

THE EARLY YEARS OF MINNESOTA TRACK & FIELD

Prior to 1907 there were a multitude of track meets being contested and reported in local papers. Both an indoor season, with indoor races being contested in armories and fieldhouses in March, and an outdoor season were being held. Typically a school would begin its outdoor season with an "Interclass Meet" early in May where seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen competed as teams against each other. From this meet, the coach selected his squad for future competitions. Generally these competitions included dual meets, invitationals, and then concluded with a city meet (e.g.- Minneapolis) or a regional competition (e.g.- Southern Minnesota Championship) or a large invitational (e.g.- the Northwestern Interscholastic). 1907 marked the inaugural Interscholastic Meet sponsored by University of Minnesota Track Coach Dick Grant. This Interscholastic extended invitations to all high school and prep school track teams in Minnesota and throughout the Midwest. The records of this meet, minus those established by athletes on teams from outside of Minnesota, appear to be the records that were adopted by the MSHSL Meet in its inaugural year, 1923. For this reason, I begin my study in...

1907

In 1907 Shattuck dominated the State Track & Field scene with victories at the First Interscholastic and its own invitational. By 1907 Shattuck had instituted age limits for its competitive teams, but still raced collegiate teams during the year to find competition for its athletes. During this period it was common for the Minneapolis high schools to race the University of Minnesota Freshmen. Robert Hopwood of Minneapolis Central excelled in the sprints his junior year and ran even faster in 1908 for Phillips Andover Academy winning the Eastern Championships in :09 4/5 and :22 2/5. All Time State High School Records were set by Leonard Frank of St. Paul Central, 50'0.5" in the Shot, and Christensen of St. Olaf Prep, 152'9" in the Hammer Throw. At the Interscholastic, Posten ran faster than the high school record time in the Mile, but since he attended a Prep School his performance was not accepted.

FIRST ANNUAL INTERSCHOLASTIC

Saturday, June 8, 1907 - Northrop Field, U of M, Minneapolis

Teams: Shattuck 32, Minneapolis Central 23, Hutchinson 20, Hamline Prep 19, St Paul Central 12, Pillsbury Acad 12, St Olaf Preparatory 11, Worthington 9, Minneapolis East 6, and Duluth 4.

100 Yard Dash

- 1 Hopwood, Mpls Central :10 2/5 sec.
- 2 Hudson, Shattuck
- 3 Benham, SP Central
- 4 Petit, Worthington

120 Yd High Hurdles

- 1 Amidon, Shattuck :18 1/5 sec.
- 2 Martin, Mpls East
- 3 Woodward, Shattuck
- 4 Findley, Hutchinson

Mile Run

- 1 Poston, Hamline Prep 4:40 4/5
- 2 Jones, Pillsbury Academy
- 3 Sweitzer, Hamline Prep
- 4 Salisbury, Shattuck

High Jump

- 1 Hazzard, Worthington 5-4
- 2 Lynde, Hutchinson
- 3 Gage, Mpls Central
- 4 McGonigal, Duluth

Shot Put

- 1 Frank, SP Central 46-1.5
- 2 Christensen, St Olaf Prep
- 3 Jorecks, Hutchinson
- 4 Rankin, Shattuck

220 Yard Dash

- 1 Hopwood, Mpls Central :23 2/5 sec
- 2 Petit, Worthington
- 3 Vanstrum, Mpls Central
- 4 Benham, SP Central

220 Yard Low Hurdles

- 1 Hudson, Shattuck :27 4/5 sec.
- 2 Quamstrom, Hamline Prep
- 3 Martin, Mpls East
- 4 Pugh, Hutchinson

Half-Mile Relay

- 1 Mpls Central
- 2 Shattuck
- 3 SP Central

Broad Jump

- 1 Middlebrook, Pillsbury Acad. 20-5
- 2 McGonigal, Duluth
- 3 Nichols, Mpls Central
- 4 Amidon, Shattuck

Twelve Pound Hammer

- 1 Christensen, St Olaf Prep 152-9
- 2 Jarecks, Hutchinson
- 3 Hudson, Shattuck
- 4 Kingsley, Mpls East

440 Yard Run

- 1 Livingston, Shattuck :54 1/5
- 2 Yerx, Hutchinson
- 3 Quamstrom, Hamline Prep
- 4 McClusky, SP Central

Half-Mile Run

- 1 Poston, Hamline Prep 2:06 1/5
- 2 Jones, Pillsbury Academy
- 3 Yerx, Hutchinson
- 4 Hughs Pillsbury Academy

Pole Vault

- 1 Pugh, Hutchinson 9-6
- 2 Woodward, Shattuck
- 3 Gage, Mpls Central
- 4 McDonald, SP Central

Discus Throw

- 1 Frank, SP Central 104-2
- 2 Christensen, St Olaf Prep
- 3 Quamstrom, Hamline Prep
- 4 Hudson, Shattuck