

World War II and After

The Relays continued during World War II in spite of curtailed competition. Early there was the feeling voiced in 1917—that intercollegiate athletics would stop. But Frank Hill, Northwestern coach since 1921, advocated continuance when he said, "War is athletic competition raised to the nth degree."

Many military personnel could not be freed for a two-day meet, so in 1943 a Friday high school program emphasizing individual events was introduced.

The Big Ten dominated the decade, winning 41 relay titles to 16 for the Southwest Conference, and 38 individual titles to 17 for the Southwest and Big 7. Illinois was again the strong team with 14 relay wins and seven individual titles. Texas had 12 relay victories and six individual titles. Eighteen universities and 19 colleges won relays. World War II provided the death blow to out-of-state prep competition with Central of Duluth, 2-mile winner in 1940, the last victorious "foreigner." Davenport won 10 relays in the decade, and in one 11-year period ending in the early 1950's, East High of Des Moines won the 2-mile relay eight times.

1940

Texans figured heavily in 1940. B. F. Bryan of Texas broke the 14-foot pole vault barrier, teammate Jack Hughes set a 159.79 discus mark, and Rice's Fred Wolcott took the high hurdles for the third year. Texas and East Texas won two relays each, as did Michigan and Indiana.

Billy Brown of L.S.U. won the broad jump again, but Penn State's Barney Ewell won a .09.9 hundred. Drake edged Penn 10-7; the Bellboys' Relay was won by Randolph Hotel.

C.B.S. sportscaster Ted Husing crowned the queen, Merle Lindsten of Coe, who brought along John Gunther's *Inside Europe* to read.

1941

At the time of the 1941 Relays, the Germans had entered Athens. In Des Moines, 2,600 high school musicians performed, and Bill Stern broadcast coast-to-coast from the field. The Outstanding Athlete award was given for the first time. The winner was Carlton Terry of Texas. This University came in first in several events that year. It won two relays and the 100-yard dash. Its sprint medley time of 3:23.2 was the fastest this event had ever been run anywhere. Sophomore Mac Umstattd anchored in 1:51.8. Umstattd ran the fastest half. But to Relays fans the most thrilling was the anchor leg of the 2-mile relay. Drake, coached by new director Bill Easton, had won the event at the Texas and Kansas Relays. Michigan

was the defending champ and Warren Breidenbach, their anchor. The Wolverines led the first half mile, Ohio State the second, but Harold Albee and Forrest Jamieson kept Drake close. Bob Barsalou then gave the Bulldogs the lead and it was up to Lowell Baal of Drake and Breidenbach.

The two ran locked almost the entire half. Off the last curve, Breidenbach swung wide, but Baal held on to win in 7:41.8, a mark that stood for 10 years. This was the first Drake record since 1911.

A Georgetown University giant who was killed in World War II, Al Blozis, won the shot and discus, setting a 161.45 record in the latter. Once again, Billy Brown won the broad jump.

1942

Fans at the 1942 Relays were talking about Jimmy Doolittle's Tokyo raid, and starters for the 30-event card wore red, white, and blue sleeves, as 1,500 athletes competed.

The sprint medley brought the greatest 880 in 33 years. Bill Lyda of Oklahoma gave his team an American sprint medley record of 3:23 with a 1:49.7 half that won him Outstanding Athlete honors. Ralph Hammond ran on three Ohio State winners. Iowa tied for first in the high jump and won the 100 for the only times in history. Lee Farmer took the dash in 10.1 and Ida Grove's Milt Kuhl, a basketball center, was in a 5-way tie in the high jump. Iowa City's Paul Ware ran on two winning Prairie View relay teams.

A world record came during Saturday's rain as Roy Cochran, who would win a 1948 Olympic title, ran 52.2 for the 440 hurdles, representing Great Lakes.

1943

The British First Army was driving toward Tunis at the time of the 1943 Relays. Army Air Force cadets marched into the stadium, singing the Air Force song; the WAC's sang during the 4-mile relay. Honor Iowa State Naval Training School personnel came by courtesy of Des Moines Retail Merchants. Prairie View team members were running their last races together. They won two relays and reported for service the next week.

Personnel for the meet was scarce. Director Easton mowed the infield, and the announcer was Lt. Dave Zimmerman of the Army. The officer announced well, but the press faulted him for not knowing who Roddy McDowell was, when the young actor was brought to the P.A. Another officer could not be faulted, however. Lt. Richard Ganslen of Camp Crowder vaulted 14 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in.—highest in Relays history up to that time.

There had been 624 university-college athletes in the 1942 Relays; there were 424 in 1943, 260 from 20 universities and 164 from 28 colleges.

With nine runners, Illinois won five relays. Pete Watkins of Texas A. & M. jumped 6 ft. 8 in. to break a 22-year mark held by Harold Osborn of Illinois. Osborn, an assistant Illini coach, was in

