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A HISTORY OF MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD AT  
WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY - LA CROSSE

by

HECTOR N. FISCHER

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to convey to the reader a history of men's track and field at La Crosse. The most notable reason for this study is to observe the strides forward that were made by La Crosse track teams and track athletes. A significant part of the study was the reasons for the established records and performances over the years.

The history is composed of three distinct periods. The first, spanned the years from the inception of track in 1911 to 1926, when it appeared to be at its lowest level. The second, begins with 1927 and follows the progress of track to 1942, when it was interrupted due to World War II. The final segment of the paper deals with the modern period of track and field at La Crosse, which began with its reinception in 1946 to the track season of 1967.

The paper attempted to delve into the periods and uncover reasons for improvement of the trackmen at La Crosse. Outstanding athletes were mentioned for their performances. Team and individual records were brought out whenever possible.

A chronological narrative approach was used in the study with pertinent incidents mentioned whenever they were appropriate.

A HISTORY OF MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
AT WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
AT LA CROSSE

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A Seminar Paper Presented To  
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Master of Science in Physical Education

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by  
Hector N. Fischer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Track and field, as a sport, has spanned the centuries. Since time began men have been running, jumping, vaulting, and throwing weights of some sort for self preservation. As time passed, these facets of work became athletic events and athletes today participate in vast stadia for medals and trophies as opposed to the sustenance seeking Neanderthal. It is important for people of today and of the future to be able to look at documents which span the history of track and field, for this is a significant part of the history of man.

It is important that a history of men's track and field at La Crosse be written at this time. Without a written account, much of the interesting information gained from interviews might be lost. There are people on or near campus today who have seen track and field grow from its incipency to the present. Soon these people may not be here and this first hand information would be lost. The researcher believes it is important for a history to be recorded, in order that people in the future may observe what has transpired over the years.

#### Purpose of the Problem

The purpose of this paper is to convey to the reader a history of men's track and field at La Crosse. The purpose of the problem is not to predict what is going to happen in the

future, but it might give an insight as to what would occur if rule changes were made or if the track or field equipment was improved.

The most notable reason for this study is to observe the strides forward that were made by La Crosse track teams and track athletes. Hand in hand with this goes the reasons for the strides forward and amelioration over the years. A significant part of the study was the reasons for the milestones, the success of La Crosse track teams and the records of its athletes, that make up the history.

#### Statement of the Problem

The intent of this study is to trace the history of men's track and field from its beginning to the year 1967. The study will not only attempt to reveal what has taken place, but also the cause of the occurrence.

#### Need for the Study

The long and illustrious history of track and field was recorded for posterity. The need for a history was immediate because of the vastness of sources that were available. The contribution of the study was the compiling of the history and the value will be derived from people referring to it.

#### Delimitations and Limitations

The paper envelops the sport of men's track and field at Wisconsin State University, La Crosse, from its conception to

1926, when it appeared to be at its lowest level. The paper picks up the history again in 1927 and follows the progress of track to 1942, when it was interrupted, due to World War II. The final segment of the paper deals with the modern period of track and field at La Crosse, which began with its reconception in 1946, to the present, the track season of 1967.

The limitations of the paper are slight although the records kept in the very early days were scant. The most difficult period to research was the first period because of inavailability of newspaper coverage. Records were not kept up to date throughout the fifty-seven years of the study and as a result discrepancies arose during the collection of information. Due to a lack of time and previous commitments of the researcher, the depth of information of the study was not as great as it could have been if these barriers had not been present. Biases and memory lapses could have influenced the personal interviews. It was impossible to get the records of every year as they were not always carried in the school newspaper, annuals, or the La Crosse Tribune.

#### Definition of Terms

Wisconsin State University at La Crosse - This institution was previously known as Wisconsin State College, La Crosse State Teacher's College, and the La Crosse Normal School. Throughout the paper, for the sake of brevity, the author will refer to the University as La Crosse.

Weights - This term is used to denote the three weight events and the objects used in the events. The three are the shot put, the discus, and the javelin.

Stad - A stad was one length of the Grecian Olympic stadium at Olympia. Our word stadium was derived from stad.

### Historical Significance

Since this paper is concerned with the track history at La Crosse, it was thought that a brief history of the sport should be included. In the following paragraphs the beginning of the Olympics, the modern rebirth of the Olympics, and modern track and field today will be discussed.

