

The Okemos Sprint King

Dick Ewing, Class of 1953

The Okemos Sprint King

The Self-made Athletic Superstar
 that inspired the team with his
 hard work, dedication
 and confidence in his ability

Capital Circuit sprinters (left to right) Jimmy Diederichs of Everett, Ray Vandersteen of Grand Ledge and Bill Hilton of Howell will be after Dick Ewing's sprint crowns in the IC-CC track meet Monday afternoon. Glen Gray of Everett (right) has been withdrawn with the 220-yard race. (State Journal Photo)

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Okemos Sprint King Has Rivals in the 'Circuit'

By BOB HOERNER

Some of the top action in the second annual Ingham County league-Capital Circuit inter-league track meet Monday evening will be in the two dash events.

Although Dick Ewing of Okemos is the defending champion in the two sprints, the Ingham county league speedster is sure to have plenty of competition from Everett's Jimmy Diederichs and Ray Vandersteen of Grand Ledge.

In the inter-league meet, which is sponsored by The State Journal and will be run at Michigan State college starting at 5:30 p. m., the first three-place winners in the two league meets are formed into league squads. Last year the circuit won the first annual meet.

Entering the state Class C meet today as the favorite to win two individual titles, Ewing has not been beaten this year and holds two victories over Diederichs. The Everett sprinter nosed out Vandersteen in both dashes in the Circuit meet Wednesday. All three have been consistently under 10.5 seconds in the century.

The Circuit is expected to get an early lead against the eight-team Ingham County league by dominating two of the field events. With three Howell shotputters all over the 40-foot mark, the Circuit could slam the event. Bill Haskins of Haslett won the County title with a heave of 38 feet 3 inches.

With Howell's Carmen Kypke and Everett's George Price and Dick Content in the pole vault, the Circuit could also place one-two-three in this event. The County's top hope to break into the scoring will be Wayne Sober of Williamston who won the County title at 9 feet 9 inches. The Circuit trio all can go over 11 feet.

Haslett's Herbie Hagenbuch of the County squad will be favored to keep his broad jump title he won in the meet last year. Hagenbuch has hit right around the 20-foot mark this year. The County will miss Dee McDonald of Okemos, who will not compete because of a senior trip, in the broad jump. McDonald was second in the meet last year.

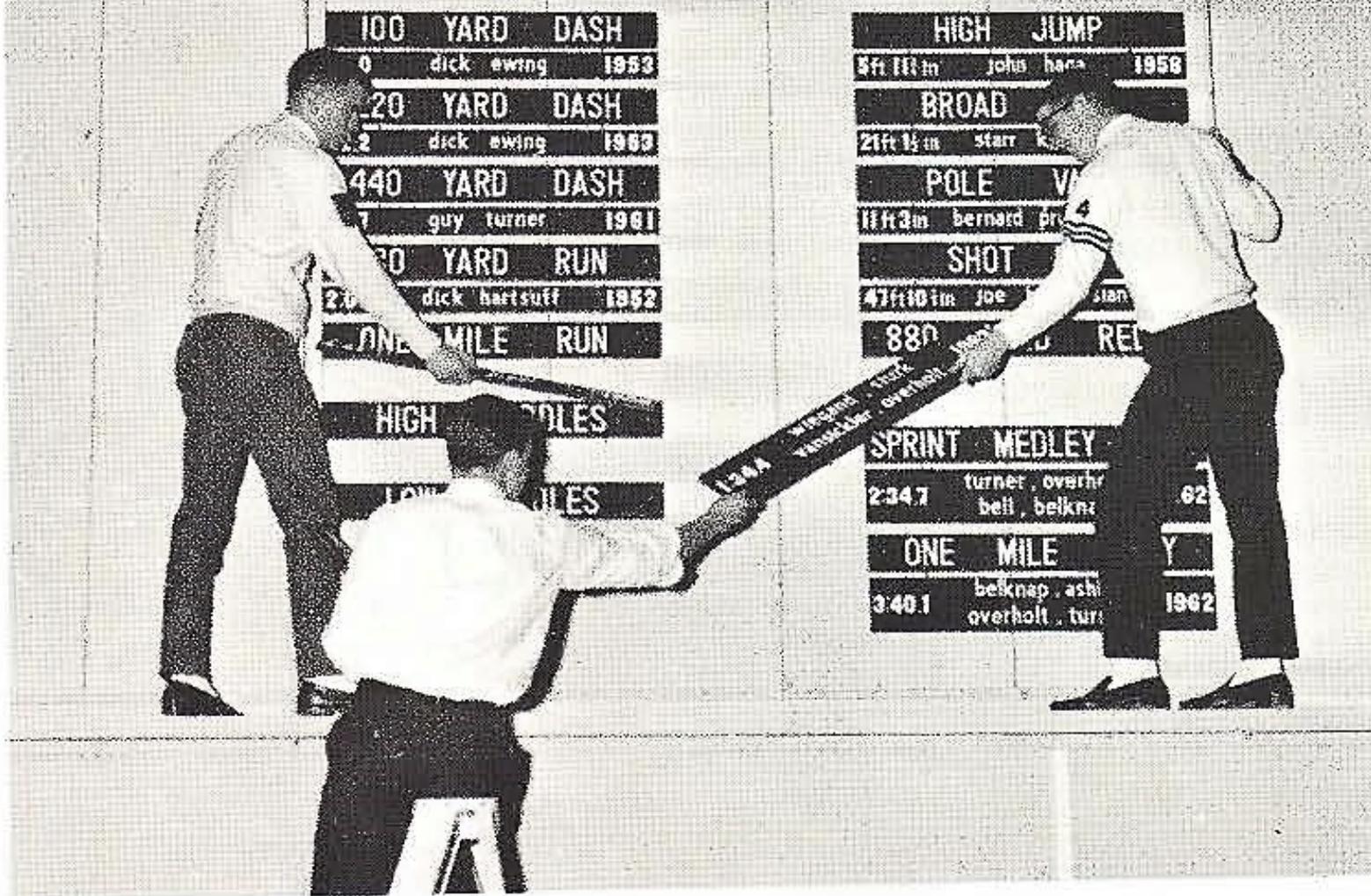
The high jump will be a toss up with Boyd Shertzer of Howell and Art Smith of Everett contending with the Ingham County league pair of Dick Fluke of Holt and Hagenbuch. Smith and Shertzer tied for first in the Circuit meet 5 feet 3 inches, and Hagenbuch topped Fluke by an inch when he won the County title 5 feet 5 inches.



DICK EWING
Okemos Sprinter

The Story of
 Dick Ewing
 Class of 1953

OKEMOS HIGH TRACK RECORDS



Jon Overholt, Gary Sturk and John Ruswinckel finish putting up the track record scoreboard.

I was there in 1964 when the track records went up...