DRAKE RELAY DIRECTORS



BOB KARNES
1956 -



TOM DECKARD
1948 - 1955



M. E. (BILL) EASTON
1941 - 1947



F. P. (PITCH) JOHNSON
1933 - 1940



O. M. (OSSIE) SOLEM
1926 - 1932



K. L. (TUG) WILSON
1922 - 1925

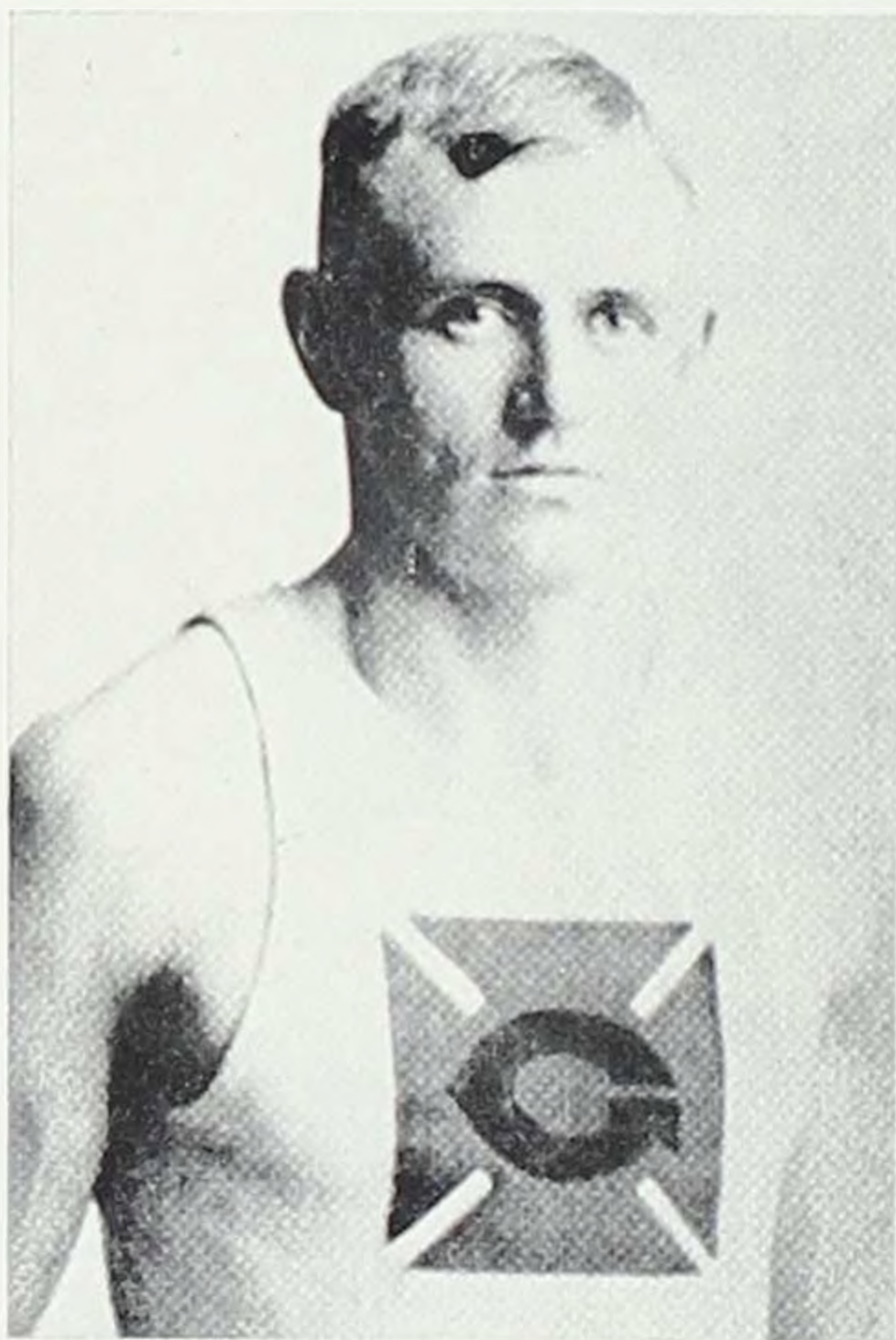


M. B. BANKS
1919 - 1921



JOHN L. GRIFFITH
1910 - 1918

IOWANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE G



CHARLES B. (CHUCK) HOYT
Grinnell College



GEORGE BRETNALL
Cornell College

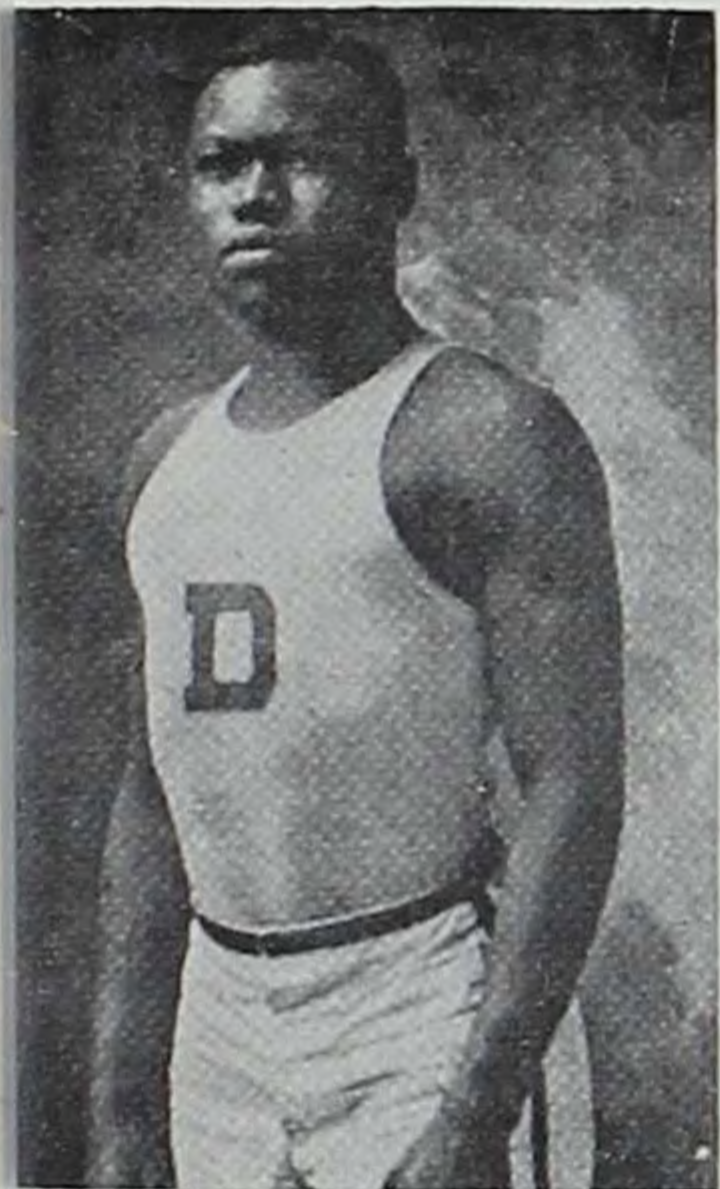


A. E. (DEAC) WOLTERS
Iowa State University

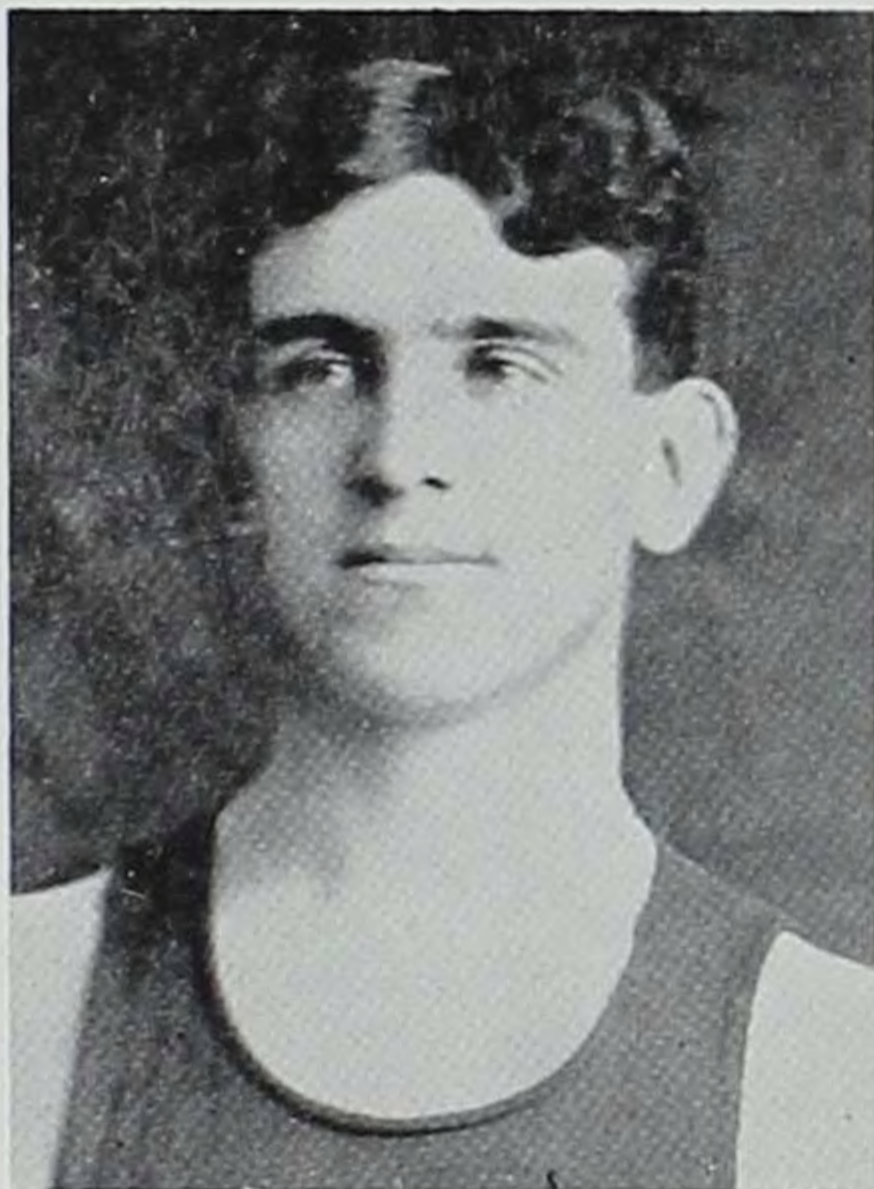


BOB HAGER
Iowa State University

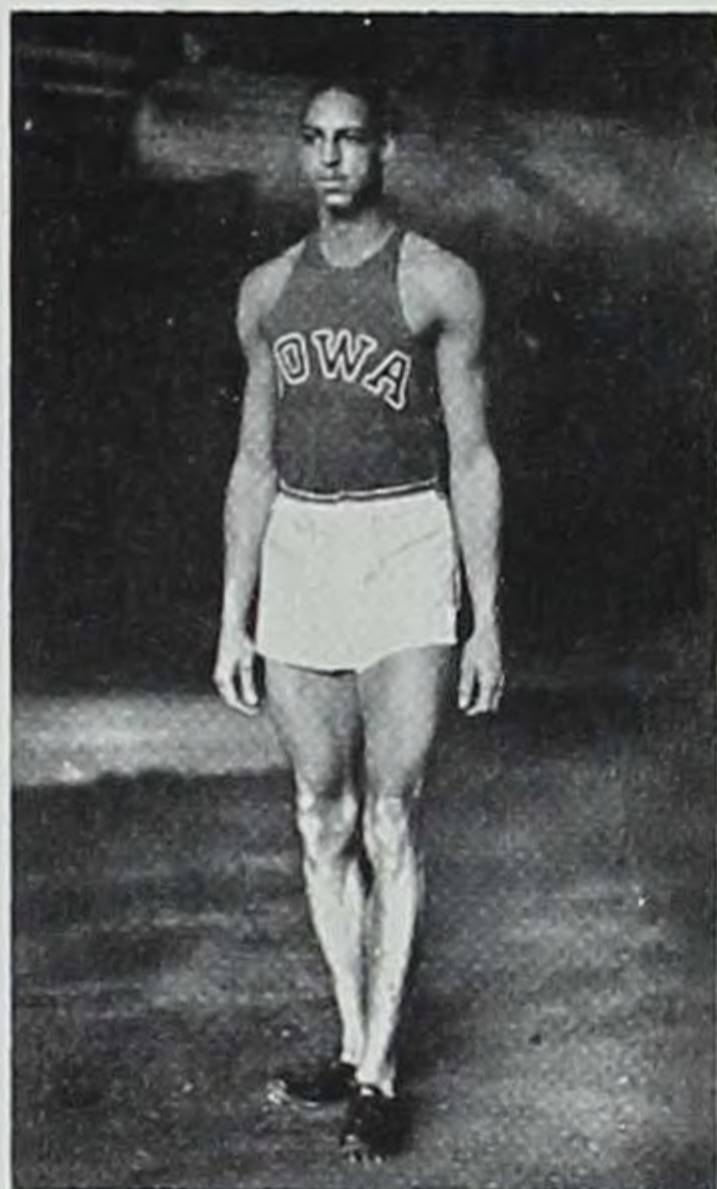
GLORY THAT IS THE DRAKE RELAYS



SOL BUTLER
Dubuque College