On a summer afternoon in the year 776 B.C., 45,000 Greeks rose and applauded as a naked runner sprinted ahead of his rivals and led them to the finish line. This was the first record of such an event in history and the first definite date of any event in all Greek history. The winner in the event in the grassy stadium in Olympia was a cook from Elis named Coroebus. The event he had won was of a distance of approximately 200 yards, one stad. This event also marked the first record of a track or field event. The Games, and thus, track and field, probably had been in existence for several years before, but no record of them had been kept.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>John Durant, Highlights of the Olympics (New York: Hasting House Publishers, 1961), p. 7.

The Olympics were one of the most important happenings in Greek history, and they continued every four years for nearly 1200 years without a single interruption. The numerous city-states of Greece were constantly at war with one another, but during the month of the Olympic Festival, fighting was halted and even the trade between cities was suspended so the entire country could pay tribute to each of the outstanding athletes. In 480 B.C., the day of the Battle of Thermopylae between the Greeks and invading Persians, a day in which the fate of the nation was hanging in the balance, thousands of sports fans sat in the stadium at Olympia and watched the finals of the boxing tournament.<sup>2</sup>

Since ancient wars were mostly hand to hand combat, it was vastly important that the young men of Greece keep themselves in good physical condition. The development of physical strength and skill was the purpose of the Olympic Games and the other track and field events, for an athlete never knew when he might be called upon to defend his homeland. The Olympic Champion was more highly exonerated than the victorious general returning from winning a great battle. This was exemplified by Homer in the Odyssey, when he wrote, "There is no greater glory for a man as long as he lives than that which he wins by his own hands and feet."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

The ancient Greeks have contributed tremendously to track and field as we think of it today. Almost all of today's events can be traced to the Grecian Olympics. A few of these are the sprint for which Coroebus is famous, the two stad (down to the end of the stadium and back), the twelve stad endurance race, the pentathlon (five events), upright wrestling, the no-holds-barred pancratician, and distance running.<sup>4</sup> Today's twenty-six mile marathon was first run by Pheidippides to proclaim to the citizens of Athens the Greek victory over the Persians on the plain of Marathon. After gasping out the good news, Pheidippides dropped exhausted to the ground and died. The modern marathon is a commemorative event in honor of the feat of the Athenian soldier and athlete.<sup>5</sup>

After almost 1200 years, the Olympics were finally halted by Emperor Theodosius I of Rome in 394 A.D. In the later years, with the tarnishing of the Golden Age of Greece and the rise of the Roman Empire, the Games became little more than a farce. In the ensuing years the Olympic temples were pillaged by barbarians, the old boundary walls were razed, earthquakes demolished what was left, and the Alpheus River rose to cover the historic edifice.<sup>6</sup> This ended the Olympic Games, or so it seemed.

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>John Kieran and Arthur Daley, The Story of the Olympic Games (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1965), p. 18.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 17.

Late in the nineteenth century a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, attempted to promote international amity by international rivalry in sports. Baron de Coubertin felt that the athletic meetings would produce worthwhile educational benefits. In 1896, the first modern Olympic Games were held in the original homeland of the Olympics, Athens, Greece. The organization was quite loose and only about eight countries participated, but the Olympics were back to stay.<sup>7</sup>

Some of the times, distances, and heights established in the first modern Olympics were quite interesting. For instance, the 100 meters was won in twelve seconds, the pole vault was ten feet, nine and three-quarter inches, shot put, thirty-six feet and two inches, and the metric mile (1500 meters) was won in four minutes, thirty-three and two-tenths seconds.<sup>8</sup> None of these performances could compare with the times and distances of La Crosse athletes of 1967.

Every four years since 1896, save 1916, 1940, and 1944, the Olympic Games have been held in cities throughout the world. The world of the twentieth century was not as civilized as the Greek world as we did not call off wars to hold the Olympic Games. In 1906, which was not a true Olympiad year, the Games were again held in Athens and this is the only time they have been held out of the normal sequence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 19.    <sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 20.    <sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 51.