This was the "new" school built in 1960. It was very nice to have a full-sized gym in the new high school, but it lacked history and tradition. With the vision of Jon Overholt '64 and Gary Sturk '64, they proposed a project to The Student Council to fund a display of the Track Records. By no coincidence, the same guys were racking up records themselves and who wouldn't like to see your accomplishments displayed! This was a new display of the hand written records that Coach Baker kept in his desk and Jon, Gary and John were wall mounting the records as they existed in 1964. The record they are hoisting in the picture is for the "880 YARD

RELAY” they set the year before in the Spring of 1963. The record race time of 1:34.4 was quite a story and recounted in the memoir of the German Exchange student, Hans Wiegand '63...but, we didn't know anything about the “old” record they had beaten. When the placard's were in place, we saw names familiar to us students like “Parisian 1963 HIGH HURDLES”, “Belnap Ashley Overholt Turner 1962 ONE MILE RELAY”, “Guy Turner 1961 440 YARD DASH”. Other than that, we never knew the “old” guys...except “Starr Keesler 1937 BROAD JUMP”... who in 1964 was the Chairman of the Okemos Board of Education! Wow, was that an old record!

For 2 years, I stared at that board and finally noticed that the name “Ewing” appeared. Little did we know, if the “old” records had been on display since 1960, we would have seen the name “Ewing” two more times under the 880 RELAY and SPRINT MEDLEY RELAY. The 1963 German student, Hans Wiegand, had been the only threat to breaking the 100 and 220-yard dash, but no one else threatened the 100 and 220 for many years to come!

Never accused of rushing in to anything, 50 years later, I looked at that picture again, and stared...who was this guy Ewing? I emailed the Okemos Alumni Association's Historian and Genealogist, Sherrie Paty '66, to ask her if she could find anything about Richard Ewing '53...10 minutes later, she emailed me back, “He's alive and well, living in Harrison, Michigan, here's his phone number”! Sherrie is amazing. (Sherrie has taken on the task of finding or writing the life story or tribute of everyone from Okemos High School...ever!) So, 11 minutes after I asked the question, I was talking to Joann Ewing...”Hello, Mrs. Ewing...did your husband go to Okemos High School?” “Why yes...would you like to talk to him...he's outside, I'll call him.” Now I'm excited, but what do I ask? I don't know anything about him, except that he could sprint in 1953!

“Hi Dick, I'm Rod Ellis from Okemos 1965...so you went to Okemos in 1953 and ran track?”

“Why yes...I haven't had anyone ask me that in 60 years!”

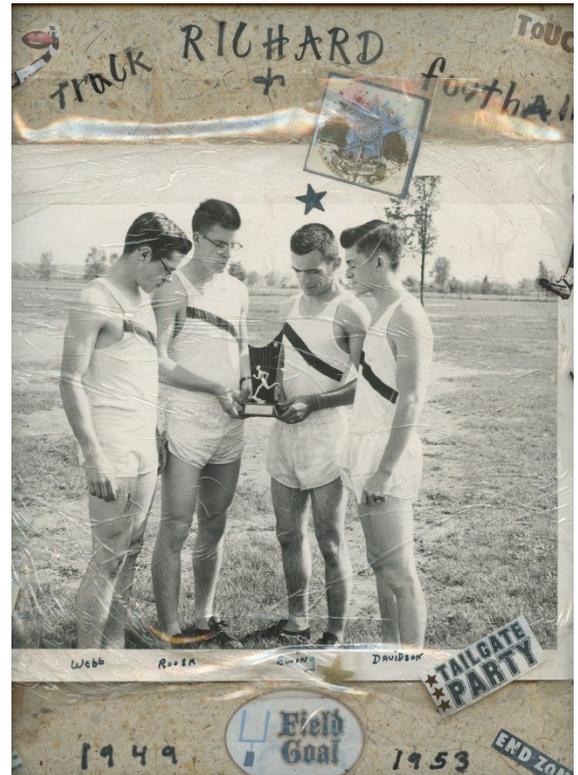
“I see from some old yearbooks that you were quite a sprinter...you didn't happen to keep and still have a scrapbook?”

“Why yes...I'll look around and send it to you.”

A week later, looking through his scrapbook, the story was all there...and what a story...one of the greatest athletes from Okemos, and I had only seen him as a name on the wall!

It's a nice, thick scrapbook with many newspaper articles. He and his relay teammates got lots of press and the press photographer gave him many of the glossy's that appeared in the newspaper. His scrapbook cover is a press glossy of his winning and record setting 880-yard relay team after they won the State Meet in May, 1953.

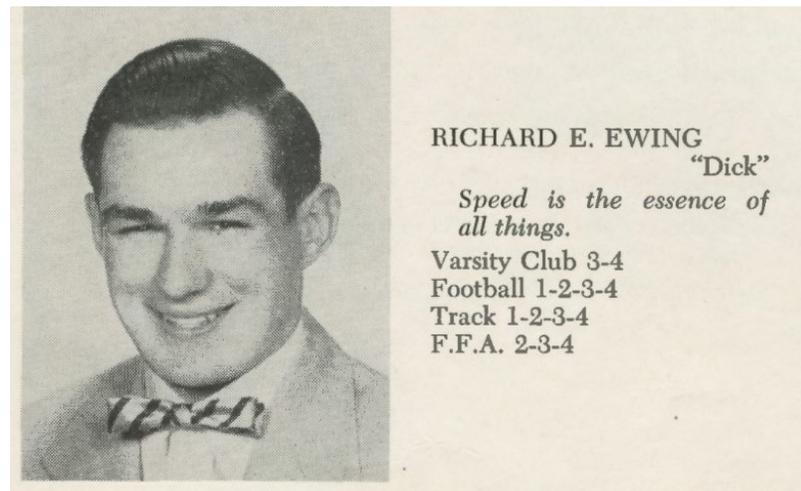
With Ewing anchoring, they clocked a record time of 1:36.7. They would have been "on the wall" if Okemos had a display before Jon Overholt and Gary Sturk hung their own, new 1963 school record for the 880 relay.



High School began the fall of 1949 for Richard Ralph "Dick" Ewing. Raised by his grandparents on Grand River Rd., family guidance got thinner quickly when his grandfather died his freshman year. His grandmother was a great source of encouragement, but training and development was completely on his own. Dick thought football was his calling, encouraged by some fast footwork in a 3rd place finish in the 1948 (7th Grade) Okemos Inter-Class Track Meet on a Mile Medley Relay Team and a 3rd place in the 1949 (8th grade) Inter-Class in the 100 Yard Dash. He thought George Richards was a good football coach and a great motivator. "The uniforms were worn out and the pads thin, but we always played all out." Some inner drive pushed him and he earned a varsity football letter his Freshman year, Fall 1949.