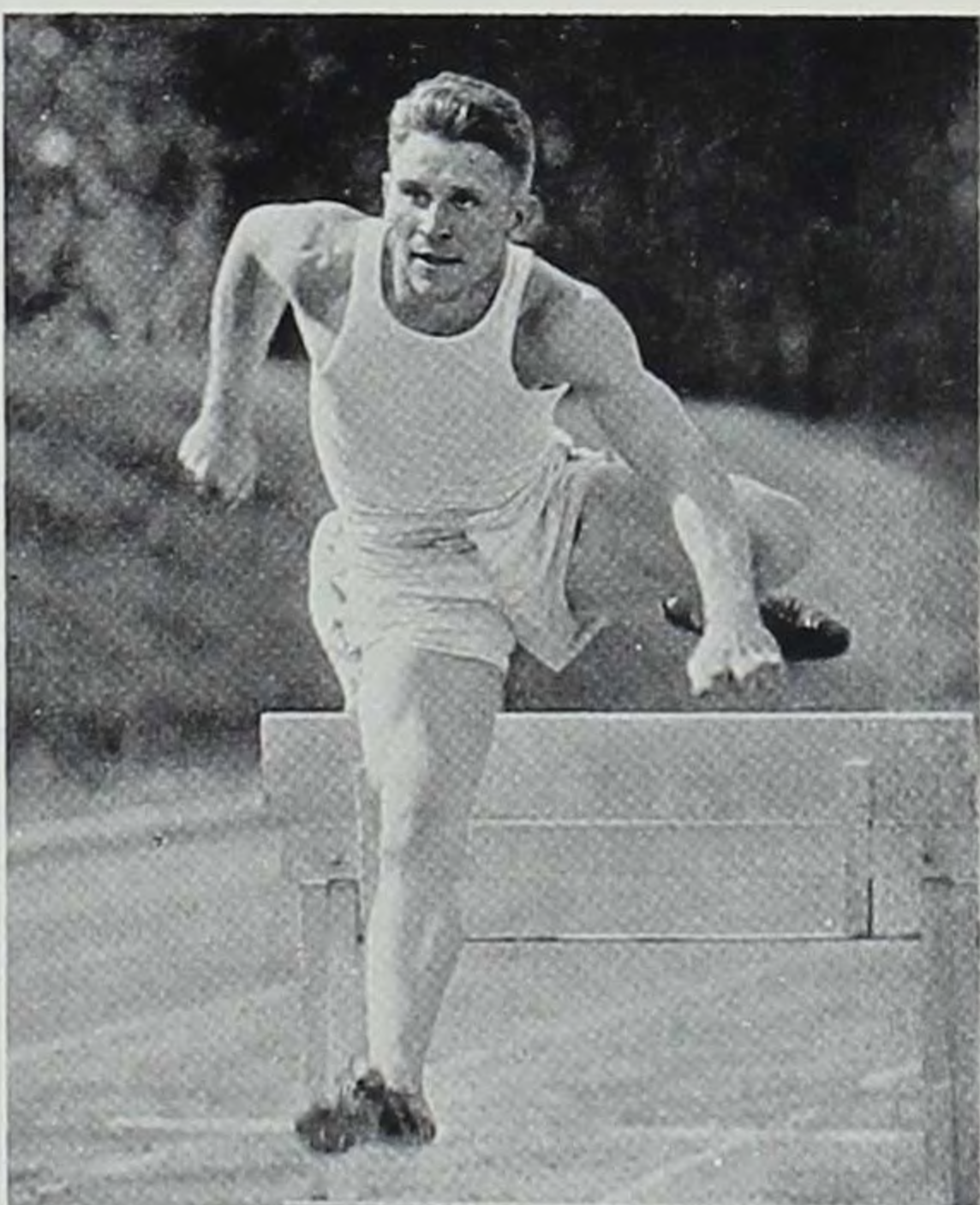
IRA DAVENPORT
Chicago University



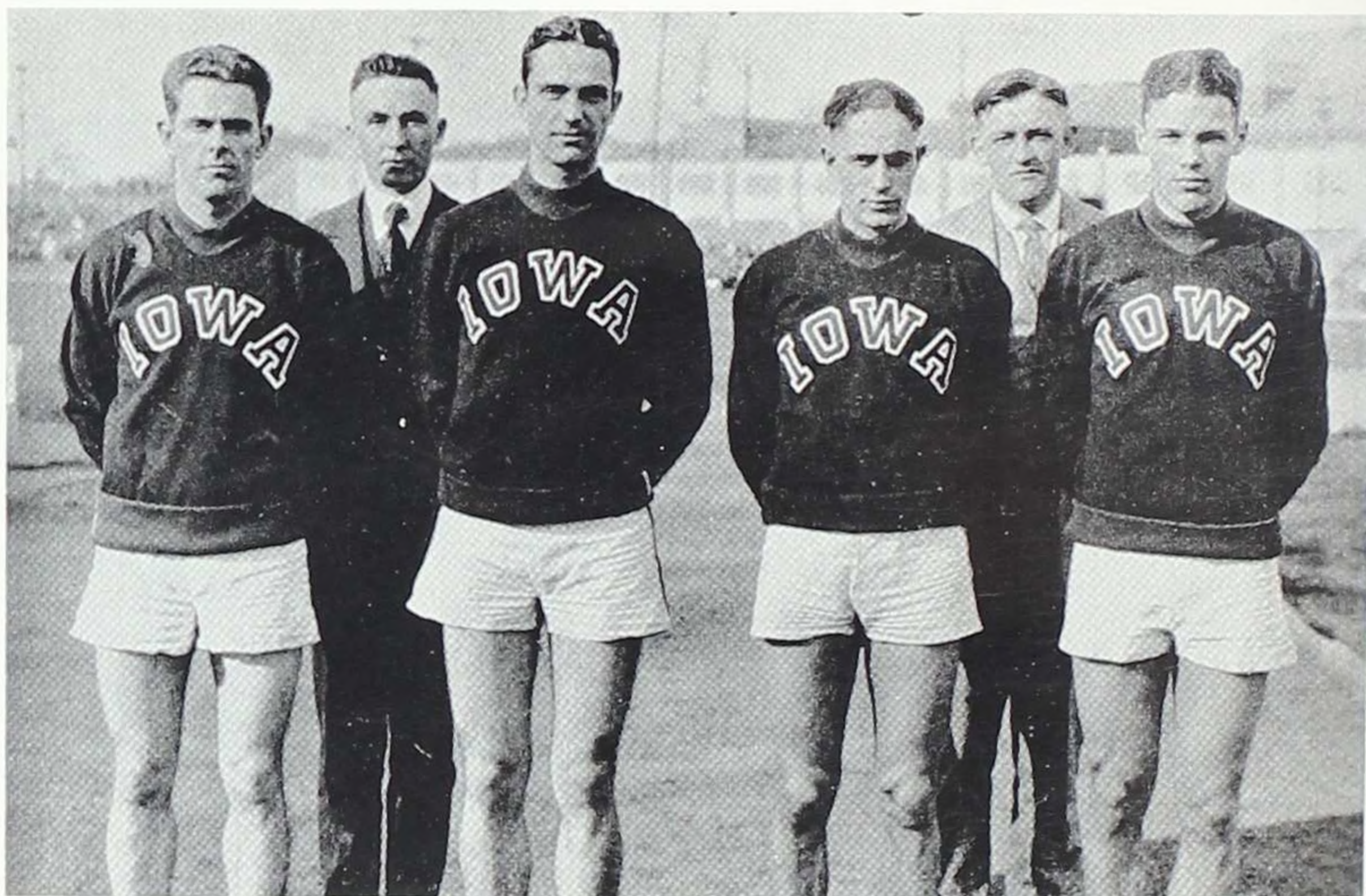
ED GORDON
University of Iowa



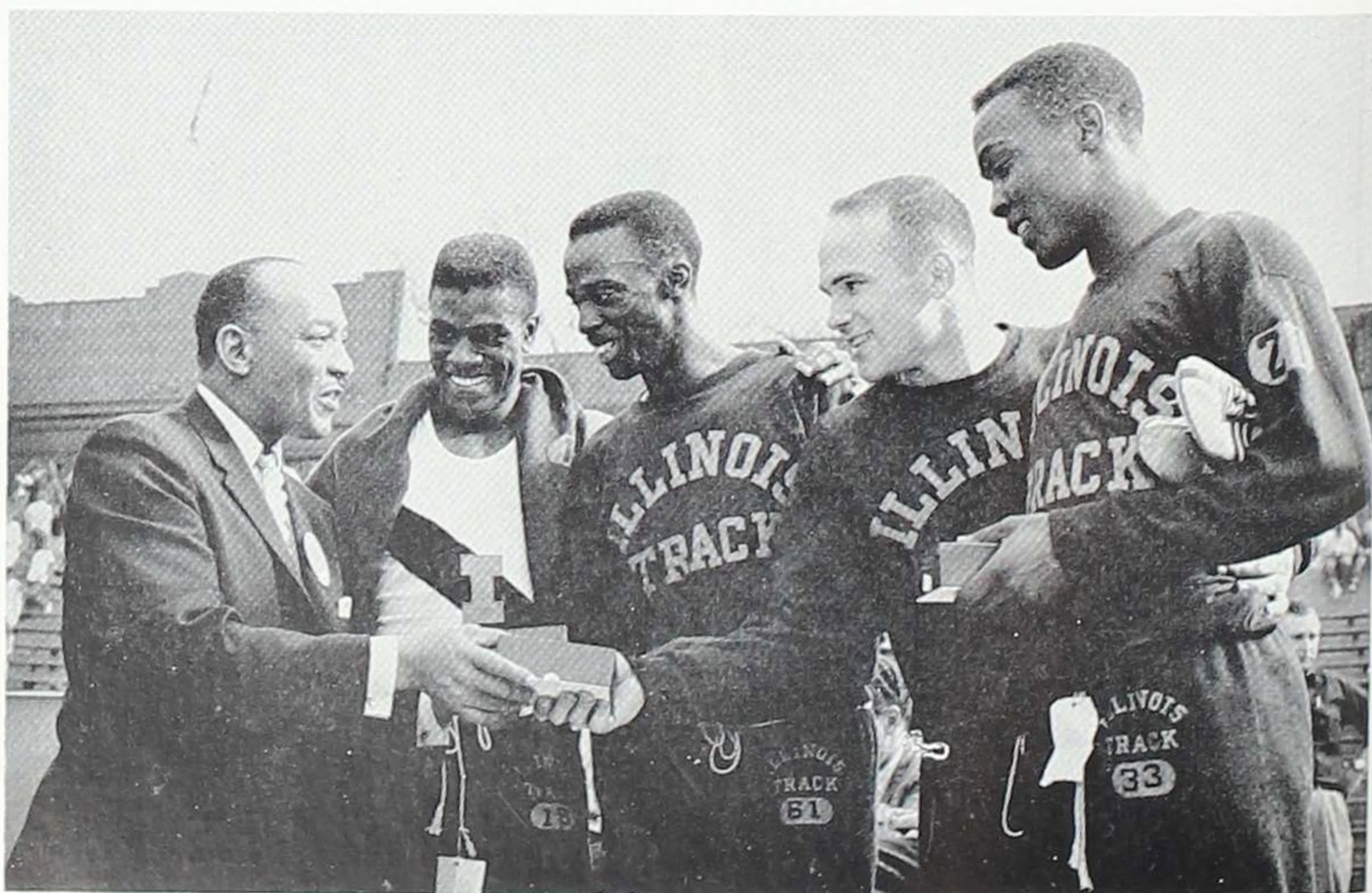
LINN PHILSON
Drake University



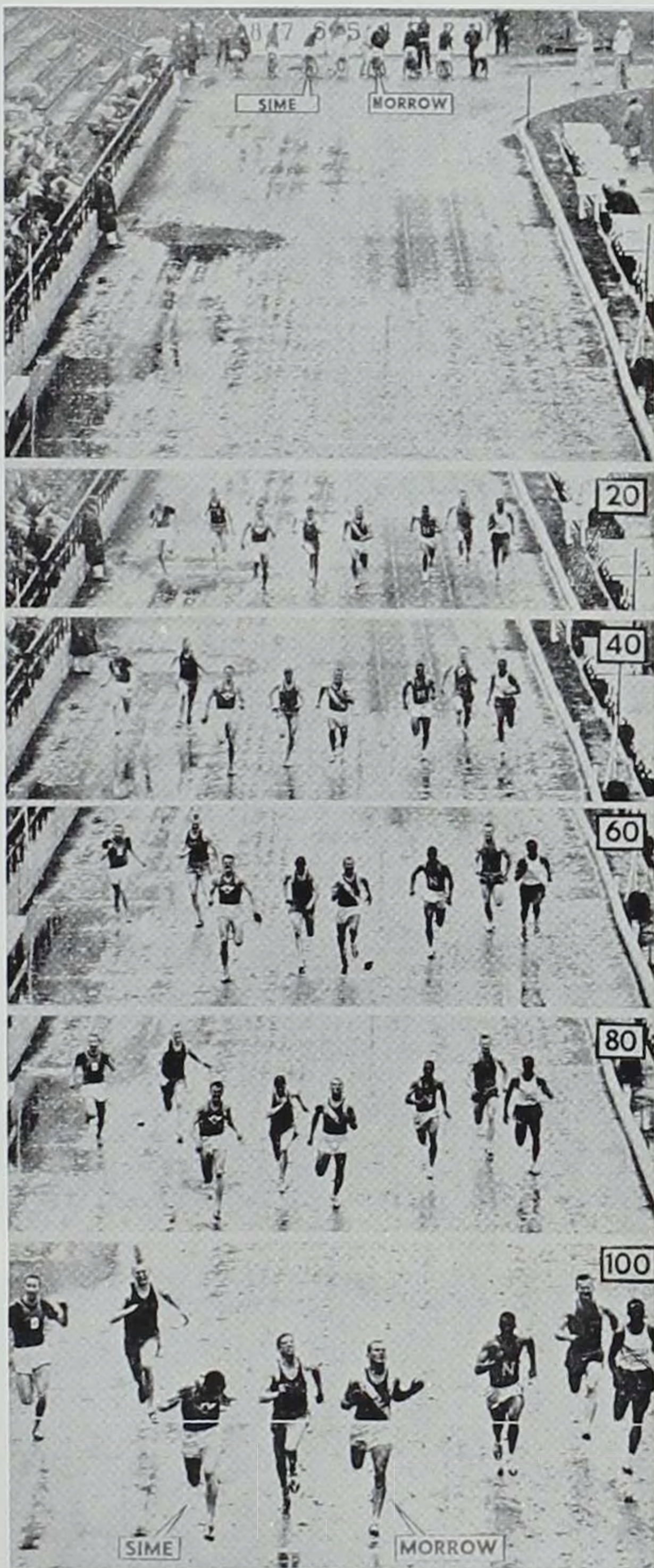
FRANK (BAB) CUHEL
University of Iowa



The University of Iowa's great 1923 mile relay team, left to right: Harry Morrow, Gerhard Noll, Charles Brookins, and Eric Wilson. Behind are, left to right: George T. Bresnahan, coach, and Dr. Walter R. Fieseler, medical supervisor, athletics.



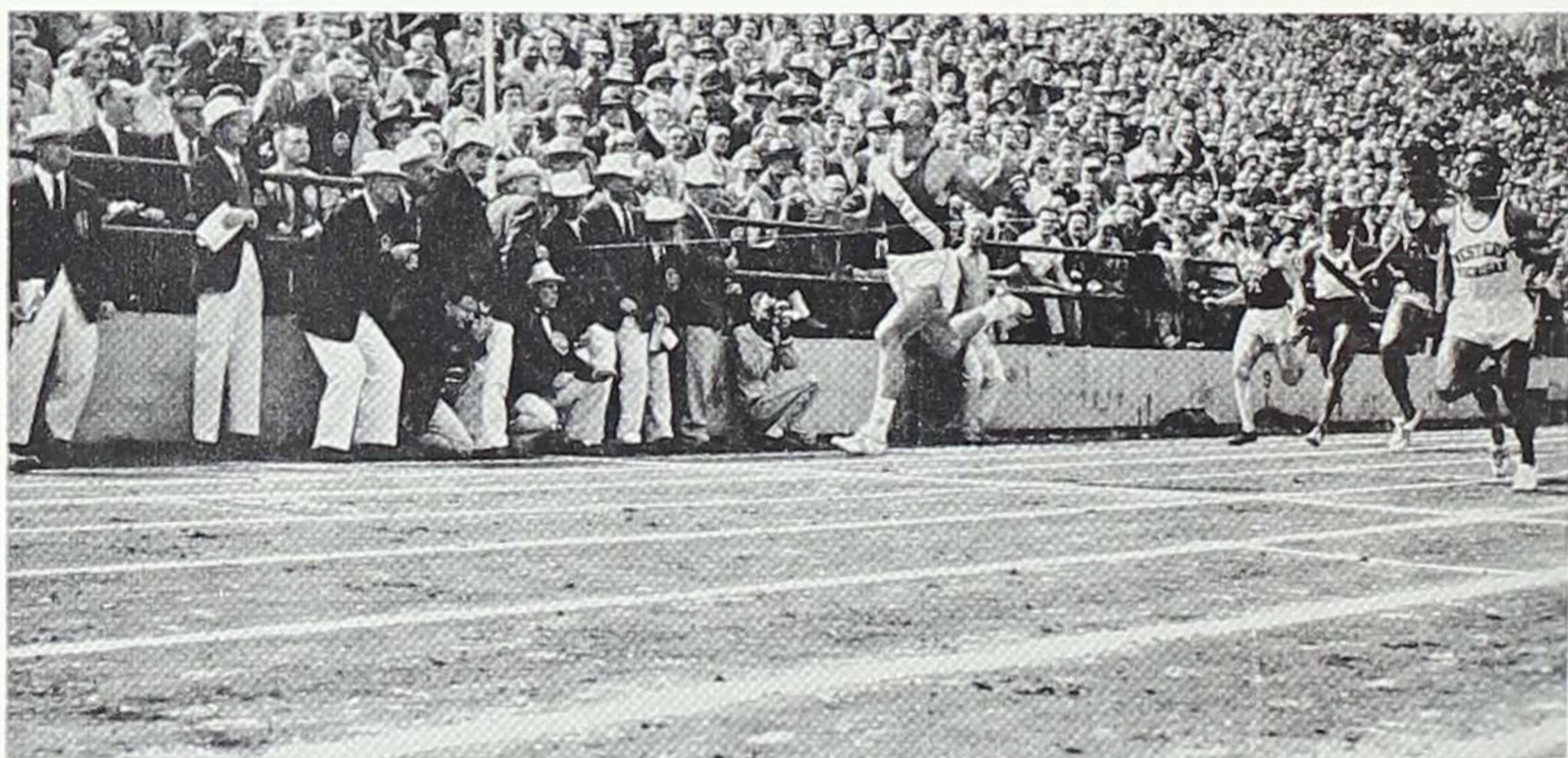
Jesse Owens, "Athlete of the Half Century," congratulates the Illinois sprint medley team, left to right: Del Coleman, John Lattimore, Ward Miller, and George Kerr. Illinois set an American record of 3:17.8 for the event in 1959.