Many other sports have been added since the Olympic re-conception, but a great deal of emphasis is still placed on the subject of this paper, track and field. This year produces another Olympiad and United States athletes will be carrying our colors in Mexico City. Possibly sometime in the future a La Crosse athlete will be able to participate in the Olympic Games.

Today all facets of track and field have improved on the national and international level. In the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, it is doubtless that a number of the current world records will fall. The records of the first modern Olympic Games were mentioned heretofore; now let's compare them with some of the records of today. The present world record for the 100 meters is ten seconds flat by Bob Hayes.<sup>10</sup> The metric mile record was set last summer by Kansas University's Jim Ryun at 3:33.1,<sup>11</sup> and this is five seconds lower than the winning time for this distance in the 1964 Olympics. Due to the improvement of the fiberglass pole and the technique used with it, the pole vault is now seventeen feet, eight inches<sup>12</sup> and it is quite conceivable that the once impossible seventeen foot barrier will give way to a conquered eighteen foot record. The shot put record today is over seventy feet. This is a remarkable increase over the winning

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<sup>10</sup>Tbid., p. 364.

<sup>11</sup>"The Rivals," Sport, October, 1967, p. 50.

<sup>12</sup>Tbid.

put of thirty-six feet in the Olympics of 1896 at Athens.<sup>13</sup> It is quite possible that in 1968 in Mexico City the winning toss in the shot put may more than double the distance of the winning put at Athens.

#### Procedure

This paper was written with the help of numerous and varied sources (refer to Appendix A). A principal source of primary information was the interviews conducted with faculty and ex-faculty members, present and former coaches, past participants, and citizens of the city of La Crosse. The interviewing instrument is available for examination in Appendix B.

A good deal of information was gathered from repeated references to yearbooks that span the University's history. The school newspaper and the local La Crosse Tribune were used to supplement the information gathered from the interviews. The prime source of information in the modern era of track and field at La Crosse was gathered by reviewing the records filed each year since 1947 in the school's athletic office.

Similar historical studies written at La Crosse in recent years have served as a guide from which ideas for the formation

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<sup>13</sup>Kieran and Daley, op. cit., p. 20.

of this paper were developed. Mason,<sup>14</sup> Kime,<sup>15</sup> and Marshall<sup>16</sup> designed their papers in a number of specific, chronological periods. Mettlach<sup>17</sup> and Mason<sup>18</sup> used commercial newspapers for their studies. Marshall<sup>19</sup> and Kime<sup>20</sup> used the school year-books quite extensively.

The body of the paper was broken into three periods. This was felt to be logical as track was suspended partially for a period and totally for another period since its inception. The paper will begin covering track as a sport at La Crosse in 1911. This year seems to be the first year of real competition, although there may have been some informal running before. The first chapter in the body of the paper covers what is referred to as the Early History and includes the years from 1911 to 1926. The second chapter begins with 1927, which followed three years of low interest and lack of participation in the Inter-normal

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<sup>14</sup>David E. Mason, A Brief History of Boys Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics at Kimberly High School, Seminar Paper, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup>Robert Kime, The Development of Baseball as a Major Sport at Wisconsin State College, La Crosse, Seminar Paper, 1957, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup>Tom Marshall, The Development of Football at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse, Seminar Paper, 1967, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup>Richard J. Mettlach, A History of High School Interscholastic Athletics at Crystal Falls, Michigan, Seminar Paper, 1961, p. 2.

<sup>18</sup>Mason, op. cit., p. 4.

<sup>19</sup>Marshall, loc. cit.

<sup>20</sup>Kime, loc. cit.

Meet two of the years. This part of the paper is referred to as the Boom, Bust, and War Years and ends when track was suspended as an intercollegiate sport because of World War II in 1942. The final period, is referred to as the Modern Era and encompasses the years from 1946 to the track season of 1967. These are the three eras of track and field at La Crosse.

During each of the three periods very important things were taking place to improve the performances of the individuals and the teams. This paper has attempted to delve into the periods and uncover the reasons for the improvement of the trackmen at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse. In attempting to uncover the previously mentioned reasons, a close look was given to the success of track teams at La Crosse over the years. It was felt, by this researcher, that the physical facilities could have played an important part in the improvement of the times, distances, and heights in their respective events. Also, it was hypothesized that the equipment, such as the hurdles, standards, weights, and pole in the pole vault, have altered performances greatly. The athletes of each era are noted and discussed, for they are the real story of this paper. Lastly, any rule changes that could have contributed to the improvement or adversely affected the performances of the athletes are discussed. These were the main elements covered in each of the periods and each of these areas were examined quite closely in order to better understand what has taken place in track and field at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse.