Dick trained by himself, seven days a week,..”ran down the Grand Trunk Rail Road, next to the rail, stones and all. I was self-taught...coaches didn’t know anything about track.” Dick was pretty much on his own. At a young age, his parents in Haslett couldn’t raise all 9 children, so his grandparents took over the responsibility for Dick. When not in school or training, Dick was working. First a paper route, then in the late 1940’s he carried beer cases for Paul Revere’s Bar on Grand River. His grandparents lived a block behind Paul Revere’s. Revere’s was owned by Paul Luck (historical note: between the 1970’s and 2015, Paul Revere’s was owned by Okemos grad, Jim Driscoll ’63). Dick also worked as a busboy at Warren Populars Fine Dining, located across from Paul Revere’s.

His Senior Class yearbook picture summarizes his High School career and adds the quote “Speed is the essence of all things.” Although a Senior quotation, he showed promise early.



Looking through his scrapbook, a great story unfolded...

The press noticed him right away...Lansing State Journal, early 1950..."Rich Ewing has had some good times this spring in the dashes.-B.H." (Bob Hoerner)

Leslie's County League Throne Seen Tottering

1950

Leslie high's two-year Ingham County league track reign may end Wednesday morning when Coach Walt Gephart's Blackhawks defend their title in the annual league meet

at Michigan State college starting at 9:30 a. m.

Holt, aided by Williamston and Fowlerville, teams that are sure to cut into Leslie's point-total, rates as the pre-meet favorite. Coach Harold Wells' Holt squad is strong in the dashes and relays, and appears to have the overall power to knock the Blackhawks off their perch.

Okemos, which was edged out by Leslie last spring, has had its ranks thinned by graduation, but has a handful of individual performers that are counted on for points.

Haslett, Dansville, and Stockbridge, schools that are just starting expanded track activities, will all enter small squads.

Believing that 50 points will win the championship, rival coaches are spotting Holt 18 points in the dashes, first in the shotput, quarter-mile, both relays, and enough lower place positions to easily annex the crown. Ben Hope, who as a sophomore last year set a new league record in the 440, has been switched to the dashes and has turned in the best times in the league so far this season. Larry Guile, also of Holt, is expected to follow Hope to the tape for second place.

Holt's Mel Morrison is expected to replace Hope as the top quarter-miler, and will team with the two dashmen and relay team.

is consistently 63 feet, leads

will be Glen Blackhawk is his efforts three first both of the the favor- high jump inawin is the league. tries will quarter-

the dashes, and Abe in the mile and pole vault.

Joe Bloom of Williamston is a threat in the shotput, and his teammate, Jim Harris, might spring an upset in the low hurdles.

Okemos' best bet for a first place will be German Prether in the pole vault. Rich Ewing has had some good times this spring in the dashes.—B. H.

Freshman Ewing explodes...with teammates to match!

Okemos is suddenly the track team to watch.

As a Freshman in Spring, 1950, Ewing won or qualified for all the League and Regionals meets and ran for the State Championship title in the 100 Yard Dash.

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vault. Rich Ewing has had some
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Everett High Trackers Peril Charlotte's Reign

By BOB HOERNER

cal squad scoring a victory in power to spare in running past taneously with the Everett-Eaton

power to spare in running past taneously with the Everett-Eaton Eaton Rapids, 67 to 42, on Michigan Rapids meet at the college. State college's track) Resurrection dropped a 64 to 45 decision to Okemos in a meet that was run simul-

In the third dual meet of the day, run on a muddy track at Pattengill stadium, Eastern high's Quakers

had little trouble overcoming Eaton Rapids, placing first in all but four events. Lanky John Milbourne won the high hurdle race and the high jump for two of the Greyhound victories. Duane Smith, Everett sprinter, was the only other double-winner, taking both of the dash events.

Wins Three Events

Doug Stringer of Howell turned in the top individual performance of the day as he copped three first places and ran a leg on a winning relay team to help the Highland-

second; Sartor (E), third. Distance—37 feet 10 inches.
High jump—Milbourne (ER), first; Kinane (E), second; Sprague (E), third. Height—5 feet 6 inches.
Broad jump—Page (ER), first; Cataline (ER), second; Pellet (E), third. Distance—19 feet 5½ inches.

Howell 66, Eastern 43

120-yard high hurdles—Stringer (H), first; Alexander (E), second; McMacken (H), third. Time—1:32.
Medley relay—Eastern (Wills, Lewis, Lundberg, Summers), first. Time—2:53.6.
100-yard dash—Borden (H), first; Johnson (E), second; Ackerman (H), third. Time—11.1.
Mile run—

Shotput—McMacken (H), first; St. Onge (H), second; Pardee (E), third. Distance—46 feet 7 inches.
High jump—Sears (E), Mach (H), Wills (E), tied for first. Height—5 feet 1 inch.
Broad jump—Stringer (H), first; McQuillin (H), second; Newman (E), third. Distance—18 feet 7 inches.

Okemos 64, Resurrection 45

120-yard high hurdles—McDonald (O), first; Backlund (R), third. Time—2:23.7.
220-yard dash—Ewing (O), first; O'Neill (R), second; Halstead (R), third. Time—24.7.
860-yard run—Randall (O), first; Erwin (O), second; Mackel (R), third. Time—2:21.8.
880-yard relay—Okemos (Kinney, Rossa, Ewing, McDonald), first.
Pole vault—Prether (O), first; Palmer-ton (O), second; Belsito (R) and Reisner (R) tied for third. Height—9 feet.
Shotput—Fox (R), first; Dotsch (R) second; Pannabecker (O), third. Distance—43 feet 6½ inches.
High jump—Prether (O), first; Leyko (R), second; Parker (R) third. Height—5 feet.
Broad jump—Halstead (R), first; Sherman (O), second; Roys (O), third. Distance—17 feet 5½ inches.

Pole vault—Prether (O), first; Palmer-ton (O), second; Belsito (R) and Reisner (R) tied for third. Height—9 feet.
Shotput—Fox (R), first; Dotsch (R) second; Pannabecker (O), third. Distance—43 feet 6½ inches.
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ge.
of the day
Pattengill
Quakers
Donald (O),
Backlund (R),
first; O'Neill
third. Time—
first; Erwin
third. Time—
Kinney, Rossa.

Barker (E), second; Borden (H), third. Time—23.0.
380-yard run—Hakala (E), first; Render (H), second; Hardman (H), third. Time—2:20.0.
880-yard relay—Howell (Borden, Kennedy, McMacken, Stringer), first. Time—1:41.5.
Pole vault—Hilton (H), first; Campbell (H), second; Kypke (H), third. Height—9 feet.
Shotput—McMacken (H), first; St. Onge (H), second; Pardee (E), third. Distance—46 feet 7 inches.
High jump—Sears (E), Mach (H), Wills (E), tied for first. Height—5 feet 1 inch.
Broad jump—Stringer (H), first; McQuillin (H), second; Newman (E), third. Distance—18 feet 7 inches.