A sequence camera followed Dave Sime, Duke, at six stages of his tremendous victory over Bobby Morrow, Abilene Christian, in the 100 in 1956. The time, :09.4, was a Relays record.



Jack Elder, Notre Dame, far left, won the 100 in :10.0 in 1928.



Bobby Morrow, Abilene Christian, won the 100 in :09.4 in 1957, equaling Drake record.



Ira Murchison, Western Michigan, took the 100 in :09.5 in 1958.



Robert Hayes, Florida A. & M., in a preliminary heat, runs the 100 in :09.4. He won the 1962 event in :09.5.



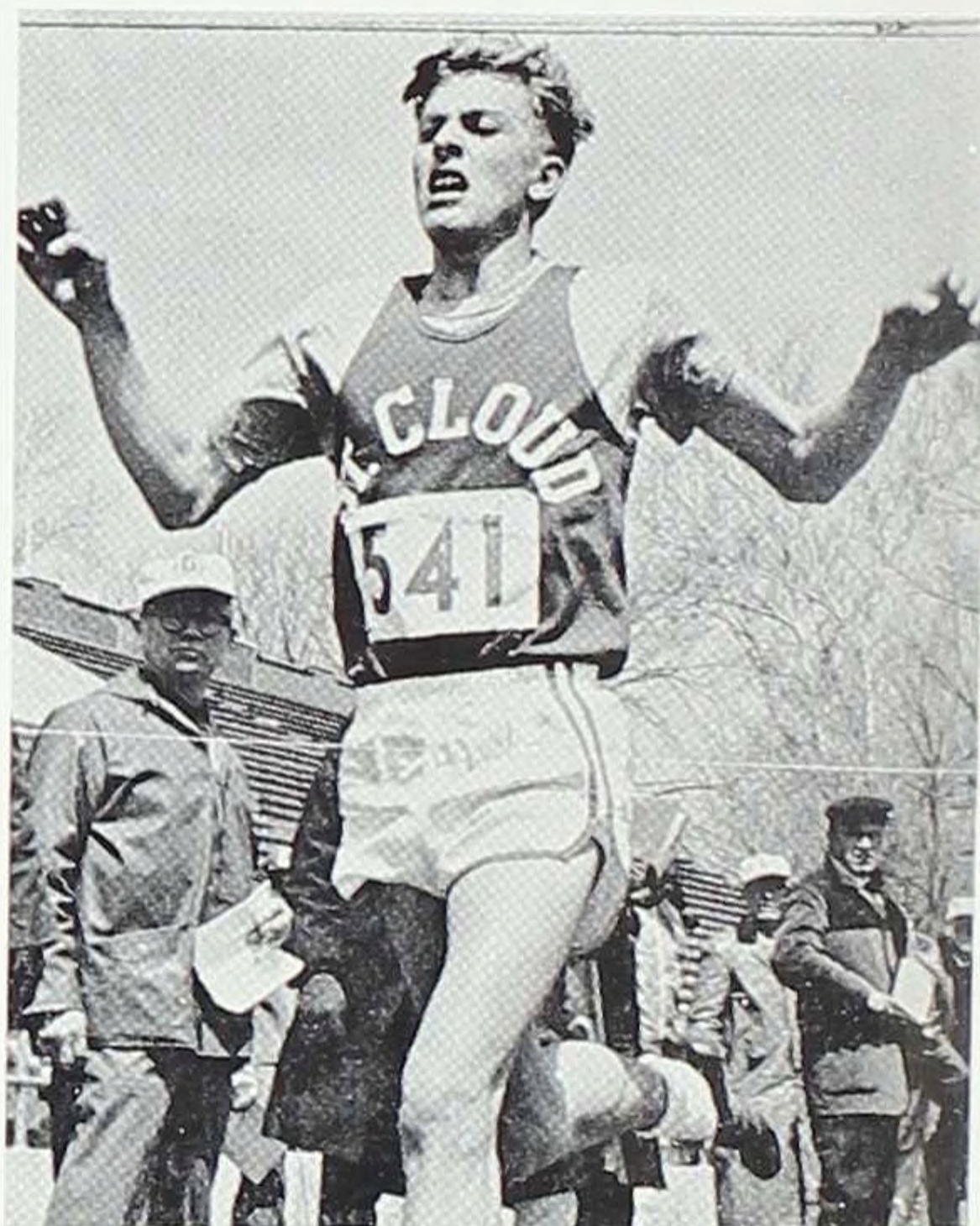
Clyde Duncan, Texas Southern, lane 3, breaks Charley Paddock's record in the open 100-yard dash in 1965.