## CHAPTER II

### EARLY HISTORY

On Saturday, May 6, 1911, six athletes represented the La Crosse Normal School in its first track meet. The triangular meet with La Crosse High School and athletes representing the YMCA was entered upon with no practice and very little conditioning, for the group of men had nowhere to practice. It seems that ten men constituted the original group, but only the six participated in the lone meet of 1911.<sup>21</sup> The Normal School had no place to practice and no one to coach the first team. The day before the meet was spent diligently conditioning; they played a ball game. The Normal School placed second to powerful La Crosse High and beat out the YMCA, which was completely outmanned in the meet. It seems that a man could participate in as many events as his physical limits would allow him and it was not unusual for a man to work in four or five events. In the first meet, Lee Griffin won the 100 and 220 yard dashes, placed second in the broad jump, and third in the high jump. Emil Krause won the high jump at an astronomical five feet, five and one-half inches. Krause used the scissors form in the high jump, as did all jumpers of the time and Griffin did not walk-in-air in the broad jump.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, Spring, 1911.

<sup>22</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1911, p. 113.

Thus began and ended the first year of track and field at the La Crosse Normal School. It was not a very auspicious beginning, but there was a hint of what the future had in store for La Crosse track.

Nineteen-twelve was the real beginning of track and field as a sport at the Normal School. Twelve men represented La Crosse in the Annual City Meet with the high school and the YMCA. The team again finished second and a new school record was set in every event, save the high jump, where Krause's leap held up.<sup>23</sup>

Two reasons seem quite apparent for the improvement in the athlete's performances. Mr. Joel R. Moore was named first track coach at La Crosse in 1912. Mr. Moore was very interested in physical conditioning. The second cause for the improvement could very well have been the new track facilities that were available in the center of the fair grounds, inside the half-mile track. This track and its field event facilities were considered the best in the area.<sup>24</sup>

The attire of the athletes was not so much different from today. The track shoes had spikes on the sole of the foot and were black, and the field shoes had two spikes on the heel to afford better traction, especially in the dirt discus and shot put circles. Flats (shoes with no spikes) were not used, for there were no concrete or asphalt surfaces to use them on. The

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<sup>23</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1912, p. 97.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

running shorts were more like today's walking shorts and the jerseys were not cut quite as brief.<sup>25</sup>

During the next few years very little interest was shown towards track. There was very limited participation and even smaller coverage of the sport in the annual and school newspaper. Captain M.G. Byers wrote an article in the 1913 Racquet Yearbook attempting to get more support and participation for track and field. He explained that from the area that La Crosse attracted students, few of the high schools had track teams. All of these schools had baseball teams and many of the students at La Crosse were ignorant of their ability in track and field. No encouragement or financial support was given by the school and because of this it was impossible to schedule attractive meets. Unlike the other sports, track had a hard time drawing participants because it had few meets involving a large number of teams and personal recognition for outstanding performance was slight. Track was not, in 1913, a major athletic activity. This was to change as new emphasis was placed on track in education, the new track to work on when a new track became a reality and when the annual Inter-normal School Track Meet was instituted.<sup>26</sup>

On May 30, 1914, to foster the interest in track of the high schools in the Coulee Region, the Normal School held a track

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<sup>25</sup>Personal Interview with Mr. Hans Reuter, La Crosse, February 22, 1968.

<sup>26</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1913, p. 111.

meet for them. A loving cup was given to the team champion, La Crosse High School, and a banner was awarded to the winning relay team. This event was held annually.<sup>27</sup>

To improve participation in the Normal School the inter-class track meet was begun. In May, 1914, a banner was awarded the winning team and a prize of "some worth" was given to the winning relay team by the girls' organization and the Sapphorian Society.<sup>28</sup> No record of proof is available, but it could be theorized that the guiding influence behind the promotion of track and field was Dr. C.B. Sputh, who began coaching track in 1914.