Okemos 64, Resurrection 45

120-yard high hurdles—Leyko (R), first; Burch (O), second; Backlund (R), third. Time—1:18.5.
Medley relay—Okemos (Hartsuff, Webb, Stetler, Davis), first. Time—2:55.2.
100-yard dash—Ewing (O), first; Fox (R), second; O'Neill (R), third. Time—11.3.
Mile run—Wright (R), first; Higby (O), second; Sherman (O), third. Time—5:17.0.
440-yard dash—Rassa (O), first; Kinney (O), second; Dotsch (R), third. Time—59.8.

180-yard low hurdles—McDonald (O), first; Leyko (R), second; Backlund (R), third. Time—23.7.
220-yard dash—Ewing (O), first; O'Neill (R), second; Halstead (R), third. Time—24.7.
860-yard run—Randall (O), first; Erwin (O), second; Mackel (R), third. Time—2:21.8.
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Letter Award

OKEMOS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

This is to Certify that

Richard Ewing

has been awarded the

SCHOOL LETTER

Okemos Marks Up Year's First Win

(Special to The State Journal)
 HASLET, Oct. 20 — Okemos high's football team scored its first victory of the season in five games here Thursday night by downing Stockbridge, 18 to 13, in an Ingham County league tilt. Bill Black passed for touchdowns, and McDonald scored a third as Okemos took an 18 to 0 lead at the end of the third period. Stockbridge, also seeking its first decision of the year, scored twice in the final period. Dick Worden and Bob Lambert tallied the touchdowns.

The Quakers medley relay team of Roger Wills, John Lewis, Chuck Lundberg and Ben Summers edged Howell for Eastern's other first place.

Three freshmen—Richard Ewing, Gerry Rossa and Duane Randall—carried most of the scoring load in Okemos' victory over the Shamrocks. Ewing paced both of the dash events for 10 points, Rossa won the quarter-mile, and Randall added a first in the half mile.

Okemos walked off with nine first places to the 'Rocks four. Bob

As a Freshman in the Fall of 1949 he also Varsity lettered in Football...with his speed, just throw him the ball and he was gone!

1949, as an 8th grader, he placed 3rd in the all school Inter-Class Track Meet in the 100-Yard Dash. He got his taste for speed at a very young age.

He earned his Track Varsity letter 1950 as a Freshman.

OKEMOS INTER-CLASS TRACK and FIELD MEET

THIRD

100 YARD DASH



Sophomore Track 1951

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL 7

Colors: Maroon & White
 Name: Chiefs
 Coach: George Dunn
 Ass't Coach: Maynard Weaver

Probable Starting Line Up

Pos.	No.	Name
R. E.	53	D. Clark
R. T.	59	P. Roney
R. G.	60	K. Palmerton
C	54	R. Worthington
L. G.	43	R. Kohls
L. T.	41	G. Willets
L. E.	48	D. MacDonald
Q	51	M. Black
R. H.	44	H. Antsliff
L. H.	40	R. Ewing
F. B.	46	R. Burch

Substitutes

D. Shipley	56	H. Orler
D. Randall	57	R. Stetler
R. Hartsuff	58	D. Davidson
R. Simzak	61	P. Ray
62 M. Bonne		



Football fall of 1950

Sophomore Spring 1951, 1st 100 Yard Dash at the Ingham County Track Meet.



Lansing State Journal Press Photo

“I had hand-me-down shoes.”

Lansing Area Boys Vie in Journal's Star-Studded Meet



(Below) Hans (third from left) Circuit & the IC-CC track

THE STATE JOURNAL
Sports
SECOND SECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1951

(Above) Okemos' sprinter, Dick Ewing (right in white), won both of the dash events in the IC-CC meet Monday. In the above picture, from left, are Dick Ewing, Jim Everett, and Jim Fredericks. Dick Ewing did not place in the event.

IC-CC Athletes Come Up With Best Performances

Circuit Teams Win Easily, 33-34, but Ingham Stars Shine Brightly

By BOB HOERNER

The Capital Circuit track squad carved the first notch in The State Journal I.C. - C. C. trophy Monday evening at Michigan State college, but the Ingham County league entries were right in stride with the Circuit in providing top individual performances.

Paced by its league champion, Howell, the Circuit picked away 33 points to the County's 34 to win the first annual inter-league meet between the two Lansing area competitors.

Loren Willis, the Circuit's honorary coach, accepted the meet trophy for the winners from George S. Alderton, sports editor of The State Journal.

Although the Circuit's strength was in evidence from the first event, outstanding efforts by entries from both leagues marked the entire meet. Both squads produced double-winners. Easton Rapids' lucky John Milbourne cleared the high jump bar at 4 feet 8 inches, his best effort of his high school career, to top one first-place, and

Continued on Next Page

at; jump, but stopped after topping the six-foot mark to save himself for the two hurdle races.

Ewing Double Winner

The County league matched the Circuit's double-winner with Dick Ewing, Okemos' high sprinter, breaking the tape in both of the dashes. Ewing, who also won both sprints in the County meet last week, stepped off the 100-yard dash in :10.6 and the 220 in :23.1.

Everett's brilliant miler, Tommy Hoffmeyer, ran his fastest mile of the season to easily win the event.

Tiger firmed h gals have the 30-y ed 39 ho

Harold R third, Fo Pole va Howell); Campbell (CC-Evere Shotput Holt); sec third, H lotte). Di

Sophomore year 1951

At Howell, "It was just eery...that was my first night meet...I had never been to a night event!"

Another win, nevertheless.

