

1955

The Track Capital of the Prairies: 7 for 9: the Story of Track and Field Athletics: South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Brookings, South Dakota.

South Dakota State University

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"The Track Capital of the Prairies"

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Prairie
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1955

Field Athletics

AKOTA STATE COLLEGE
of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts • Brookings, South Dakota

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by Malign Buss"



Seven for Nine

A college student who has seven out of nine correct answers on a final examination would not rate summa cum laude at Harvard, magna cum laude at Princeton, or cum laude at Yale. When a coach's athletic teams establish a record of seven championships in nine years of competition, that coach would be a Phi Beta Kappa any place. This is a

better record than the inimitable Knute Rockne established in football at Notre Dame, droll Casey Stengel has compiled in baseball with the New York Yankees, impulsive Johnny Kundla and his Lakers have made in basketball in Minneapolis, or garrulous Al Ulbrickson and his world-famous rowing teams had at the University of Washington.

It is the kind of a record coaches dream about but seldom attain. It is the enviable record James Emmerich, as chief mentor of the thin-clad legions at South Dakota State College, lists on the first line of his credential sheet. To make this fabulous record of seven conference track championships in nine years even more fantastic is the fact that Emmerich's enthusiastic Jackrabbits missed a perfect record of nine for nine by a total of one point. Iowa State Teachers was the half-point spoiler in both instances, once in 1949 and the other time in 1951.

To fill the victory cup to overflowing in their own section of the country was not enough for Emmerich and his doughty band of athletes. They added the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Track and Field Championships to their superior performances in 1953.

The achievements of the track squads at State under Jim Emmerich's leadership are as fantastic as the exploits of the heroes in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*; except that the exploits of Emmerich's heroes are real.

This brochure is published as a salute to State College's mighty men of the cinder path and their enthusiastic and capable coach who have brought honor and glory to their Alma Mater and caused this co-educational college with an enrollment of 2100 to be given the moniker "The Track Capital of the Prairies."

Prairie
Striders

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1955

James C. Emmerich

#912898148

James C. Emmerich, the only alumnus on the coaching staff of South Dakota State College, graduated with honors and a bachelor of science degree in 1940. His path to success and glory as an athletic coach has not been an easy one. The cognomen "Miracle Man Jim" has been won the hard way. He has had unbounded faith in his chosen profession of track and field coaching and has believed winning track and field teams can be developed in a Northern state with long, cold winters, generally not considered conducive to the development of track and field athletes.

Young men who have pored over the stories of conquest and success of the heroes in the Horatio Alger series will find a success story in Jim Emmerich's life that surpasses the best that Alger has dreamed about and fictionized in books.

Jim was born in New Ulm, Minnesota. His father was a plumber with a modest income which required careful budgeting to make ends meet and support a large, growing family. Jim learned the meaning of hard work early in life. At the age of nine he was helping his father in the plumbing business. At the age of twelve he was a janitor in a bank. At the same time he was a bank janitor, he worked as a pin setter in a bowling alley. He held both of these jobs until he finished high school. With the part-time work money he earned, Jim bought his own clothes, provided his own spending money, and helped with the support of the family. In between times he attended high school, where he was a superior student and excelled as an athlete in football, basketball, and track.

Upon completing high school in 1929, Jim found that limited family finances offered only one future to him; that was work and lots of it to help support the family and educate the younger members. He took a job working in a laundry and played independent basketball for recreation.

After an interval of seven years, Jim had forgotten about college for himself. Statisticians of twenty years ago had determined that young men who had been away from the classroom for seven years had only one chance in ten thousand of ever returning to school and less than one chance in five thousand of succeeding as students if they did return. At that time Alfred Arndt, another New Ulm athletic great, was line coach in football at State and persuaded his old friend Jim to enter college. Jim had been so busy wrestling laundry and assisting with the support of his family that he had not read the mortality statistics on late college matriculation or he probably would never have enrolled.

He had no money and had to make his way by waiting table in a cafe, clerking in a grocery store, driving a bakery wagon, working on a paving crew and doing odd jobs around the gymnasium. He graduated with a major in agricultural economics and a minor in physical education with his

class in 1940 and had the special citation "with honor" on his diploma. During his leisure time he played a regular tackle position on the football team three years and was named to the mythical "All-Conference" and Little-All American" teams in 1939. He was a weight man on the track and field contingent. In addition he sandwiched in time for membership on every worthwhile scholarship fraternity on the campus and taught part-time in the School of Agriculture.

