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## Triple threat: New Haven's Brian Corbit

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Brian Corbit grew up in urban Flint. He went to Dolan Junior High and was "somewhat" involved in athletics.

But there were many distractions in that auto town, two hours north of Detroit. He always preferred to shoot baskets at a friend's house or hang around home rather than go to basketball practice.

During the summer, Corbit spent most of his time with his grandparents in New Haven. He'd go fishing at a local watering hole or spend time with his older uncles, Kevin, Marcus and Martin Kincaid, all former athletes at New Haven High School.

Corbit liked the slow pace of this small rural village in northern Macomb County. He moved in with his grandparents in eighth grade to concentrate more on schoolwork and athletics.

"It is slower here, not much to get into," said Corbit. "You either play sports or get bored here."

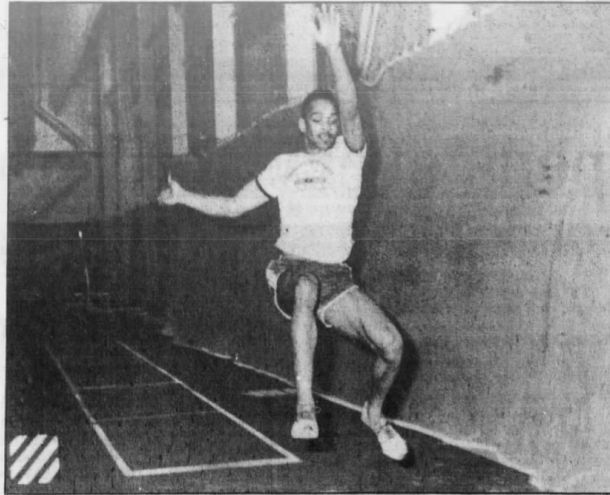
**THE PACE** has been good to Brian Corbit. He has become one of the top athletes in the school's history and is compared with such New Haven alumni as DeWight Lee, an all-state football and basketball player who played left halfback at Michigan State University under Duffy Dougherty.

And there is Eli Sims, another all-stater in football and basketball, and Filmore Walker, a Class C all-state basketball player now playing for Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

"It makes me feel good to be compared with them," said Corbit, a 6-foot-1 senior.

When you are a three-sport athlete (football, basketball and track) as Corbit is, it is hard not to be the topic of conversation at school. Corbit is, but he's unassuming.

He is quiet and doesn't go in for wild parties or



RC Photo

New Haven's Brian Corbit takes a jump at a recent indoor practice meet.

being the center of attention. He'd rather lift weights or shoot the breeze with his cousins than go roaming to Detroit or Flint on a Friday night.

**HIS ACHIEVEMENTS** do much of the talking for him. In track last spring, he broke the Class C record in the long jump with a leap of 23 feet, 9 inches. He is also a top hurdler and has high jumped 6-6.

But Corbit believes he is capable of more.

He has a dream of high jumping 7-0, long jumping 25-0 and breaking 50 seconds in the quarter mile.

"I really believe I can do it, because I am in better shape than last year," he said.

For the next few weeks, he'll be preparing himself for more track honors and making himself even more marketable for a college track scholarship. He is interested in the University of Kansas and Texas El Paso, where he also hopes to play football. He gained 827 yards rushing last season, despite starting just four games.

**IN BASKETBALL**, Corbit averaged 26 points, 7.5 rebounds and two assists per contest. A four-year starter, he finished his career with 1,485 points, third on the all-time scoring list behind Sims and Walker.

He set a single-game school and Southern Thumb Association record with 53 points against Armada. Every team's game plan was to stop Corbit.

"He gets off his feet very well," said New Haven basketball coach Cliff Duncan. "Everything he does centers around his jumping ability. He rebounds well and tips the basketball well."

Corbit admits he has little form as a jumper, particularly in the long jump — his specialty. If he learns more about form, his goal of a 25-foot jump would be attainable.

"I just kind of go out and do it," he said.

But he does it so well.

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