

Best-Ever State-Prep Mile! Tee

BY HAL SCHRAM
Free Press Sports Writer

Tom Duits, a 17-year-old Hastings High senior, took advantage of an almost perfect day for high school track Saturday to turn in the greatest mile ever run by a Michigan schoolboy.

Duits' performance at the town of Michigan Center was the highlight of the day as more than 35,000 schools qualified at 35 regional centers for the state track finals on June 1.

Duits, a six-foot, 145-pounder who is a two-time state Class B cross-country champion, spun around the course in 4:09.2, five seconds faster than Lou Scott's Class A record of 4:13.2 set at old Ferry Field 11 years ago.

As a comparison, the mile run in the big Ten meet at Ann Arbor was won Saturday by Illinois' Mike Durkin in 4:01.4.

Duits told sports editor Al



Tom Duits
Runs 4:09.2 mile

Cotton of the Jackson Citizens Patriot that he might have done 4:05 had he been pressed. "He's the finest distant runner I've ever seen in high school," said Cotton. "He won the race by 18 seconds and showed us a tremendous stride and attitude."

Duits finished second in the state last year, but it appears that no one is going to beat him this year.

MIKE MCGURE, Farmington High's ace two-miler who is hoping to crack 7:50 minutes in the two mile, stepped a fancy 9:06.6 in winning over his home course.

Meanwhile, his No. 1 competitor, Pat Davey of Brother Rice, eased through his regional two-mile at Sterling Heights in 9:21.2.

At Fitzgerald High, the injured Dave Lipinski — the Warren Fitzgerald pole vaulter who soared 15 feet, 6 inches at Central Michigan University two weeks ago — qualified at 13-7 despite a gimpy ankle.

Lipinski hopes to be fully recovered by the time the state championships are held in Flint on Saturday, June 1.

Detroit Central got an excellent qualifying performance from its mile relay team of Jerome Stanton, Hansen Robinson, Frank Manners and Arvis Jones, who won the event in 3:21.6, two seconds off Pershing's state record.

Chris Richards of Pershing set regional records at Fitzgerald, winning the 100-yard dash in 9.7 seconds and the 220 in 21.9.

Grosse Pointe North won five firsts in claiming the regional title on its home track. Calvin Reed of Kettering won the shot with a heave of 57 feet 7½ inches and Tom Murphey of Grosse Pointe South turned in a 1:57.2 half mile.

THURSTON'S Rich Westphal won the quarter mile in 49.8 seconds and the 220 in 21.8 at Farmington, while West Bloomfield's Ed Grabowski turned in a 4:18.6 mile.

Edwin Poindexter of Inkster was a triple winner in Class B at Southgate Schaefer where he won the high and low hurdles and long jump.

In girls' regional track, team titles were claimed by Lincoln Park, the defending state champion; Cass Tech, Mt. Clemens and Regina.

Anita Lee of Cass Tech won the high jump, long jump and high hurdles at Madison Heights.

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