After graduation in 1940, Emmerich became a member of the State College coaching staff and was on the regular faculty of the School of Agriculture. The impending World War made conditions extremely unstable in athletics. Coaches and athletes were leaving every day to join some branch of the armed forces. Jim suddenly discovered in 1941 he was the only coach left on the campus.

This condition was short lived. Jim himself was called into service in July 1942 and served until January 1946 as a non-commissioned officer in charge of physical reconditioning.

Upon his return to State he was appointed head track coach, handled the "B" football squad, and was general athletic trainer. There was no track competition in 1946, which made Jim wait a full year to establish the Jack-rabbits as a group to reckon with in track or field competition.

What manner of man is this fellow, Emmerich, who has made track officials at the Kansas, Drake, and Illinois Tech relays, the Colorado Indoor Track Meet, and Milwaukee Collegiate Conference Meet, and scores of other national meets furrow their brows and ask the same question, "How can a group of athletes from a small school like South Dakota State consistently score points in the most important track meets of the nation?"

No one has been able to give the full answer. Some intimate glimpses of training activities for track and field at State may help with the answers. First, State track athletes train. Second, the boys on the squad train every day in the year. A seven o'clock ride to the north of Brookings any morning, regardless of weather, will find the track squad jogging the golf course in sweat clothes. Emmerich thinks there is more truth than fiction to the story that farm boys become good track athletes by chasing home the cows. Third, Emmerich makes his men believe in themselves and has instilled in each of them the idea that he won't be beaten. Fourth, he has taught the boys to believe in each other. The "esprit de corps" of his squad is remarkable. Fifth, and perhaps the most important, the men believe in Emmerich and the things he tells them to do.

Jim is a good-looking two hundred pounder, pleasant and soft spoken. His ordinary attire is a pair of slacks with either a short-sleeved T or sport shirt. He is unmarried and loves boys. His automobile is often filled with youngsters of assorted sizes and ages, who look forward to a ride and visit with gentleman Jim as an extra-special event. He looks after his athletes with a closer concern for their welfare than many fathers have for their own sons. None of Jim's boys ever go hungry or are in financial distress. No one has ever known what his handouts amount to in a year.

Jim Beats The Nation

Not satisfied with first honor and glory in his own class and conference, Emmerich had the wild delusion in 1953 that his champions of the great plains were good enough to challenge the rest of the United States in National competition at the NAIA meet in Abilene, Texas. Jim's most ardent followers were sure success had gone to his head. No one except the coach and State's ever-loyal alumnus, Charlie Coughlin, president of Briggs and Stratton Company of Milwaukee, thought such a trip was anything but a wild adventure and a long ride. Coughlin, a great athlete and able leader in his college days, had enough faith to hand Emmerich a travel check with orders to move. Emmerich loaded his five best performers into a single automobile and started on the 1000 mile trek to the South, while faculty and students looked down their noses and gossiped in the corridors of the college halls about such a wild goose chase.

After the coach and his motley group of wind-blown athletes arrived in the Texas city, the meet authorities fumbled through piles of college directories, attempting first, to learn if South Dakota State was a college and second, if it was really in the United States. After the National Committee on Credentials was fully convinced on both questions, the quintet that represented itself as a track and field team was allowed to retire so that it might have one full night of sleep before competition.

As the number one track and field meet of the nation got underway, the spectators and other college athletes began to arch their eyebrows and ask: Where is South Dakota; Who are the Jackrabbits; What does Yellow and Blue mean? And they might well have been curious and inquisitive. Midway in the meet, the boys from State were leading the entire nation in total points. When the meet was over, it was the same story, South Dakota State was the national track and field champion with a total of 48 points.

National meet officials no longer look through their "blue books" to see where State College ranks in track. They don't have to study their geographies to know where the Jackrabbits are located. They have learned both lessons the hard way. Today they salute State track and field athletes with admiration and wholesome fear, realizing that every time the college from the North enters a track meet in any section of the country there will be good, clean competition and a constant threat that they may carry off first honors.