By 1916 the La Crosse Normal School Track Team won the Inter-normal Track Meet. Ten La Crosse men, in their new uniforms, scored more points individually than the entire River Falls and Whitewater teams, and the "cocky" Stevens Point relay team was left 100 yards in the rear of La Crosse's. Harry Graunsick, Ed Braun, and Captain Harold Taylor were the stars of the first State Champion Track Teams.<sup>29</sup>

In 1918, under new Coach Raymond "Tubby" Keeler, only ten or twelve men turned out at the beginning of the season. The first meet was against the Dubuque Germans. A plea went out, "more men will help beat the Germans. The very principle of the

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<sup>27</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 16, 1914.

<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1917, p. 110.

matter should bring more men out. Think of it--we are up against the Germans."<sup>30</sup> La Crosse won the 1918 Conference Meet, led by Captain McCormick and Louie Kulcinski. McCormick won the high jump, pole vault, and javelin, and was second in the discus and shot put. Kulcinski won the high and low hurdles.<sup>31</sup>

Spring of 1919 brought poor weather and talk of the third state championship of the year. The school had already won the football and basketball crowns and if the "Cinder Demons" could have come up with a win it would have been an unprecedented feat.<sup>32</sup> La Crosse had no meets, except the interclass meet, before the state meet, which was scheduled for May 30, but postponed until June 7, due to Memorial Day. La Crosse athletes did a fine job, but it was only good enough for second place, two points behind Milwaukee.<sup>33</sup>

The hammer throw and the two mile run were officially added to the list of events in 1921 and the relay distance was changed from one mile to one-half mile. Captain Heby Reget shattered all existing state records in the high jump by going six feet. In the state meet, La Crosse again finished second behind Milwaukee. The diminutive "Happy" Fields won the two mile

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<sup>30</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 16, 1918.

<sup>31</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, June 14, 1918.

<sup>32</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 29, 1919.

<sup>33</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1920, p. 85.

and set the record of ten minutes, twenty-five and one-half seconds.<sup>34</sup>

"Tubby" Keeler was the football coach as well as the track coach and when spring football practice was allowed the track season did not begin until football practice had been completed. This seemed to cause a lack of interest in track and the team seemed not to have the participation or dedication it had in the late teens. Bad weather bothered the team on numerous occasions and in a meet with Winona the javelin and relay were omitted because of the rain.<sup>35</sup>

The school joined a new athletic conference in 1923 and had two big meets, one with the old conference in Madison and the other with the new one at DePaul University. The new conference participation did not enhance the interest in track and it hit an all time low at the Normal School.<sup>36</sup>

The 1925 team finished fifth in the state meet. In 1925, however, the "Great Dane", Ole Jorgenson, this researcher's high school basketball coach, set a new school high jump record at six feet, three-quarters inch, and won the high hurdles, pole vault, javelin, and high jump in a dual meet with Winona.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1922, p. 71.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1923, p. 99.

<sup>37</sup>La Crosse Normal School Newspaper, The Racquet, June 11, 1925.

The early years of track and field at La Crosse were quite successful, save the mediocrity of the last three years of the period. The new track was available for the second track season. The track was a four lane cinder track without a 220 yard straight-away. The track team did not work out indoors formally and when they did, they just jogged upstairs in Wittich Hall. These early teams did use a leather covered indoor shot to practice with.<sup>38</sup>

The equipment of the early era was little different than today, although most of it was not quite so refined. Three watches were used in most meets, but only the winner would be timed. The poles for the pole vault were mostly bamboo and the boxes were very crude. The pole vault and high jump standards were composed of an upright and a hook extending from the side of the upright. A fish pole or hardwood triangular bar was used for the crossbar. The athletes used no starting blocks or individual wooden homemade ones. A steel shot was used outdoors.<sup>39</sup>

As for the athletes, they were mostly all-round athletes, principally in physical education, that came to La Crosse for an education.<sup>40</sup>

In the interview with Mr. Reuter, this researcher learned that he had only a small contact with track. Mr. Reuter was the coach for two days while the regular coach was away. The boys

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<sup>38</sup>Reuter, loc. cit.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

liked him so well, they petitioned the athletic department to make him the full time coach, but he declined.<sup>41</sup>

The first period of track and field comes to an end on a dreary note. After a good start, track and field built up to its height in the late teens and then began to retreat slightly. By the mid-twenties, the end of this period, track had reached a new low.