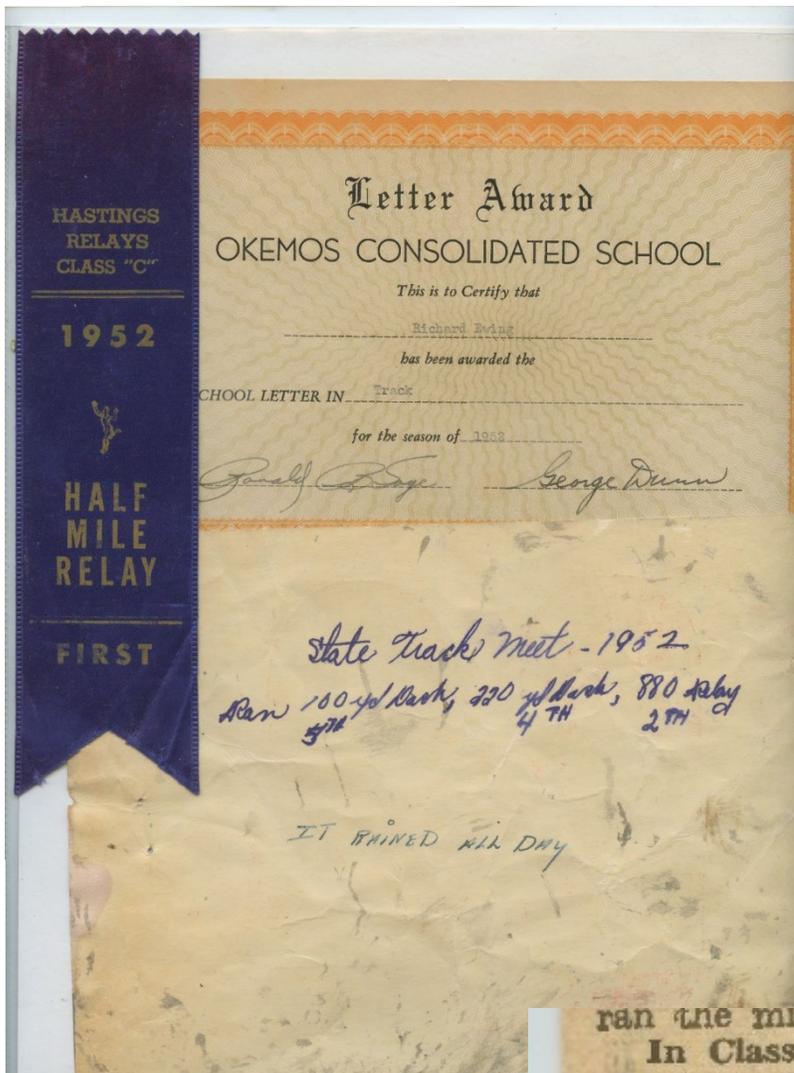


Howell first track meet at night

1951 had been another Varsity Letter year with more records. Dick qualified all the way to the State Finals again, but a Championship Title still remained elusive. Still

etched in his memory, "It rained all day and you can still see the mud stains on my numbers", Dick told me 65 years later in 2017.

On their march to the 1951 State Finals, the paper read, "...records were smashed in the sprint Medley...", as Roosa, Ewing, McDonald and Hartsuff set new meet record at the Hastings Relays and also won the 880 Relay.



Lansing Everett Retains C Title, Reed City Second

35 Schools, 570 Athletes Run in Fine Weather On Fast Hastings Track

Sturgis 17 1/5, Battle Creek Lakeview and Grand Ledge 10 each, Portage 6, Charlotte 5, East Lansing

ran the mile in 4:49.0.

In Class C, records were smashed in the sprint medley and the high jump.

Okemos' team of Jerry Roosa, Richard Ewing, Dee McDonald and Richard Hartsuff broke the 1950 sprint medley mark of 2:43.5 set by Holt covering the course in 2:40.3. The same team ran the 880 relay for Okemos to take first place ahead of Paw Paw.

In the high jump, Don Stroup, of Norman Dickson, and Ray Eggleston, East Jackson, tied for first place at 5 feet, 9 1/4 inches to smash the old record of 5 feet, 7 7/8 inches set by Carrington of Paw Paw in

dual with Distance (Joe Glenn King, Battle Creek Lakeview); 11:32.6 for 11:38.4 set by 880 Relay (Dee McDonald, Richard Hartsuff, Jerry Roosa, Norman Dickson); third, East Jackson; fifth, Howell. Pole Vault—Kyphe (Norman Dickson); Rivitzer (East Jackson); Nixon (East Jackson); and: for

11:32.6 for new record, old record of 2:43.5 set by Greenville in 1948. 880 Relay—Winner, Niles (Dee McDonald, Charles Allen, Gordon Rolert, Jack Zimmer); second, Sturgis; third, Hastings; fourth, Albion; fifth, Howell. Time: 1:37.4. Pole Vault—Winner, Carmichael (Kyphe (Howell)), 10 ft. 10 in.; Ray Rivitzer (Walled Lake) and Norman Nixon (Mt Pleasant), tie for second at 9 ft. 6 in.

Lansing Everett Retains C Title, Reed City Second

35 Schools, 570 Athletes Run in Fine Weather On Fast Hastings Track

The 12th annual running of the Hastings Relays Saturday will go down in local track circles as another track classic. Participants, with a soft breeze combined to help records.

Niles, scoring back to the Vikings occurred 1950 by defeating Lakeview in the Everett retained last year but seven points at City.

Coach Anton trackmen, running schools in Class C surge of popularity past three years seventh place spring medley formed for the meet record by school record previous Thursday.

One of the established State Dave Goodell, 1911, who is coach Oilers. Dave, here through his Dad was crowned the 12-6 inches, cracked 50 feet, 3/4 Bachman of East

Dave's heave approached the all-time State Class B record of 53 feet, 9 1/2 inches set by John Sullivan of Wayne in 1939. Goodell, a six foot, 200 pound lad, made his new mark on his last attempt which was beautiful to watch.

Hastings' sprint medley team of Al Shaver, Dick Brauer, Tom Cleveland and Jack Burchett, who in a dual Thursday against Grand Ledge covered the course in 2:39.9 for a new school record, established the new one of 2:39.7 despite a bad start. In the sprint medley the boys ran a 440, two 220s and ended with a 440.

The third Class B record was smashed by Coach Hick's Alma Panthers in the distance medley. The record-making team was made up of Joe Glendenning, who ran the quarter in 58 seconds, John Goetz who ran the half mile in 2:12.5, Sam King who ran the three-quarter-mile leg in 3:33 and Bill Pyle—State Class B cross country champ—who ran the mile in 4:49.0.

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ville will not compete.

Okemos has a pair of individual winners from last year's squad returning to defend individual titles. Dick Ewing, a double winner in the sprints last year and one of the best dashmen in the Central Michigan area, should repeat with two firsts again. Ewing will also give the Chiefs a strong relay team.

The Chiefs' other individual title winner is Jerry Roosa in the quar-

crown.

Dick Ewing of Okemos, the only double winner last year, will defend both of his sprint titles, and by comparative times this season the Okemos speedster should repeat in both races. Ewing stepped off the 100-yard dash last year in 10.7 seconds and won the 220 in 23.8.

Another Okemos runner defending a title is Gerald Roosa. The Okemos quarter-miler won his specialty last year in 56.1 seconds.

Shot Put: Winner, Dave Goodell (Mt. Pleasant) 53 ft. 6 in.; second, Dale Narragon (Alma), 45 ft.; third, Phil Baker (Walled Lake), 43 ft. 7 1/2 in.; fourth Dick Brown (Howell), 42 ft. 8 in.; fifth, Keith Fixley (Walled Lake), 42 ft. 4 in. Goodell's 53 ft. 6 in. broke old record set by John Bachman, East Lansing, in 1950 of 50 ft. 3/4 in.

Two Mile Relay—Winner, Grand Ledge (Louis VanSickle, Ray Vandersteen, Chuck Beard, Don Root); second, Mt. Pleasant; third, Niles; fourth, Sturgis; fifth, Walled Lake. Time: 9:00.3.

Sprint Medley Relay—Winner, Hastings (Al Shaver, Richard Bauer, Tom Cleveland, Jack Burchett), second, Albion; third, Niles; fourth, Portage; fifth, Sturgis. Time: 2:39.7 for new record, old record of 2:40.1 set by Hastings in 1948. Time is also new Hastings school record, old record set by same team April 24 in dual with Grand Ledge, 2:39.9.