National Champions

National Association Intercollegiate Athletics

Abilene, Texas

1953

Team Points and Places

1st	South Dakota State College	48
2nd	Abilene Christian College	42
3rd	San Diego State	40
4th	Texas Southern University	27

State College Point Winners

400 meters hurdles	John Popowski	5th
2 miles run	Russell Nash	3rd
Shot Put	Palmer Retzlaff	1st
Discus	Palmer Retzlaff	1st
Mile run	Russell Nash	1st
	Jack Pearson	2nd
	Arlin Patrick	5th



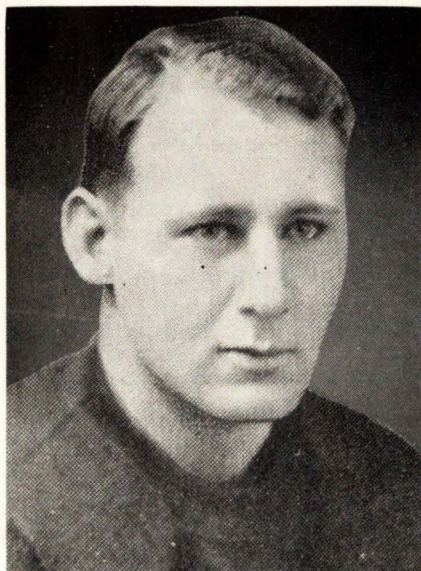
1947
North Central
 Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
 Brookings, South Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	46½
2. Iowa State Teachers College	34½
3. Augustana College	33⅔
4. South Dakota State University	24
5. North Dakota State	13½
6. North Dakota University	2

**South Dakota State College
 First Place Winners**

Mile—Harold Lynn
 High Hurdles—Richard Knox
 Low Hurdles—Richard Knox
 Pole Vault—Arthur Jansen



Wert Engleman

State College Record

120 yards high hurdles :15 1930

North Central Record

120 yards high hurdles :15 1930

1948
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	56
2. Iowa State Teachers College	48
3. South Dakota University	30½
4. Augustana College	7
5. North Dakota Agricultural College	6½
6. Morningside	5
7. North Dakota University	1

**South Dakota State College
First Place Winners**

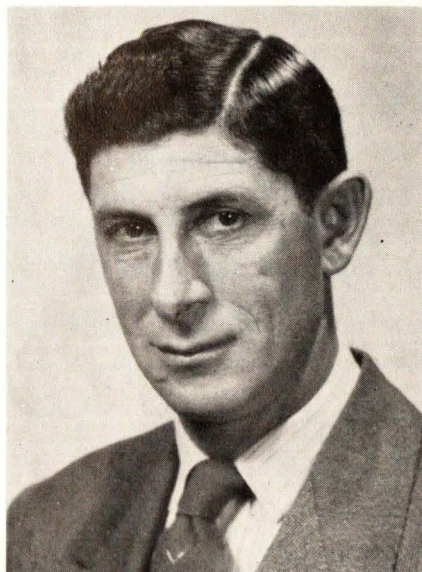
Mile—Harold Lynn
440 Yard Dash—Elden Kellar
Broad Jump—Eugene Cheever
Discus—Del Schapekahm

Mile Relay—August Bertran
Elden Kellar
Maurice McLinn
Francis Horacek

James O'Connell

State College Record

High Jump 6'2½" 1934



1949
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. Iowa State Teachers College	64
2. South Dakota State College	63½
3. South Dakota University	31
4. Augustana College	30
5. North Dakota University	24
6. North Dakota Agricultural College	10½
7. Morningside College	2

South Dakota State College

First Place Winners

Mile—Donald Wyman

440 Yards Dash—Elden Kellar

100 Yards Dash—Joseph Ausan

220 Yards Dash—Joseph Ausan

Two-Miles Run—Donald Wyman

Pole Vault—Albert Ramey

John Billington

State College Record

Javelin 181'4" 1941



1950
North Central
 Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
 Brookings, South Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	94
2. Iowa State Teachers College	85
3. South Dakota University	33
4. Augustana College	5
5. North Dakota University	5

South Dakota State College
 First Place Winners

High Jump—Stanley Marshall	Discus—Del Schapekahm
Mile Run—Thomas Neuberger	Shot Put—Del Schapekahm
440 Yards Dash—Elden Kellar	Broad Jump—Kenneth Linstrom
100 Yards Dash—Eugene Cheever	
220 Yards Low Hurdles—Kenneth Linstrom	