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<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

## CHAPTER III

### THE BOOM, BUST, WAR YEARS

"Track, which for a short time had fallen somewhat in the calender of La Crosse Normal sports, was resumed this year with fresh vigor and zest."<sup>42</sup>

Coach Ross "Red" Lyons put thirty prospects through their paces, getting them ready for the scheduled three meets of 1927. The team was led by veteran co-captains Clinton Dawes and Leonard Hettinger. Veterans were not prevalent on this team, as La Crosse had been out of Normal competition for two of the last three years. They were re-entering as a dark horse for the conference crown.<sup>43</sup>

A great deal of enthusiasm was shown in the school newspaper as witnessed by the following quote:

"This year we are going to have a track team and we are going to have a good one. We have the material and we have the coach which combination is rather hard to beat. What our men who are out for track, and what the coach is asking of the student body at La Crosse Normal is, that they lend a hand and that they swing their full and whole-hearted support to this school project. Let's step out and win that State Championship this year; how about it students."<sup>44</sup>

The state meet was held on the horse track at La Crosse and the home team only managed to finish fourth. La Crosse was to continue track competition without interruption until the outbreak

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<sup>42</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1927, p. 65.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid.

<sup>44</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 28, 1927.

of World War II.<sup>45</sup>

During the years of 1928 and 1929 interest again seemed to wane slightly. Two notable athletes did make their presence felt, however. Javelin thrower Mike Ward threw over 180 feet consistently, and Emil Fuzer was a very capable sprinter.

In an interview with Mr. Leon Miller, he stated that until 1940 when Mr. Gautsch took over as track coach, track was more an intramural activity with reference to coaching. Mr. Miller felt that the coaches preceding Mr. Gautsch were much more interested in coaching other sports and were saddled with coaching track; hence, the track program suffered from this disinterest. If the boys wanted to work, they did so predominantly on their own with little direction from the coaches.<sup>46</sup>

The most promising group of cinderpath athletes in the school's history took to the track in 1930, led by sprinter, Emil Fuzer, and javelin thrower, Captain Jesse Lyons. Fuzer, Baxter, and Grabinski had all, at one time or another run the century in ten flat.<sup>47</sup> This may have been misleading as the times were not always accurate.

Freshmen could not compete on the varsity in 1930, and this hurt the depth of the team. The 1930 squad finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet. Clark Van Galder, one of the

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<sup>45</sup>Personal Interview with Mr. Leon Miller, April 4, 1968.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1930, p. 71.

finest all-round La Crosse athletes, made an auspicious debut by winning both the half mile and mile.<sup>48</sup>

Fifty athletes turned out for the 1931 squad under new head coach Howard Johnson.<sup>49</sup> The team was attired in new meet uniforms of maroon jerseys with a white diagonal stripe and white running shorts. The team did quite well in duals and triangulars and finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet.<sup>50</sup> The team lost only one meet other than to Milwaukee and that was a telegraphic meet with Oshkosh. In this meet each team competed at home and telegraphed their results to the other. La Crosse lost the meet seventy-nine to sixty-one and the school newspaper felt it was not indicative of authentic competition.

"It is our estimation that La Crosse would beat Oshkosh in a regular man to man meet. Imagine such things as Van (Clark Van Galder) getting beat by three-fifths of a second, and Bjorge, losing by a fourth of an inch, and several other almost impossible things. Van came in running and turned about to see if the sun was shining and he lost a second there. He could have won his event easily. We will see Saturday at the state meet whether we can beat Oshkosh."<sup>51</sup>

Mr. Walter Wittich filled in for an ailing Howard Johnson during the 1932 season. The team competed in three meets and was unable to win any of them.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1931, p. 103.

<sup>49</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1931, p. 103.

<sup>50</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1932, p. 93.

<sup>51</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 25, 1931.

<sup>52</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1933, p. 106.