Distance Medley—Winner, Alma (Joe Glendenning, John Goetz, Sam King, Bill Pyle); second, Battle Creek Lakeview; third Howell; 4th, Albion; fifth, Hastings. Time: 11:32.6 for new record, old record of 11:38.4 set by Greenville in 1948.

880 Relay—Winner, Niles (Dick McNeal, Charles Allen, Gordon Rollett, Jack Zimmer); second, Sturgis; third, Hastings; fourth, Albion; fifth, Howell. Time: 1:37.4.

Pole Vault—Winner, Carmen Kyphe (Howell), 10 ft. 10 in.; Ron Rivitzer (Walled Lake) and Norman Nixon (Mt. Pleasant), tie for second; fourth, Bill Lowe (Walled

ond, East Jackson; fourth, Lansing Ewing. Time: 3:50.3.

Pole Vault—Winner, Lansing Everett (Lansing Everett), second, Howard Young (ft. 2 in.; third, Dick Lansing Everett) 9 ft. 10 in. Mitchell (Reed City) fifth Dean Archer (son) and Ted Hummel tie at 9 ft.

Two Mile Relay—(Howard Braun, Jerry Cross, James Schmitt, Reed City; third, 1 fourth, Capac; fifth, Time: 9:02.1.

Sprint Medley—Winner, Okemos (Jerry Roosa, Richard Ewing, Dee McDonald, Richard Hartsuff; second, Plainwell; third Paw Paw; fourth, Gaylord; fifth, Ann Arbor. Time: 2:40.3 for new record, old record of 2:43.5 set by Holt in 1950.

Shot Put—Winner, Art Karnowski (Linden), 41 ft. 2 in.; second, Bert Burns (Norman Dickson), 41 ft. 1 in.; third, Carlton Webb (Linden), 40 ft. 5 in.; fourth, Ry Figg (Shepherd), 39 ft. 8 in.

880 Relay—Winner, Okemos (Jerry Roosa, Dee McDonald, Richard Hartsuff, Richard Ewing); second, Paw Paw; third, East Jackson and

All during the 1952 season, anticipation was building.

Everett Shoots for the 'Big One'

Coach Sweeney's Last Track Team Courts State Title Saturday

a first place probably is with its 880-yard relay team. The quartet of Glen Gray, Gary Munson, George Price, and Jimmy Diederichs set a Dick Ewing, undefeated in the sprints this year, could come home as a double winner in the state meet.

Ewing breaks and re-breaks records...

Charl for the past urday in his team. Win erett squad contenders state title a Sweeney w position afte present assist Chuck will director and at the Capit Sexton and in the Class. The Quaker; Sexton will s Those from f

Okemos Retains Ingham



Chiefs Nose Out Ha For H

Ewing, Hagenbu al Stars; Wil Takes Third

By GEORGE



Dick Ewing broke the Okemos high school 100 and 220-yard dash records and ran the last leg of a record breaking 880-yard relay race. He finished the century in 10.2 seconds, one second better than the mark he set last year, and registered a 22.5 second time in the 220-yard dash breaking another record he set last year by two seconds. The relay time of 1:38.2 topped a mark of 1:39.3 set last year, also.

RETAINS TITLE — Okemos Dashman Dick Ewing is shown crossing the finish-line to win the 100-yard dash. (State Journal photo)

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ience and did not a
Herb Hagenbuch, s
runner, paced his s
third straight year. H
in four events and w
in the 180-yard low l
jump and high jump
second to Ewing in
dash.

It was the third ye
won the broad jump
ond year in a row he
jump.

In 1951, Hagenbu
but one of Haslett's
followed with 15 last
19-point effort Satur
past performances.

Haslett's Bill Has
only other person to
shof
his

...and Titles!

Dick Ewing 1953 State Champion 100-Yard Dash & State Champions 880-Yard Relay

(and new school record)

Forty-Sixth Annual
**Michigan High School
Athletic Association**
—Lower Peninsula Championship—
Track and Field Meet
CLASSES A & C



Enrollment 150 - 324
CLASS D—Enrollment Less Than 150

May 23, 1953

On the final leg of the '53 State Finals of the 880-Yard Relay, Ewing passed five teams for the victory (color picture of the finish).

1953 Track Year in Review



Front Row: Mike Sweeney, Gerry Rozan, Mel Swab, Gerald Roosa, Dick Ewing, Ralph Brown, Bob Davidson, Charles Webb

Back Row: Coach Baker, Garth Richey, Robert Babcock, Jim Woodruff, Kyle Aldrich, Lyle Davis, Russell Roosa, Allan Houghton, Jack Hagerman and Stewart Reuffer—Managers

19-TRACK-53

In dual track meets we defeated Sexton High School 46-34, and Haslett 63-46, while losing to Everett 60-49. The bright spot of the Everett meet for Okemos was a 10:0 flat, 100 yd. dash by Dick Ewing for a new school record.

The Ingham County League meet saw Okemos coming out on top for the second straight year with 50 points.

At the Albion Invitational meet Okemos took first place with 38 points. Dick Ewing set a meet record with a 10.2 100 yd. dash. He also won the 220 yd. dash. Our 880 yd. relay team won as a new school record was established. Their time was 1:36.5 and the runners were Bob Davidson, Lyle Davis, Gerry Roosa and Dick Ewing. Other boys who placed in the meet were Bob Davidson, 3rd in the 100 and 220 yd. dashes; Mike Sweeney, 3rd in the mile; Gerry Roosa, 3rd in the 440 and in the sprint medley team of Merrill Edwards, Chuck Webb, Lyle Davis and Gerry Rozan.

In the Regional Meet at Mt. Pleasant, Okemos took 3rd with 23 points as Dick Ewing took 2nd place in both the 100 and 220 yd. dashes. Gerry Roosa 2nd in the 440 yd. dash and the 880 relay team of Bob Davidson, Lyle Davis, Gerry Roosa and Dick Ewing won.

At the State Finals, Okemos took 3rd with 17 points as Dick Ewing won the 100 yd. dash and finished 2nd in the 220 and our 880 relay team set a new school record of 1:36.7 as they won the state relay race. Returning letter winners for the 1954 season are Bob Davidson, Chuck Webb, Kyle Aldrich, Merrill Edwards, Bob Babcock and Mike Sweeney.



