

# Cass' Allen may set rare mark

By PAUL WALSH  
Free Press Special Writer

With any amount of luck at all, Marcus Allen can become the only high school cinderman to hold state records in two different classes for two different teams.

Now enrolled at Cass Tech, Allen set the 330-yard low hurdle record while at Detroit St. Mary's at the Class C state meet last season with a time of 38.3. St. Mary won the state title.

And now being another year older and another year stronger, it would seem natural that the 17-year-old 6-foot junior will improve on that time, especially running in Class A against stiffer competition.

Considering the blistering start Allen got at the Eastern Michigan Class A Huron Relays last weekend, this season for both Allen and Cass Tech looks to be promising, indeed.

Cass tied Flint Kearsley for first place in the opening meet of the indoor track season with 35 points. Allen cruised to victory in the 60-yard high hurdles in 7.4 seconds. He also anchored first-place finishes for Cass in the shuttle hurdle relay (30.2) and the 880-yard relay (1:34.7).

With the possibility of making high school track history, Marcus Allen has been selected Free Press Prep Star of the Week.

"No one has done it (two state records for two different classes of schools) in the last 20 years," said Lonnie Lowery, Michigan High School Athletic Association assistant director. "And with the transfer rules being more lenient than back then, I'd have to say he'd be the first to do it."

Allen switched to Cass Tech, "because I wanted to get into a business-oriented curriculum. The 2.8 grade point student listed some of the courses at Cass — business administration, accounting, computers.

HE ADMITS many persons have questioned whether his being the son of Roy Allen, Detroit Public School's assistant director of Health and Education, had an influence on his coming to Cass.

"No," Allen said with a laugh. "I've heard that plenty of times before. I've had a few problems (about his father's position), but nothing serious."



Marcus Allen

## Prep Star Of the Week

Allen may have a better chance at making history, according to his coach Robert Glenn, in another event besides the 330 lows. "I'll tell you, right now, he's running a 14-flat in the 120 high hurdles." The state record is 13.9.

GLENN AND HIS sprinter are not particularly surprised by the fast start of Allen and the Cass Tech squad. "I did a lot of work over the summer," Allen reasoned. "My times are really coming down."

Allen went to the AAU Junior Nationals in Albuquerque, N.M., and won both the 120 highs (14.6) and the 180 lows (20.0) in the 14-15 age bracket.

At the Macomb indoor meet in February, Allen turned in a 7.2 for the 60 highs and in the same month he took third in the 55-meter high hurdles at the Western Ontario Track Classic with an impressive 6.8.

"At Ontario, the hurdles were three inches higher than in high school (42 inches instead of 39)," Allen said. But even so, he had little difficulty adjusting.

"I don't think of the hurdles, I just run. If I think of the hurdle, I tend to float a little bit."

COACH GLENN FEELS Allen isn't the only star on the Technicians' squad. "We have a balanced team and a lot of people don't realize that yet. There are three other guys who run the relay as well and they are all juniors.

"They're willing to sacrifice. The practices are real hard, just about every day. All we have to do is stay healthy and not have any injuries."

## Walker repeats Campy's feat

Special to the Free Press

PITTSBURGH — All-state basketball star Walker D. Russell of Pontiac Central repeated a feat of his older brother, Campy, by grabbing Most Valuable Player honors at the 14th annual Dapper Dan Roundball Classic Friday

night. The younger Russell scored 18 points for the U.S. All-Stars as they downed the Pennsylvania All-Stars, 105-100. Campy, now with the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers, was voted MVP of the Classic in 1970.

## Marcus Allen feature 4-1-1978

Clipped By:



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Thu, Dec 27, 2018