Problems again plagued the Indian thinclads in 1933. Coach Johnson was back, but because of the construction of the new track, it was very difficult to find a place to hold workouts. Prospects seemed to look bright at the beginning of the '33 season and the spirit was quite good. The annual of 1933 described track as a "sport where every man must do his own work, and not depend on the rest of the team."<sup>53</sup> By the end of the season the school newspaper had this to say about the track team, however. "Track seems to have become a weaksister here this year. Weather, facilities to work with, and just a mediocre bit of material."<sup>54</sup> The team did manage to place second to Milwaukee in the state meet. Gordon Yerrigan was the only state champion from La Crosse as he won the javelin.<sup>55</sup>

Until this time the track had been inside the one-half mile dirt horse track. The horse track was now dispensed with and the cinder running track was moved closer to the grandstand. The football field was also moved to remain inside the cinder track.<sup>56</sup>

The track was completed early in the spring of 1934. Coach Johnson predicted one of the strongest teams in history. His predictions held true as the team finished second at the state

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<sup>53</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1933, p. 106.

<sup>54</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 12, 1933.

<sup>55</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1934, p. 107.

<sup>56</sup>Miller, loc. cit.

meet, placed third in a six team invitational meet at Decorah, Iowa, beat Winona in a dual, and won a quadrangular with Winona, Luther, and Columbia.<sup>57</sup> Two of the participants on the 1934 team worked out early in the morning. "Irvin and Harr are working out before school every morning, much to the disgust of the other people sharing the Janesville house. Must have worked, they set new records."<sup>58</sup> This seems to indicate that there was a new interest in track. Mr. Miller named Lauren Harr as one of the finest trackmen of this period. Harr set the school broad jump record of twenty-two feet, ten inches in the spring of 1934. Carl Rude ran the quarter-mile in fifty-one and one-tenth seconds, also a record for that distance.<sup>59</sup>

The 1935 La Crosse track team was not an exceptionally powerful team, although it was strengthened by the eligibility of freshmen for varsity participation. Those people who were in their third year of competition in 1935 could not compete on the 1936 team. Even with freshmen competing interest waned and this was probably due, in part, to the fact that there were no home meets.<sup>60</sup> The 1935 season was summed up quite accurately by this school newspaper statement: "The track team had a poor year."<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>57</sup>The Racquet Yearbook, 1935, p. 114.

<sup>58</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 25, 1934.

<sup>59</sup>Athletic Track Records.

<sup>60</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 20, 1935.

<sup>61</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, June 3, 1935.

The weather impaired the start of the 1936 season. Interest again seemed to be on the upswing, as emphasized by this quote from the Racquet.

"Mr. Keith (Killer) Koske, erstwhile leatherpusher, says he used to heave the twelve lb. shot 40 ft. when attending Gillett High School, but the routine of college life has worn him down to the stage where he has difficulty in raising the 16 lb. shot over his head."

Financial trouble was felt in some of the schools in the state and Stevens Point, for instance, had no team in 1936.<sup>62</sup>

Coach Howard Johnson scheduled five meets for the 1937 La Crosse thinclads. Whether Coach Johnson knew what kind of men he would have out for track in only speculation, but freshman Henry Sugden, would have made any coach toughen his schedule. In his first meet, Sugden set new records in the 100 and 220 yard dashes. In the second meet he broke the one week old 220 record. Hank (The White Owens) Sugden, as he was referred to, and Robert Halgrim represented La Crosse in the University of Minnesota Track and Field Carnival.<sup>63</sup> The 1937 Indians won all the meets they competed in except for placing third in the state meet.

A winter appendectomy did not seem to bother Sugden greatly as he ran the 100 in ten and one-tenth seconds in the time trial for the Winona meet.<sup>64</sup> Henry was thought of quite highly on campus as witnessed by this article by Ray Lotzer:

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<sup>62</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 24, 1936.

<sup>63</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 14, 1937.

<sup>64</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, April 29, 1938.

"This boy Hank Sugden is some track marvel. I wonder what kind of record he would ring up at a large university? Sugden's build seems to particularly explain why he can cover so much ground in a short time. Hank's chest is large enough to contain about four lungs of an ordinary man. His legs are long and are a powerful set of underpins. I hope that Hank brings his time for the 100 yard dash down below ten seconds before the present season is over."<sup>65</sup>

Two days before the 1938 state conference meet Coach Howard Johnson took seriously ill with a blood infection and was sent to Rochester, Minnesota. Mr. Hans Reuter took over for Coach Johnson for the state meet. Shortly thereafter, Howard Johnson died. The team, probably affected by their coach's illness, placed second to Milwaukee in the state meet.<sup>66</sup>