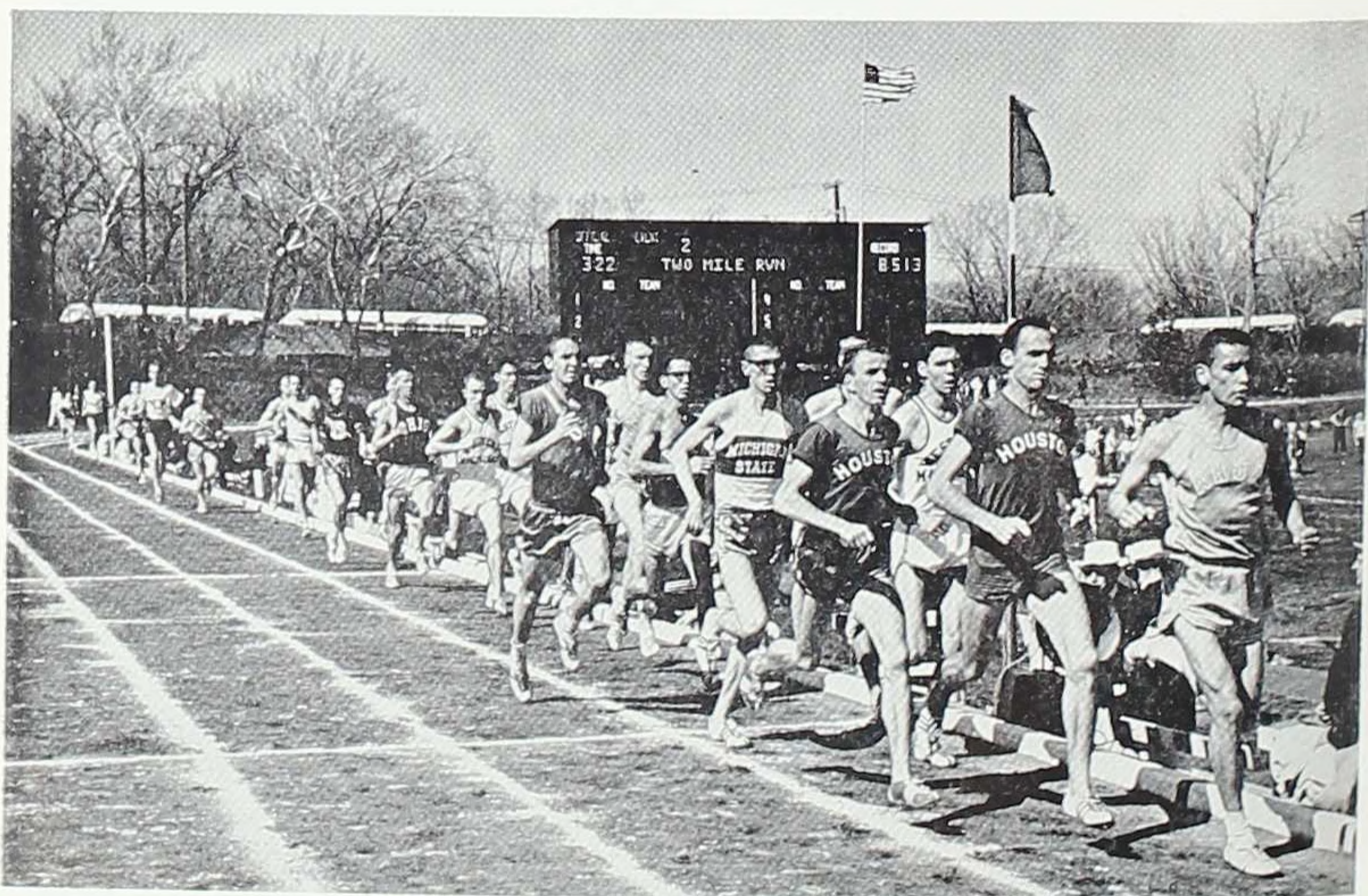
Charley Greene, Nebraska, won the 100 in 1966. Jim Hines, lane 4, and Clyde Duncan, lane 6, Texas Southern, were second and fourth respectively.



Alex Henderson, Arizona State, set an American collegiate record in the 2-mile run in 1958.



Van Nelson, St. Cloud, won the 6-mile run in 1966. He is one of two athletes winning two events in three successive years.



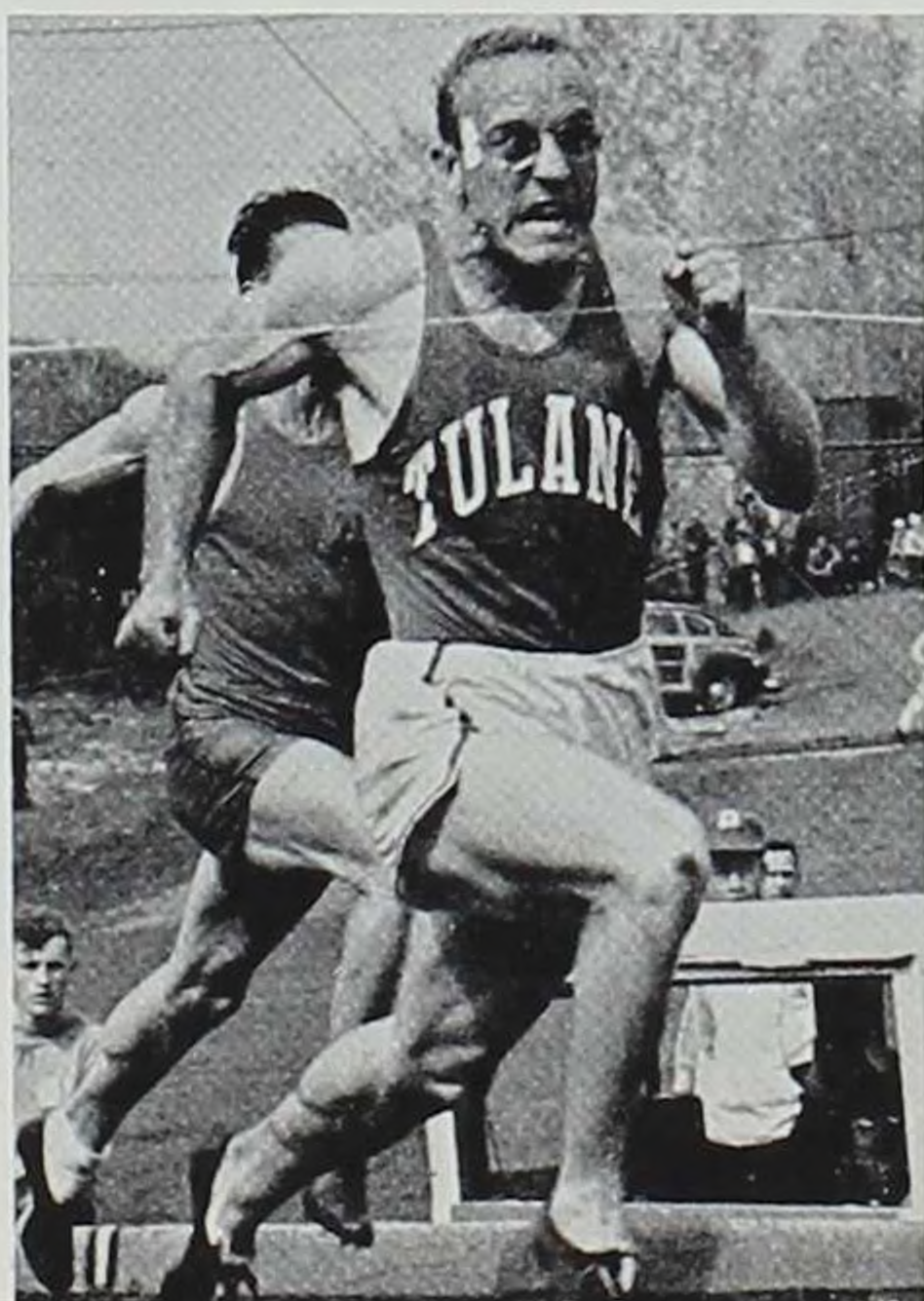
Billy Mills, Kansas, leads a score of runners in the 2-mile event. He went on to win the 10,000 meters at the Tokyo Olympics.