A Hall of Fame-caliber Record of Accomplishments in Track

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Athlete	Place	Notes
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County Meet at MSC	5/1/1937	23.0	Starr Keesler	1	Meet record, School record
100 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Resurrection	4/1/1950	11.3	Dick Ewing	1	Freshman
220 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Resurrection	4/1/1950	24.7	Dick Ewing	1	Freshman
100 Yd Dash	State Finals at MSC	5/24/1950		Dick Ewing	5	Qualified for State as a Freshman
100 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/1/1951	10.7	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/1/1951	23.8	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional
880 Relay	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/1/1951		Ewing,Rossa,Davidson,Davis	1	Qualified for Regional
100 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	5/8/1951	10.3	Dick Ewing	1	School record
220 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	5/8/1951	22.7	Dick Ewing	1	School record
100 Yd Dash	Regionals Class C at CMU	5/19/1951		Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for State
100 Yd Dash	Ingham County - Capital Circuit inter-league	5/22/1951	10.6	Dick Ewing	1	Rain all day at MSC
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County - Capital Circuit inter-league	5/22/1951	23.1	Dick Ewing	1	Rain all day at MSC
100 Yd Dash	State Finals at MSC	5/24/1951		Dick Ewing	6	Muddy field and wind over 5, no records
220 Yd Dash	State Finals at MSC	5/24/1951		Dick Ewing	4	
880 Relay	State Finals at MSC	5/24/1951		Davidson,McDonald,Rossa,Ewing	2	
100 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1952	10.2	Dick Ewing	1	School record
220 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1952	22.5	Dick Ewing	1	School record
880 Relay	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1952	01:38.2	Rossa,Ewing,McDonald,Hartsuff	1	School record; Ewing ran last leg
880 Relay	Hastings Relays	5/1/1952	01:39.3	Rossa,Ewing,McDonald,Hartsuff	1	1st Place
Sprint Medley	Hastings Relays	5/1/1952	02:40.3	Rossa,Ewing,McDonald,Hartsuff	1	Broke meet record of 2:43.5 Holt 1950
100 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at Howell	5/8/1952	10.8	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional, first Night Meet
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at Howell	5/8/1952	23.8	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional, first Night Meet
880 Relay	Ingham County Finals at Howell	5/8/1952	01:39.9	McDonald,Davis,Rossa,Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional, first Night Meet
100 Yd Dash	State Finals at UM	5/24/1952	10.1	Dick Ewing	1	State Champion, School record
220 Yd Dash	State Finals at UM	5/24/1952		Dick Ewing	2	
880 Relay	State Finals at UM	5/24/1952	01:36.5	Davidson,McDonald,Rossa,Ewing	1	State Champions, School record
100 Yd Dash	Ingham County - Capital Circuit inter-league	5/26/1952		Dick Ewing	1	
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County - Capital Circuit inter-league	5/26/1952	22.7	Dick Ewing	1	Meet record
100 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1953	10.0	Dick Ewing	1	School record
220 Yd Dash	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1953		Dick Ewing	1	
880 Relay	Dual Meet w/Everett	4/25/1953		Rossa,Ewing,McDonald,Hartsuff	1	
100 Yd Dash	Albion Invitational meet	5/1/1953	10.2	Dick Ewing	1	Meet record
220 Yd Dash	Albion Invitational meet	5/1/1953		Dick Ewing	1	
880 Relay	Albion Invitational meet	5/1/1953	01:36.5	Davidson,Davis,Rossa,Ewing	1	School record
100 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/2/1953	10.3	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional
220 Yd Dash	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/2/1953	23.5	Dick Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional
880 Relay	Ingham County Finals at MSC	5/2/1953	01:42.1	Davidson,Palmerton,Rossa,Ewing	1	Qualified for Regional
100 Yd Dash	Regionals Class C at CMU	5/7/1953	10.15	Dick Ewing	2	Qualified for State
220 Yd Dash	Regionals Class C at CMU	5/7/1953		Dick Ewing	2	Qualified for State
880 Relay	Regionals Class C at CMU	5/7/1953		Davidson,Davis,Rossa,Ewing	1	Qualified for State
100 Yd Dash	State Finals at MSC	5/23/1953	10.1	Dick Ewing	1	State Champion
220 Yd Dash	State Finals at MSC	5/23/1953		Dick Ewing	2	
880 Relay	State Finals at MSC	5/23/1953	01:36.7	Davidson,Davis,Rossa,Ewing	1	State Champions, School record

The summary stats the career track performance of Dick Ewing

	1950/Freshman	1951/Sophomore	1952/Junior	1953/Senior	Totals
Varsity Letters won (sport)	Football &Track	Football &Track	Football &Track	Football &Track	8
School Records set in Track	0	2	5	4	11
Meet Records set in Track	0	0	2	1	3
State Championship Races Competed	1	3	3	3	10
State Championship Races Won	0	0 (2 nd 880 Relay)	2 (2 nd 220)	2 (2 nd 220)	4

Dick Ewing

set

11 Okemos School Records

3 Meet and Invitational Records

10 times in the State Championship Final Title races

Won 4 State Championship Titles

3 time State Champion Title runner-up

...and earned 8 varsity letters in 2 sports*

An unequalled athletic record in Okemos Consolidated School Sports

*Did I mention that Dick played football...?

and the Chiefs recovered.
 Coach Ed Kiley's Chiefs took advantage of the break and on the third play, Dick Ewing swaggered around end and galloped 70 yards for a touchdown. Another run for the extra point failed.
 A partially blocked punt set up

distance for the other Haslett scores. Dee McDonald passed to Dick Ewing for the Okemos marker, the play covering 85 yards.

Okemos0	6	0	0--6
Haslett7	14	6	7--34

His first toss went six yards to Jerry Roosa, the second 55 yards to Harold Greer, another of the same distance to Dick Ewing and the lateral play, Dick Ewing covered 60 yards, also to Ewing.

It followed earlier markers by Russ Birch and Dick Ewing and gave the Chiefs an 18-7 edge. Ewing later added the final six points. Dale Miller passed 25 yards to

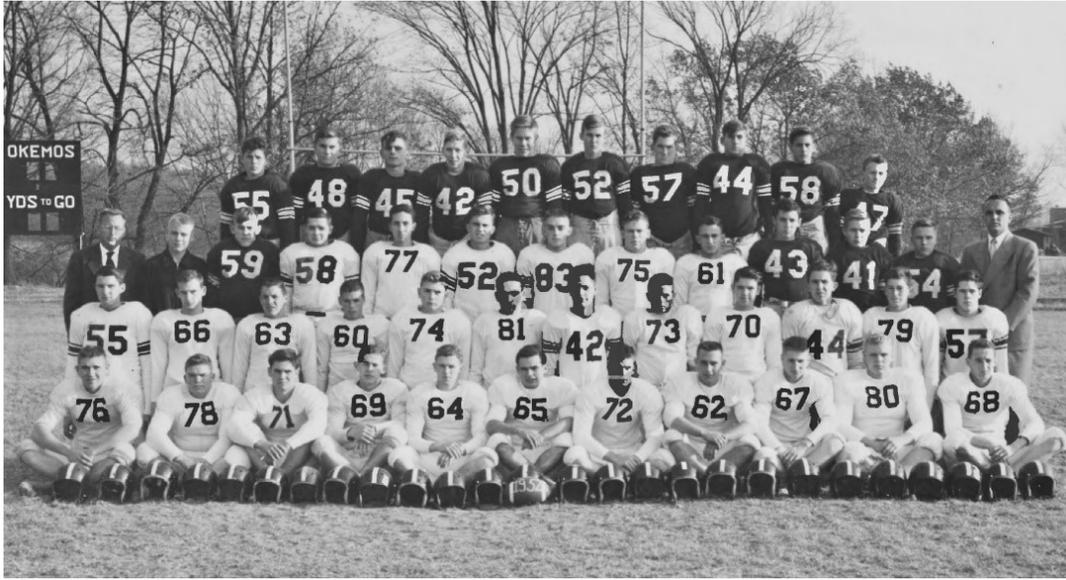
Ewing Sets Up Scores

Okemos' scoring has been spread around with Russ Burch, Jerry Rossa and Harold Grier each scoring two touchdowns this year. Dick Ewing, central Michigan sprint champion last spring, has set up many of the touchdowns with long runs. Stockbridge will have to stop this quartet of runners to take the Chiefs into camp Friday.