Larry Walsh

State College Record
 440 yards dash :49.6 1951

1951
North Central
 Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
 IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
 Cedar Falls, Iowa

Team Points and Places

1. Iowa State Teachers College	68
2. South Dakota State College	67½
3. South Dakota University	61
4. North Dakota University	11½
5. North Dakota Agricultural College	9½
6. Augustana College	4½
7. Morningside College	3

**South Dakota State College
 First Place Winners**

Mile Run—Frank McBride

Broad Jump—William Bain

Kenneth Linstrom

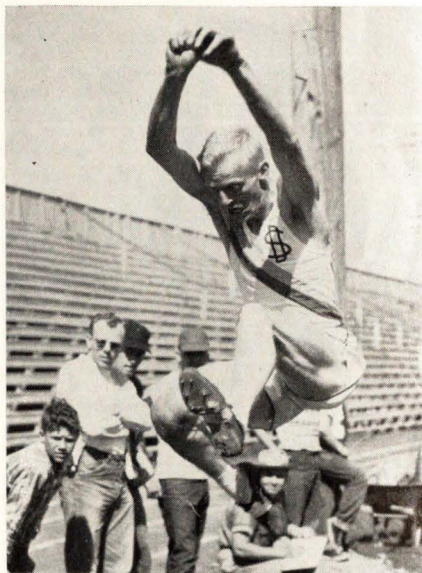
State College Record

220 yards low hurdles :24.4 1950
 (straight away)

Broad jump 23'5½" 1950

North Central Record

Broad jump 23'5" 1950



1952
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	91½
2. Iowa State Teachers College	39½
3. South Dakota University	36½
4. North Dakota University	28½
5. North Dakota Agricultural College	25
6. Morningside College	2½
7. Augustana College	1½

South Dakota State College
First Place Winners

Mile Run—Frank McBride	880 Yards Run—Thomas Neuberger
Shot Put—Palmer Retzlaff	Two-Miles Run—Frank McBride
Discus—Palmer Retzlaff	120 Yards High Hurdles—Kenneth Linstrom
Broad Jump—William Bain	220 Yards Low Hurdles—Kenneth Linstrom



Tom Neuberger

State College Record

880 yards run 1:54.3 1952

North Central Record

880 yards run 1:54.3 1952

1953
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	183½
2. Iowa State Teachers College	128½
3. South Dakota University	51½
4. North Dakota University	50
5. North Dakota Agricultural College	29½
6. Augustana College	14
7. Morningside College	8

South Dakota State College
First Place Winners

Mile Run—Jack Pearson

Shot Put—Palmer Retzlaff

Discus—Palmer Retzlaff

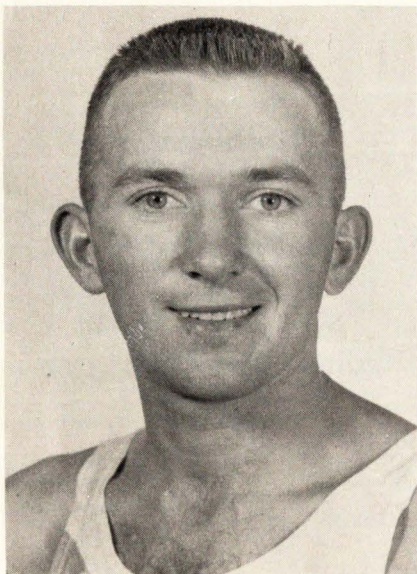
High Jump—Palmer Retzlaff

Two-Miles Run—Jack Pearson

Pole Vault—Donald Nehowig (tie)

120 Yards High Hurdles—John Popowski

220 Yards Low Hurdles—John Popowski



Frank McBride

State College Record

Mile run 4:13.5 1952

Two miles run 9:34 1952

North Central Record

Mile run 4:18.5 1952

Two miles run 9:40.9 1952

1954
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE
 Sioux City, Iowa

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	90
2. Iowa State Teachers College	45
3. South Dakota University	42½
4. North Dakota Agricultural College	15½
5. Morningside College	12½
6. Augustana College	9½
7. North Dakota University	9

South Dakota State College
First Place Winners

880 Yards Run—Russell Nash	Mile Relay—Vermayne Bertram
Mile Run—Jack Pearson	Donald McCaskell
120 Yards High Hurdles—John Popowski	Russell Nash
Broad Jump—Robert Dannenbring	Jack Pearson