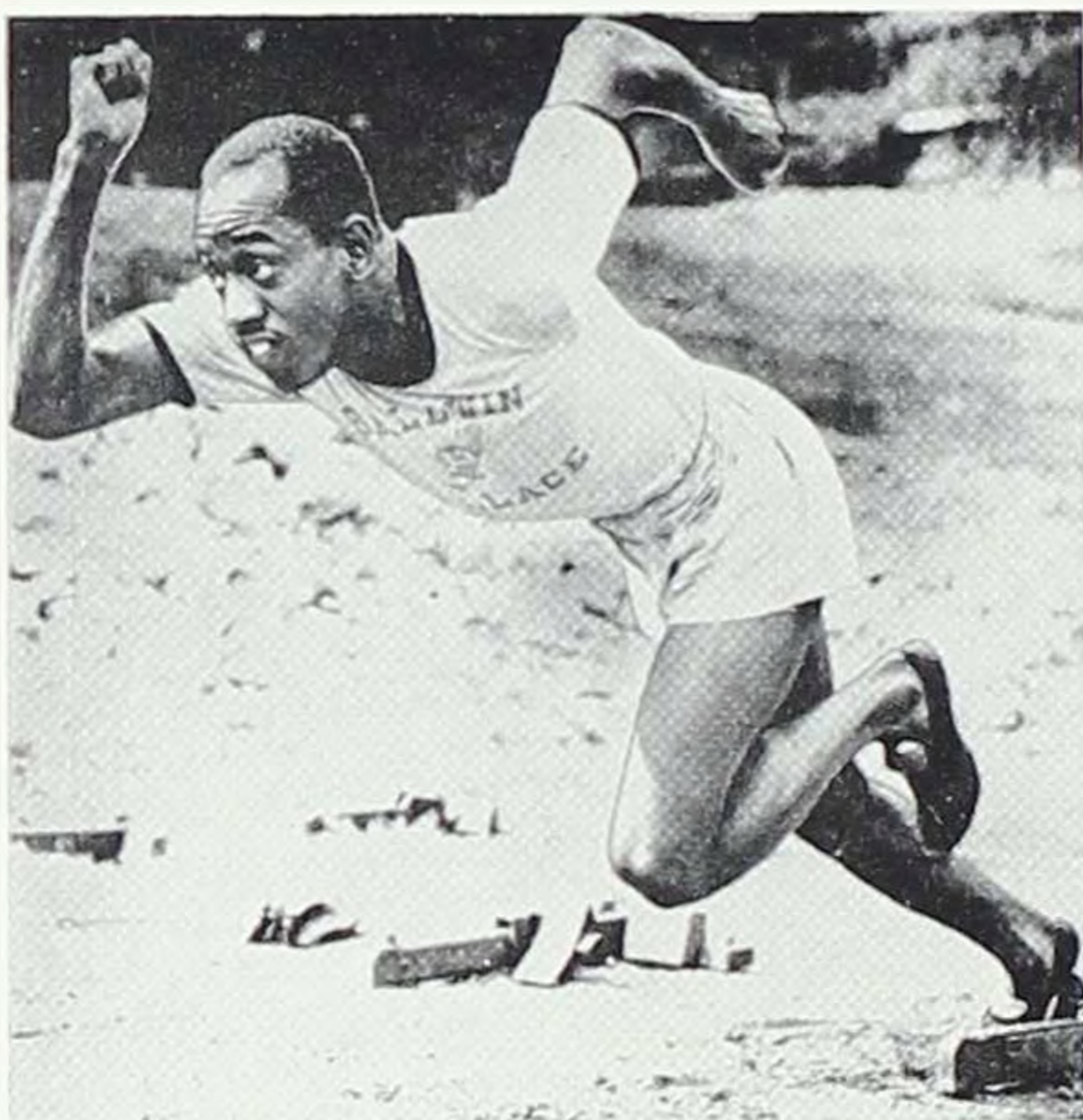


(Top, left) Jim Grelle anchors Oregon to win in the 4-mile relay in 1959. Ted Wheeler, Iowa, defeats Laszlo Tabori (Hungary) in a special A.A.U. mile run in 1957. The time was a record 4:06.9. It was a new Drake record. (Center) The great Wes Santee, Kansas, from 1952-1954 ran on eight winning relay teams and returned



in 1955 to win a special mile event in record equaling time of 4:08.4. (Bottom, left) The phenomenal Jim Ryun wins the 1966 mile event as a Kansas frosh. (Bottom, center) Paul Bienz, Tulane, was the winner of the 100 in 1949 and 1950. (Bottom, right) Tom O'Hara, Loyola, ran the mile in 4:01 in 1963.





Harrison Dillard, Baldwin-Wallace, took the 120-yard high hurdles title in 1947 and 1948. He set a Drake record of :14.1 in 1947 and equaled that time in the following year.



Charles Brookins ran on the University of Iowa's winning mile relay teams in 1923 and 1924. He also won the 220-yard hurdles in 1925, a special event run for the first time at Drake.



The University of Texas sprint medley relay team, composed of Morris Barefield, Billy Seay, Fred Ramsdell, and Mac Umstatted, set new Drake, American Collegiate, and American records in 1941 with a time of 3:23.2.



Wilma Rudolph, Tennessee State, wins the first women's race at the Drake Relays in 1961. Her time for the 100 was :11.1.



Linda Schram, Manila, anchors Iowa girls to an upset victory in the 440-yard relay. The Texas girls with their bouffant hairdos were highly ranked.

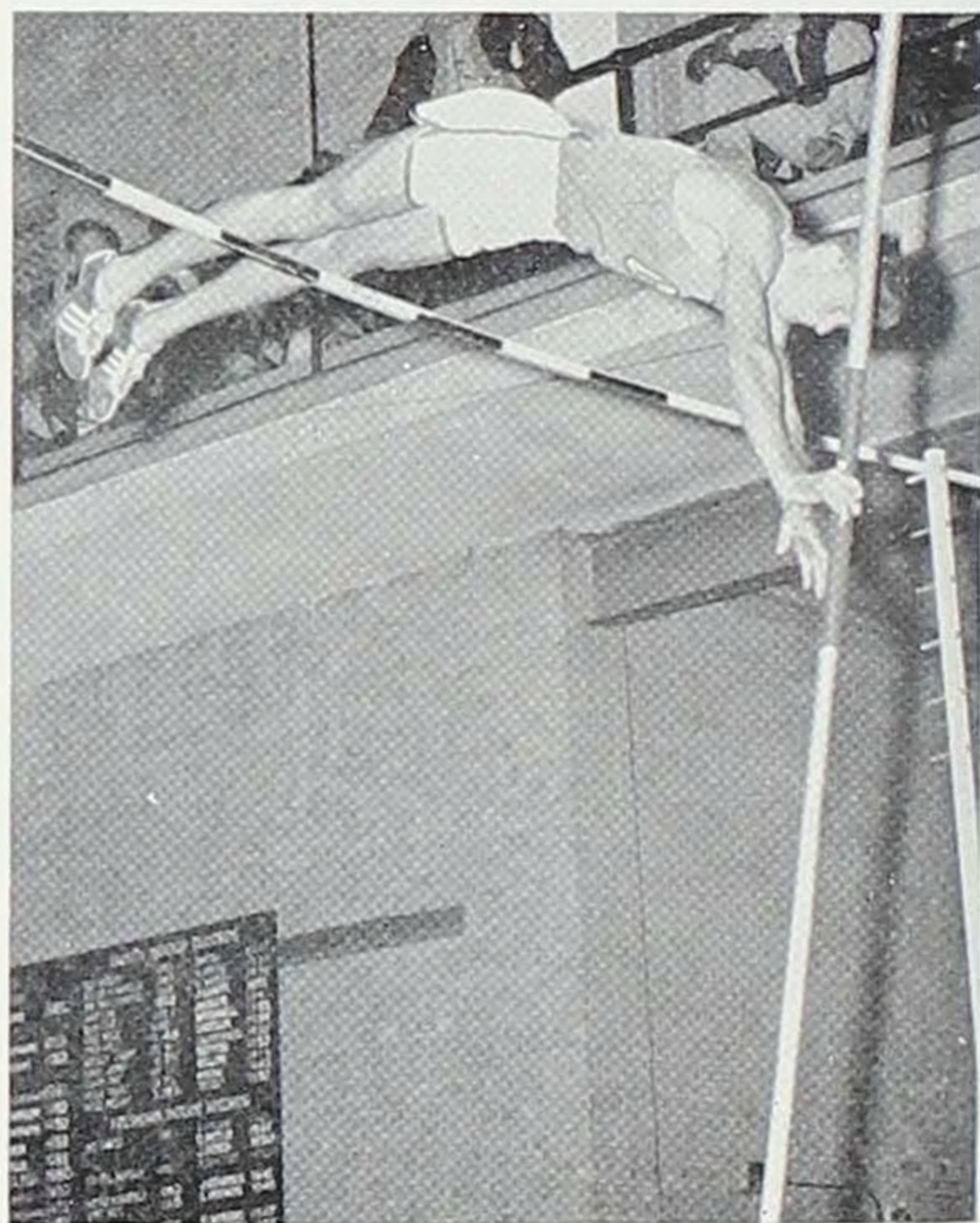


Relays Queen Carlotta Joan Hagen, Illinois, presents medals to a winning Abilene Christian team in 1957. The 440 and 880-yard titles were taken at Drake record breaking times by teams composed of (left to right): Bobby Morrow, Jim Segrest, Bill Woodhouse, and Waymond Griggs. Bobby also won the 100-yard title.

