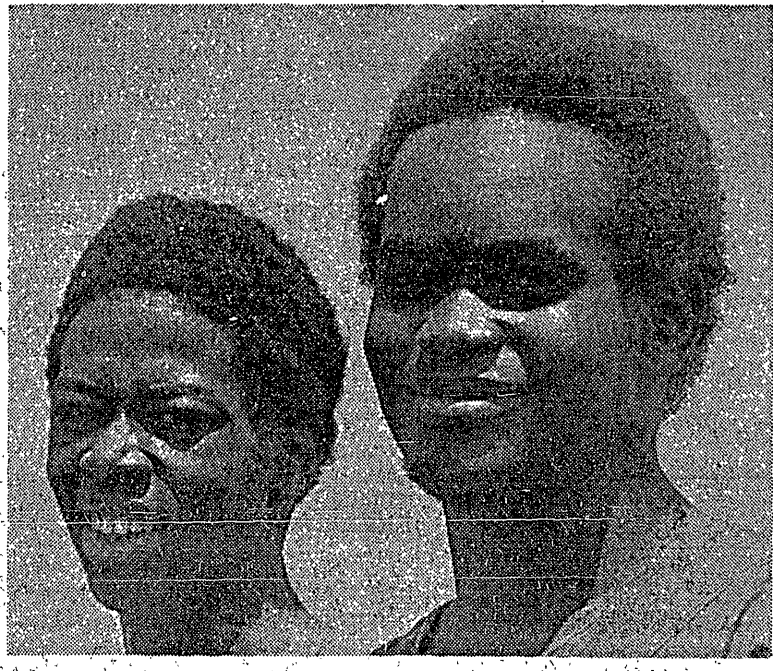
Barry Benton . . . Almost, Not Quite

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Nick Ellis, Detroit Cooley, Sets Two-Mile Record of 9:14.8



Reggie Ferguson (left) and NW Teammate Doug Gibbs Record and Second Place Capture 15 Points in State Meet

College Coach Switches

EUGENE, Ore. (UPI) —Ray Eddleman, assistant basketball coach at the University of Oregon, resigned today to assume the post of head of the Athletic Department at West Deptford High School in New Jersey.

A Decade Ago

Ten Years Ago Today in Flint Area Sports . . . Wayne Landen of Hastings picked up where he left off last season by winning the feature race at Dixie Motor Speedway . . . Dick Walter of Stardust Lounge and Bob Hamilton of Erwin Construction, former minor leaguers returning to the City Baseball League, pitched opening-day victories at Atwood Stadium.