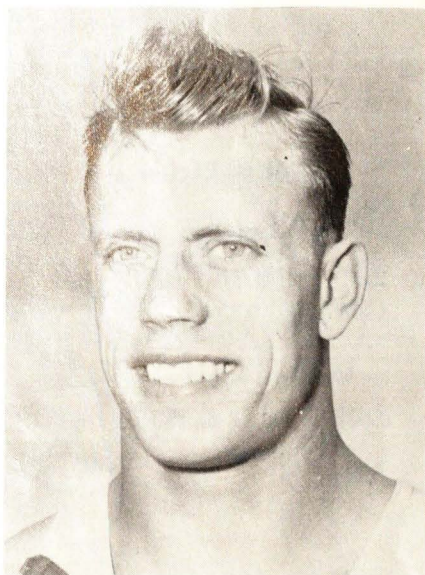
Palmer Retzlaff

State College Record

Shot Put 51'2" 1953
 Discus 164'11¼" 1953

North Central Record

Shos Put 50' 1953
 Discus 162'6½" 1953



1955
North Central
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet
NORTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
Fargo, North Dakota

Team Points and Places

1. South Dakota State College	95½
2. Iowa State Teachers College	46
3. North Dakota University	37
4. South Dakota University	24½
5. North Dakota Agricultural College	13½
6. Morningside College	6½
7. Augustana College	2¾

South Dakota State College
First Place Winners

Pole Vault—Duane Rykhus
 880 Yards Run—Jack Pearson
 Mile Run—Jack Pearson

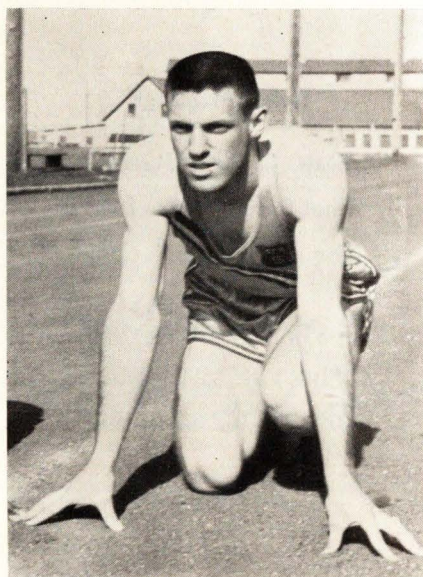
Broad Jump—Robert Dannenbring
 440 Yards Dash—Donald McCaskell
 Two-Miles Run—David Peterson

100 Yards Dash—William McDonald

Allan Pfeifle

State College Record

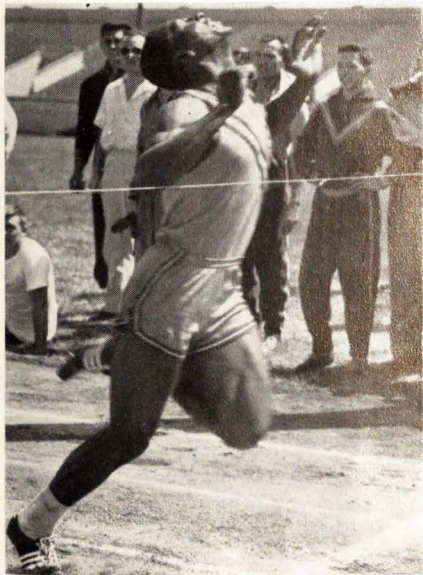
220 yards dash :21.6 1954
 (straight away)



North Central Conference

TRACK AND FIELD RECORDS

- *100 yard dash—:09.6 by William McDonald of South Dakota State in 1955.
- *Mile run—4:18.5 by Frank McBride of South Dakota State in 1952.
- 440 yard dash—:49.4 by Donald Lange of Iowa State Teachers in 1954.
- *120 yard high hurdles—:15.0 by Wert Englemann of South Dakota State in 1930.
- *880 yard run—1:54.3 by Tom Neuberger of South Dakota State in 1952.
- 220 yard dash—:21.1 by Delbert Moore of North Dakota State in 1954.
- *Broad jump—23 ft. 5 in. by Kenneth Linstrom of South Dakota State in 1950.
- *Two-miles run—9:40.9 by Frank McBride of South Dakota State in 1952.
- 220 yard low hurdles—:24 by Arthur Van Wyngarden of Morningside in 1932 and Jack Mayer of Iowa State Teachers in 1941.
- Javelin—200 ft. 11 in. by Westgate of North Dakota State in 1936.
- Mile relay—3:24.6 by North Dakota University (Ryan, Miller, Lempe, Jones) in 1955.
- Pole Vault—13 ft. 6¼ in. by James Lundquist of Iowa Teachers in 1954.
- High jump—6 ft. 4½ in. by Jim Tays of South Dakota U. in 1954.
- *Discus—162 ft. 6½ in. by Palmer Retzlaff of South Dakota State in 1953.
- *Shot put—50 ft. 0 in. by Palmer Retzlaff of South Dakota State in 1953.
- * Records held by South Dakota State College