THEY REACH FOR THE SKY



Cornelius Warmerdam, Navy Pre-Flight
14-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ (1944)



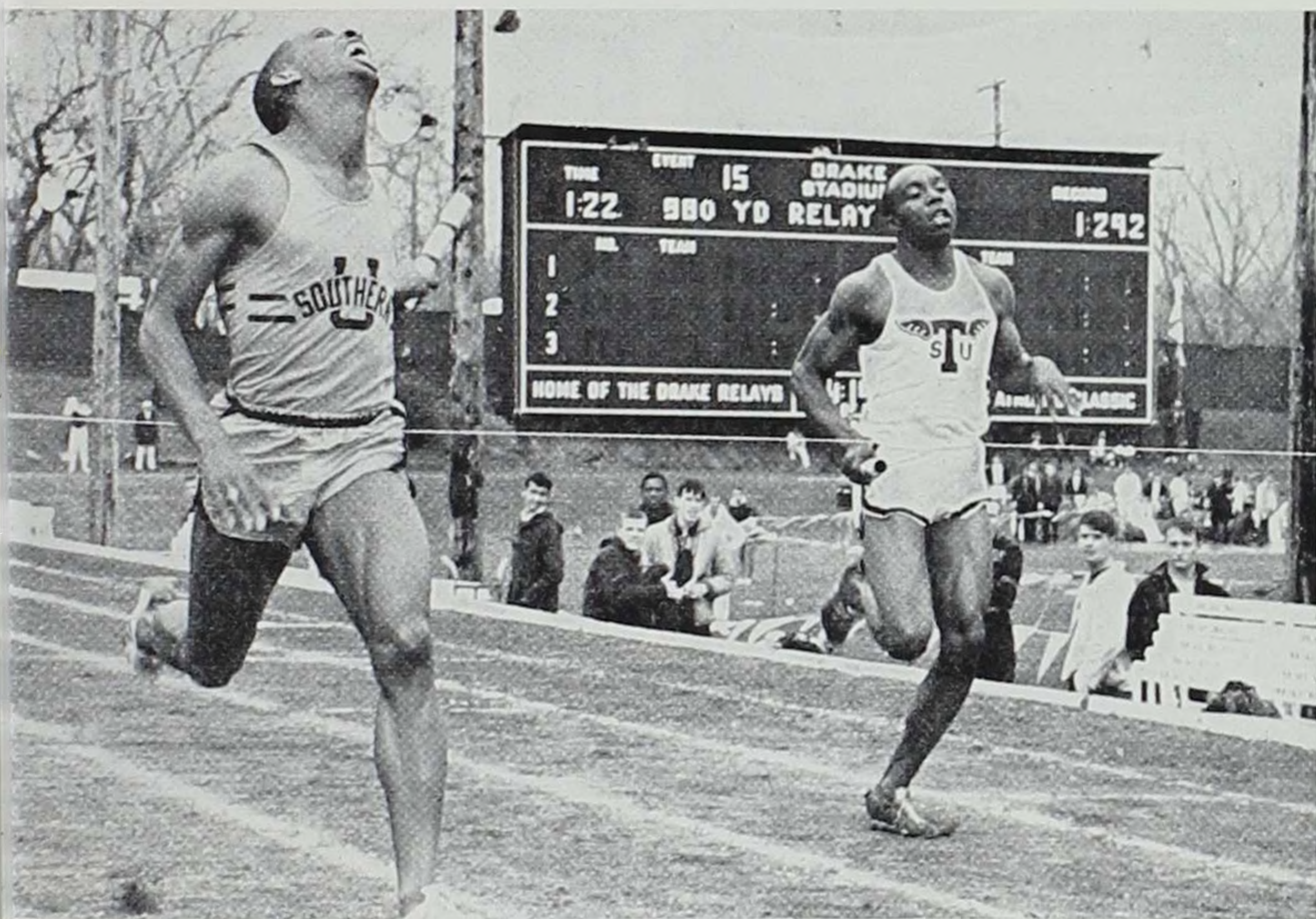
Bob Gutowski, Occidental — 14-8 $\frac{1}{4}$ (1956).
New Drake Record. (Indoors)



Jim Graham, Oklahoma State—15-0 $\frac{1}{4}$ (1959).
New Drake Record.



Fred Burton, Wichita State — 16-6 (1966).
New Drake Record.



Southern University defeats Texas Southern in the 880-yard relay in 1966. Both teams were under the previous Drake record—Southern 1:22.7 and Texas Southern 1:22.9. Texas Southern was anchored by Jim Hines.



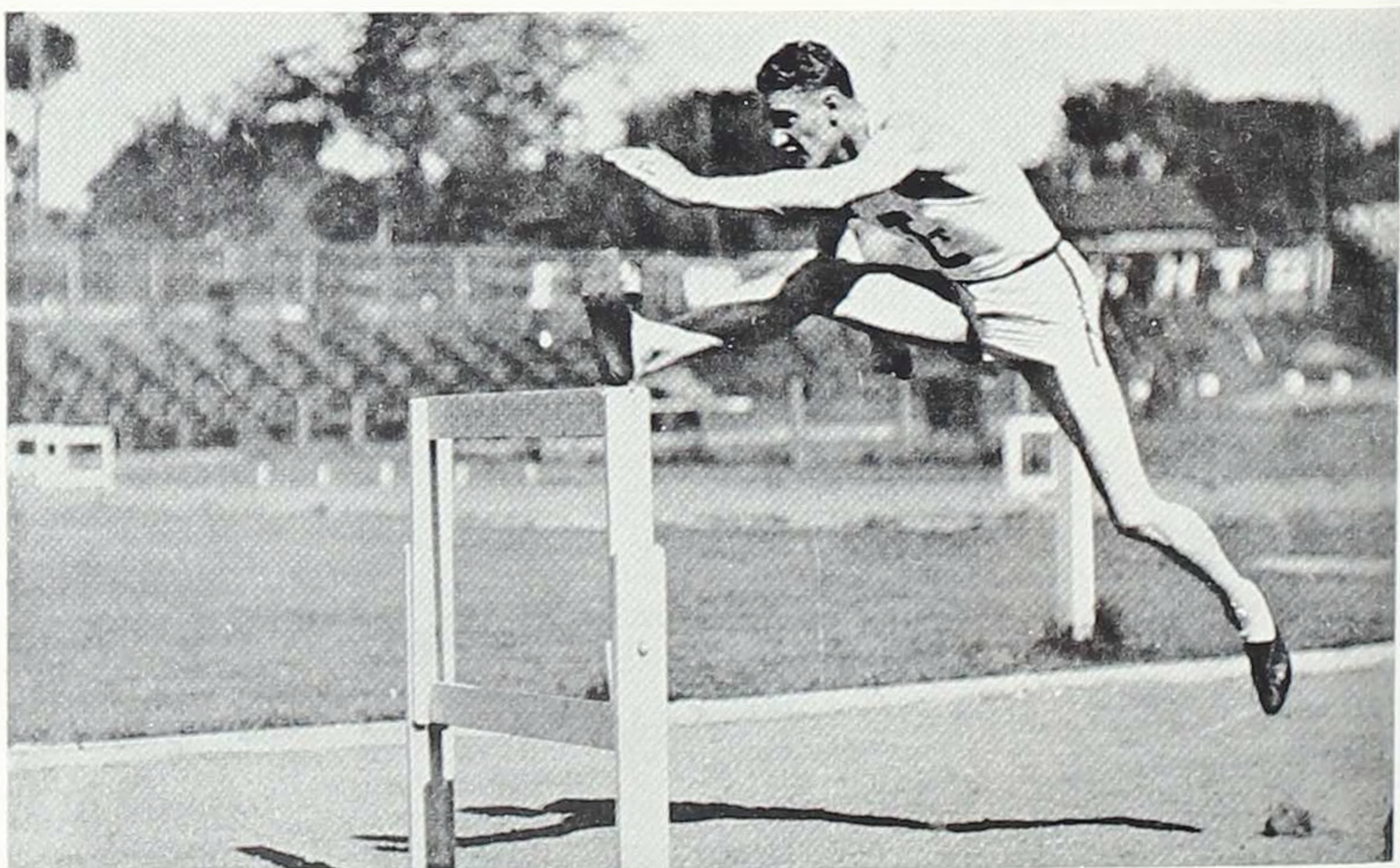
Honored after winning three events at the 1951 Relays were, left to right: Jack Kelly, George Nichols, Jim Lavery, Jim Ford, and Ray Eiland. With his hand on the trophy is Drake Coach Tommy Deckard.



Bill Frazier and Roger Kerr were members of the University of Iowa's victorious mile relay team in 1963.



Charley Durant anchored Drake to victory in the 1961 mile relay in 3:11.9.



George Saling, University of Iowa, in 1932 won the 120-yard high hurdles in the world record equaling time of :14.4. He went on to win the 110-meter high hurdles in the 1932 Olympics. Saling was killed in an automobile accident in the spring of 1933.

JUMPING TO VICTORY



(Top, left) Willie Steele, San Diego State, won 1947 title with a leap of $24-6\frac{1}{2}$. (Top, right) Ralph Boston, Tennessee A. & I., was victor in 1960 with a jump of $24-9\frac{1}{4}$. (Center) Gayle Hopkins, Arizona, covered



26-2 in the 1964 broad jump, breaking Jesse Owens record that had stood for 29 years. (Below) John Thomas, Boston University, took the high jump title in 1961 when he went over the bar at $6-7\frac{3}{4}$.

