

# Hallums seeks sprint double

By Mike Van Sickle  
The News Journal

DETROIT, Mich. — Demetrius Hallums, the man with the magic feet, will be back again to perform a few tricks of timing at this year's Mansfield Mehock Relays.

A year ago as a high school junior at Detroit Central, Hallums came to the Mehock and burned up the 200-meter dash in record 21.7 time. He also left his mark on the 100 meters, finishing fourth.

Hallums' efforts helped Central to second place in the team standings at this Titanic of a track and field meet.

"I'm comin' to Mansfield to take care of business," said the confident Hallums.

"Team-wise we're trying to win it this year and me personally...well, I'd like to double my pleasure, if you know what I mean."

Hallums might be the most talented sprinter in the Relays this spring.

"I expect I'll probably be favored again in the 200, but I'd like to win the 100 as well," he said.

Hallums will certainly have his work cut out for him in the 100, since defending titlist Ben Johnson of Toronto (Ont.)

**"I'd like to double my pleasure."  
— Demetrius Hallums**

Yorkdale also has designs on repeating the individual crown in his specialty.

A year ago at the Mehock, Johnson's winged feet took him to a 11.3 time, while Hallums landed an 11.7 clocking.

"I want the whole shot this year," Hallums stressed. "I want us to win every event I'm entered in. If we do, I think we have a real strong chance of winning the meet."

Aside from his obvious prowess in the 100 and 200, Hallums is also the anchor leg for Central's hurricane 800 and 1,600-meter relay teams. Needless to say, those four events are among Central's strongest.

Hallums is being recruited heavily by Michigan, Michigan State, Villanova, Tennessee and Kansas.

"He helps hold this team together and keeps the guys working on their own in the off season," Central Coach Woody Thomas said of Hallums. "Hallums is



like my assistant coach. He has great leadership qualities."

After his excellent performance at the Mehock in 1980, Hallums went on the next week to better his 200 time with a 21.2 at the Toledo Blade Relays. He was the Michigan state 200 champion (21.4) and ran his top 200 effort in the AAU Junior Olympics area qualifier with a 20.9.

Thus far this spring, Hallums ran a first-place 31.1 in the 300 meters at the Michigan Indoor championships. The time was No. 1 among prep sprinters in the United States according to a recent national track publication.

"I should be able to average 10.2 in the 100 and a 20.5 in the 200 this year," Hallums felt. "If I can hit those times at Mansfield, I think I'll be in good shape."

Hallums is called "Black Genie" by his teammates. One day as a sophomore, he was running in the 800-meter relay and his team was way out front. But

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Hallums and a teammate missed the final baton exchange, allowing an opposing team to grab a large advantage.

"When I picked up the baton, we were about 75 feet behind," Hallums recalled with a chuckle. "I came back and beat that boy in front of me. Ever since then, the guys have called me 'Black Genie.' I guess they thought it was magical."

Other outstanding runners in the 100 at Mansfield will include Don Anderson of Detroit Cody and Peter Christian of Toronto (Ont.) Neil McNeil. Anderson was second last year in 11.4 and Christiani was third with 11.6. It will make the 100-meter field a largely veteran crew.

A projected 10.4 by Mark Jett of Detroit Central could help earn his school even more points; Chauncey Tucker of Hammond, Indiana lists a 10.6, as does Chris Brandy of Mississauga (Ont.) Woodlands. John Cochran of Columbus Central (10.9) could also challenge. Cochran lists a 21.5 in the 200, Christiani a 21.8.

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