William McDonald

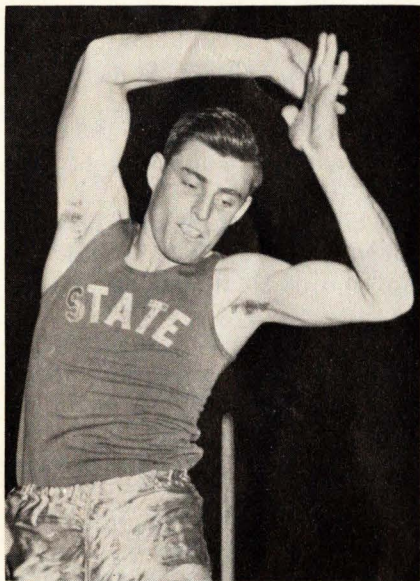
State College Record

100 yards dash :09.6 1955
220 yards dash :21.8 1955
(turn)

North Central Record

100 yards dash :09.6 1955

Two More Record Holders



Duane Rykhus

State College Record
Pole Vault 12'9" 1955

Clifford Pickering

State College Record
220 yards low hurdles :25 1955
(turn)



Relay Records

Held by South Dakota State College

West River Relays—Rapid City

*Mile Run	4:33.4	Jack Pearson	1955
*440 Relay	:44	Bruce Knudson, Tom Broadhurst Don McCaskell, Bob Dannenbring	1955
*880 Relay	1:31.9	Bruce Knudson, Tom Broadhurst Don McCaskell, Bob Dannenbring	1955
*Mile Relay	3:28.1	Jack Pearson, Dave Peterson Arlin Patrick, Don McCaskell	1955
*Sprint Medley Relay	3:37.9	Jack Pearson, Cliff Pickering Dick Peiper, Arlin Patrick	1955
*Pole Vault	12'6"	Duane Rykhus	1955
*Shot Put	44'8¼"	Charles Sorsen	1955

Corn Palace Relays—Mitchell

*Shot Put	49'7"	Palmer Retzlaff	1953
*Discus	155'11½"	Palmer Retzlaff	1953
*Mile Run	4:30	Jack Pearson	1953
*Mile Relay	3:28.5	Vermayne Bertram, Don McCaskell Russel Nash, Jack Pearson	1954

Aberdeen Relays—Aberdeen

*Sprint Medley Relay	3:34.9	Don McCaskell, Bill McDonald Bruce Knudson, Jack Pearson	1955
*Discus	156'1½"	Del Schapekahm	1949
*440 Relay	:43.3	Bill McDonald, Jack Pearson Bob Dannenbring, Bruce Knudson	1955
*Mile Run	4:22.2	Russel Nash	1954
*880 Relay	1:29.9	Bill McDonald, Bob Dannenbring Don McCaskell, Bruce Knudson	1955
*Mile Relay	3:24	Arlin Patrick, Bob Dannenbring Don McCaskell, Jack Pearson	1955
*Shot Put	48'9¼"	Palmer Retzlaff	1952

Sioux City Relays—Sioux City

*2 mile Relay	7:54.5	Paul Bergman, Russ Nash Frank McBride, Tom Neuberger	1952
*Mile Run	4:28	Tom Neuberger	1951
*Shot Put	49'9½"	Palmer Retzlaff	1953

Dakota Relays—Sioux Falls

*Sprint Medley Relay	3:33.7	Paul Bergman, Reed Chester Allan Pfeifle, Tom Neuberger	1952
*Mile Run	4:19.4	Frank McBride	1952
*Shot Put	49'11"	Palmer Retzlaff	1953