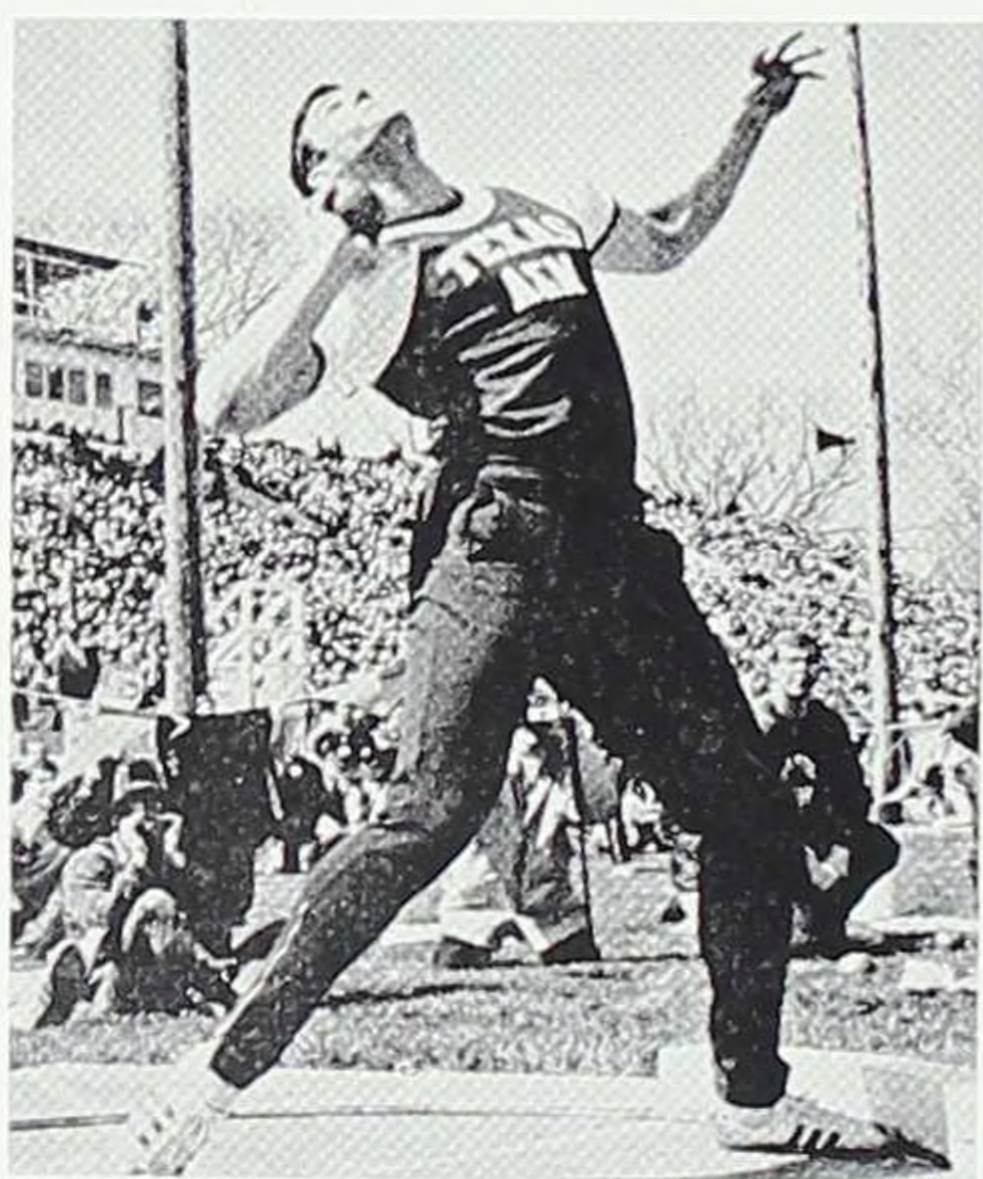




Jack Torrance, LSU, 1934—Shot



Bill Nieder, Kansas, 1955—Shot



Randy Matson, Texas A. & M.
1965-66—Shot



Al Oerter, Kansas, 1956-58—discus



Bill Alley, Kansas, threw the javelin 253-5 in 1959, establishing a new Drake record. He also won this same event in 1960, with a toss of 238-5.

the stands. Howard Debus of Nebraska won the javelin and discus, and Ralph Tate of Oklahoma A. & M., the 120 hurdles and broad jump.

1944

The Allies were bombing Cherbourg as a lesser struggle flamed at the 1944 Relays. The A.A.U. banned Bob Steuber, football pro competing for Iowa Pre-Flight, threatening that anyone competing against him would become a professional. The question involved a confusing A.A.U.-Navy agreement that professionals would not be eligible for competition against collegians "except in informal sports such as football, basketball, and baseball."

Scotty Russell and Sus Whiting of the Iowa A.A.U. supported Drake's acceptance of Steuber's shot-javelin entry. Coaches Frank Hill of Northwestern and Jim Kelly of Minnesota approved, stating Steuber had been permitted indoor track participation. While Steuber competed he did not place.

The Outstanding Athlete was 18-year-old, 5 ft. 5 in. Buddy Young of Illinois, who won the 100, the broad jump, and anchored two winning relay teams. Western Michigan took three college relays; Iowa State won the 4-mile; Don Welcher of Drake, the discus; and James Eby of Iowa Pre-Flight, the javelin.

Returning greats were Ensign Cornelius Warmerdam, who cleared 14 ft. $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. in the

vault, and Harold Osborn, then 45, who made 6 feet in a high jump exhibition.

Bill Stern broadcast from an infield perch. One sportswriter praised Earl Linn, "One shudders to think what would happen if Linn weren't the clerk."

Clinton won two relays with Lee Hofacre, prep 100 winner, who was later national 440 hurdles champion.

1945

Communist Red tanks were on Unter den Linden in Berlin when the 1945 Relays was staged. The entry list was at a 3-year high—23 universities, 16 colleges, 53 high schools. With junior high and grade school runners, the entry number was 1,242. Bill Stern broadcast, as 4,500 saw Friday's card and 10,000 Saturday's.

Illinois won three relays in a meet with no new records. Lee Hofacre, then at Drake, ran on the winning distance medley team that included Paul Ware, Henry Williams, and Fred Feiler. Ware also won the 440 run and Feiler the 2-mile. A former Drake Bulldog, Bill Moore, gained his second pole vault title, this time for Western Michigan. Iowa's Paul Fagerlind won the javelin. Iowa State took the 440 relay and repeated in the 4-mile. Cornell won the college 2-mile relay, their first win in 24 years.

Bill Bangert of Missouri won the shot, discus, and sang the National Anthem. Penn, a 13-1

event winner over Drake in 1944, won by 12-3 this year, but Drake still led by 187 to 166 in all-time comparison of marks.

Billy Moore nosed out Bangert for the Outstanding Athlete award. Davenport High's 3:32.4 mile and East's 8:24.4 2-mile were faster than the same relays in the college division.

1946

The United States and France were clashing with Russia over Austria when the 1946 Relays began. The war over, it was estimated half the winners were ex-G.I.'s. Bill Martineson of Baylor, who won the 100, came out of service with malaria from Iwo Jima, torn leg muscles from a landing barge accident, and shell fragments in his stomach. Walter Mack, who anchored Michigan State's 2-mile victors, showed a foot scar from a Japanese bullet. Billy Moore was representing his third school. Now at Northwestern in Naval R.O.T.C., he vaulted 13 ft. 3 in. to win.

Bill Bangert had moved, too. A shot put winner twice for Missouri, he won in 1946 for Purdue.

Dr. W. J. Monilaw joined starter Les Duke of Grinnell. Monilaw had coached the first 12-foot pole vaulter in the world, Thurman Chapman of Prescott, Iowa, and Drake.

Fred Feiler repeated as 2-mile king, but lost a 30-yard lead to Earl Mitchell of Indiana, who ran a 4:19 mile to win the distance medley and the Outstanding Athlete award. Tying for the prep

pole vault title was Jack Jennett of Sac City.
1947

Seventeen men who had won a total of 35 national titles were in the 1947 field, as a record 141 schools from 18 states participated. Mobility was still a pattern of athletes. Paul Ware competed for his third school, Virginia Union, where his former Prairie View coach had moved.

The great Harrison Dillard of Baldwin-Wallace set a 14.1 high hurdle record and anchored a winning 880 relay in 20.6. Later he won the 100 in one Olympics, the hurdles at another. Willie Steele of San Diego State won the broad jump.

Bill Martineson repeated his 1946 win in the 100. Jerry Thompson of Texas, running well in three losing relays, was the Outstanding Athlete.

Ohio State won three relays with the shuttle hurdle, anchored by Bob Wright, a record 59.4. Texas won the short relays and Drake took the 4-mile. Ray Prohaska, who had won the first Relays prep mile for Ft. Dodge, led off. Fred Schoeffler, Pat Bowers, and Bill Mack followed.

Dean Pieper of Clinton ran 4:26.2 to set a high school record that would stand for 11 years. North, with three juniors and a sophomore, won two relays, as did Davenport. Cedar Rapids Wilson won the medley for the third straight time. In 1948, East ran this race in 3:37.8, a record that stood for 14 years.

Two great coaches brought their last teams.

Tom Jones of Wisconsin, whose first Drake Relays was in 1912, and George Bresnahan, coaching his 28th Iowa team, were retiring.

1948

In 1948 some 1,750 athletes were in a field that set 11 records. Harrison Dillard ran a 14.1 high hurdles into a 6-mile wind and anchored a 1:26.6 record 880. Another future Olympic champ, Mal Whitfield, led off Ohio State's sprint medley win and anchored a 2-mile relay.

Texas won four relays. Fortune Gordien of Minnesota set a discus record of 165 ft. 5 in., winning for the second time. Lee Hofacre, representing Minnesota, ran 52.7 for a national collegiate 440 hurdle mark.

Jerry Jefchak of Drake was an unexpected star. Prior to the Relays he had painted participant numbers until 4 a.m. both Wednesday and Thursday nights. A sophomore, Jefchak had never run a competitive 2-mile run, but in a field that included Big Ten champ Dick Kilty of Minnesota, he won by two yards.

North High, with probably America's fastest prep sprinters, Gary Scott, Reggie Kaiser, Conrad Jones, and George Nichols, won the 440 relay in 42.5. A fine Texas team, anchored by Charley Parker, did only 42.1 in their victory. The North "Flying Four" then tied the national prep 880 record of 1:28.2. In preliminaries, they lowered the Drake mile mark to 3:24.6.

1949

Holiday magazine staffed the 1949 Relays, and C.B.S. was back for the first time in nine years. Flying Farmers came by plane to see performers such as Jerome Biffle, broad jump winner, who would be the 1952 Olympic champ, and Byrl Thompson of Minnesota, who set a 170 ft. 3 in. discus record. Thompson had won the event in 1946 as a Camp Grant soldier.

Mobility was still apparent. Bill Mack, once of Drake, anchored a Michigan State distance medley team that barely lost to Wisconsin with Don Gehrmann, the meet's Outstanding Athlete. Kansas won the 2-mile with Pat Bowers, another former Bulldog anchoring. Running third for the Jayhawkers was Bob Karnes. In 1956, he would become the eighth Relays director.

The high school field was excellent. George Whitehill of Marshalltown jumped 6 ft. $2\frac{7}{8}$ in., a mark that stood for 16 years. Clyde Gardner of Newton, one of the nation's best, threw the discus 164 ft. $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., a record for 14 years. Ames' Jim Robertson's shot put mark of 53 ft. $9\frac{3}{8}$ in. stood for six years.

At season's end, three of the four national prep relay records were held by Des Moines teams. North with 42.3 and 1:27.6 had the 440 and 880 marks; Roosevelt's 8:05.5 2-mile mark of 1938 was still standing 11 years later.