Okemos (3-0-4)—New Coach Ed Kiley has dozen lettermen, including four regulars. Three of the veterans are in backfield. Probably fastest backfield in league with Sprinter Dick Ewing leading the way.

Dick Ewing, lettered and starred from his Freshman 1949 to Senior 1952 Football Season. Okemos grad Jim Breckenfeld '60 recalled seeing Ewing play football and said "I don't remember if they had All-State recognition back then, but Dick Ewing sure deserved it." The 1952 team picture with #65 sitting with the game ball...why not...Ewing carried it



most of the time for four years!

"We went 'all out' and never saved ourselves for the next game. Got knocked out in the Haslett game and just laid

there for 20 minutes...got up and played the rest of the game." He added, "They'd never do that today!" Dick said he did get a better helmet and shoulder pads out of the ordeal. "In those days, Haslett was the big rival, 'the enemy'...they gang tackled, punched and stuffed sand in my mouth in the pile and even got my pants ripped off...team stood around me while I switched pants." Dick confessed, "A few years later, I went into enemy territory and married a Haslett girl."

Whoa, let me talk to Joann! So, how did you meet? "My sister fixed us up on a blind date in 1956. She said he was a nice person, a football player and a track star. He was very modest." Then she recalled they "met" years before that at a Haslett football game, "Dick got knocked out and just lay there...we didn't pay a lot of attention...he was on the 'other' team, and Haslett won!"

Dick was not only honored as an outstanding athlete by Okemos High School and the newspapers, but the colleges took notice also.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1833
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

August 12, 1953

Dear Dick,

Mr. Anderson and I
visit

ALBION COLLEGE
ALBION, MICHIGAN

May 11, 1953

Mr. Dick Ewing
Okemos High School
Okemos, Michigan

Dear Dick:

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your fine showing in the Albion Invitational Track Meet held last Saturday. I discussed with you briefly the possibility of your attending Albion in the fall. No doubt during your short visit here you were impressed with our fine facilities and would concur in our belief that Albion is one of the outstanding small colleges in this area. We are very much interested in attracting to our campus individuals such as yourself. I am hoping that while contemplating your choice of college for next fall, that you will give serious thought to Albion before reaching any final decision.

We would like very much to have you visit our campus again, and give us an opportunity to talk with you about Albion. While here we can make arrangements for a commending you, and we feel sure that you would find such a visit pleasant and enjoyable. Should you plan to take advantage of an opportunity to visit our campus, would you kindly indicate on the enclosed card what date you will arrive and I will make the necessary arrangements at this end. I trust that I might hear from you soon regarding this matter.

WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

April 1, 1953

Mr. Dick Ewing
Okemos High School
Okemos, Michigan

Dear Dick:

This is to congratulate you on your performance at the Chip Relays. You competed against the best boys in the state this year, and you showed potential as a good prospective college athlete.

Another reason for my contacting you at this time is to get you interested in coming to Western Michigan College to continue your education and your success in track. Before long you will receive a school catalogue and other information about our school and athletic program. We are building up our track program, and we have a good varsity and an exceptionally good freshman team this year.

Enclosed you will find we compete in the following: Bowling Green, Cleveland, Ohio, Drake Relays in Cleveland, Ohio. Our school offers Physical Education for study toward

General
Music
Business
Vocational
Agriculture
Dentistry

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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FOUNDED 1833
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
EAST LANSING

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
HEALTH AND RECREATION FOR MEN
GOLF, GYMNASIUM AND FIELD HOUSE

July 17, 1953

Mr. Richard Ewing
Okemos, Michigan

Dear Dick:

Any boy who places in both the 100 and 220 in the State Meet in his class has at least some possibility as a big time collegiate varsity sprinter. You did just that. Consequently, I am writing to ask if you plan to go to college and, if so, are you interested in Michigan State. I should be more than glad to hear from you and will watch the mail with interest.

Sincerely,

K.A. Schladebauer
Earl A. Schladebauer
Head Track Coach

KAS/dk

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 3, 1953

Mr. Richard Ewing
Okemos, Michigan

Dear Dick:

Your name has come to me as one with fine athletic ability, and from the remarks I have heard about you, I should like to see you continue your education here at Kalamazoo College. The College is located in the western section of Kalamazoo and is rated at the top of small colleges in the United States. I am sure you would enjoy the campus and college life here.

I am enclosing two forms and an application blank for you to complete. When they are finished, I should appreciate your sending them immediately to Mr. John Anderson, Admissions Office, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

I plan to be in Lansing either Wednesday or Thursday of this week, and hope that it will be possible for me to see you on one of those days. I should like to have you visit our campus, soon, and should appreciate your letting me know if you are interested in attending Kalamazoo College.

Sincerely,

Rolla L. Anderson
Rolla L. Anderson
Coach and Director of Athletics

RLA:PRM
Enclosures 3

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Anderson
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On September 20 2017, I visited Dick and Joann. Nestled in their cabin in the central Michigan woodlands, their abode full of collections from 3 children's world tours with the military. Dick, now in his 80's is fit, trim and looks like he could still rip off 100 yards way ahead of the pack. He was eternally grateful that we remembered him...I assured him how thankful we were to find and meet "The Okemos Sprint King".



(By the way, Dick went to Central Michigan)



A selfie with Rod Ellis

The plaque reads “Happiness is Being Married To Your Best Friend”.



Joann and Dick Ewing, married 61 years and “best friends”.

Dick “never had toys growing up...so now I collect ‘em”.





Richard "Dick" Ewing Okemos Class of 1953

The Okemos Sprint King

So there you have the story of a Hall of Fame-caliber athlete who's accomplishments shall not be forgotten. A star that drew the attention of fans and sportswriters from the big Lansing schools to suburban Okemos Consolidated Schools. The kind of attention that "put us on the map".

Thank you Richard R. Ewing '53

Rodney Ellis '65

President, Okemos Alumni Association

September 20, 2017





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