Mr. Thomas Ausbury took charge of coaching the 1939 track team. Early in the season five La Crosse athletes participated in the annual municipal indoor track meet in Milwaukee. Hank Sugden continued his winning ways by placing first in the forty yard dash with a time of four and five-tenths seconds. Howard Kelly took first in the high jump in that meet.<sup>67</sup>

Sugden added the javelin throw and 440 yard run to the 100 and 220 yard dashes and the broad jump. Hank got to the finals of the 100 yard dash in the Drake Relays but was not able to place. This meet, at that time as well as today, brings together the best track men in the Midwest and some of the best in the nation.

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<sup>65</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 6, 1938.

<sup>66</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 27, 1938.

<sup>67</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, March 24, 1939.

The 1939 track team finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet. Henry Sugden won the 440 and 220 yard runs. This brought to an end the career of probably the finest sprinter La Crosse had ever seen. The 1940 school yearbook paid tribute to Sugden with this statement: "one of the greatest athletes produced in the history of the school."<sup>68</sup>

Mr. Floyd Gautsch began his long tenure as La Crosse track coach with the 1940 season. The Indians got off to a poor start placing fourth in a quadrangular with Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Whitewater, and placing third in a triangular with the latter two schools. Led by Bud Hughes, a high jumper and the La Crosse team's best performer, the Indian thinclads managed third place in the conference meet of 1940.

Illness and bad weather plagued the team in 1941, and they were able to send only ten athletes to the relay carnival at Milwaukee. The ten La Crosse athletes managed fourth place in the seven team meet. The Indians finished behind Northern Illinois, Milwaukee, and Illinois at Normal, but ahead of Whitewater, Oshkosh, and Winona.<sup>69</sup> They won the Winona Relays and things looked bright for the state meet. The school had won the baseball, golf, and tennis crowns of 1941, and a championship in track would give them complete dominance of the spring sports.<sup>70</sup> The Indian thinclads placed a disappointing third in the state meet of 1941.

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<sup>68</sup>The La Crosse Yearbook, 1940, p. 105.

<sup>69</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 2, 1941.

<sup>70</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 23, 1941.

The 1942 season began with a win over Winona in a dual meet and a triangular win over Winona and St. Mary's.<sup>71</sup> World War II was taking many of the male students from college campuses and, track at La Crosse was discontinued after this season until 1946.

Between the years of 1927 and 1942, track was not exceptionally successful at La Crosse. The Indians were competitive throughout most of the period but were unable to win a conference meet. Milwaukee dominated the state during this sixteen year period. This may have been due to the seeming lack of interest by the coaches until Mr. Gautsch took over. Prior to 1940 the athletes normally worked out on their own and did what they felt was necessary to get in shape for the meets. This attitude changed when Coach Gautsch took the reins.<sup>72</sup>

Mr. Leon Miller, in an interview, stated that a number of things could have affected times and distances at a meet. The judges and timers were questionable. Many of these persons were "good guys" who volunteered to judge and time but had very limited previous experience. Incidental watches were used and the times were not necessarily accurate. Because of the old facility, it was not really known if the distances around the track or for the different straight races were correct. It was also very difficult to judge the distances in the discus and

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<sup>71</sup>The School Newspaper, The Racquet, May 15, 1942.

<sup>72</sup>Miller, loc. cit.

javelin as most of the measuring tapes were only 100 feet long. An arc was struck at 100 feet and the throws were then measured from the arc.<sup>73</sup>

The athletes were made up of about half all-round athletes and half specialized trackmen. There was some specialization, but not a great deal, as at the present. It was more evident that the track athletes were not from the city of La Crosse. In general, Mr. Miller believed that most of the athletes were physical education majors and the primary purpose for attending La Crosse was to obtain an education.<sup>74</sup>

The one thing that altered performances the most during this period was the improvement of facilities and equipment, according to Mr. Miller. The runways were not conducive to good jumps or vaults at the beginning of the period. They were rutted and this could throw the athlete off his stride. When the track was moved, a point was made to improve the field event areas as well. The runways were smoothed and widened, and the weight areas were made quite standard. Equipment changes were responsible for better performances. A great change did not take place concerning any of the pieces of equipment, but all of the equipment was subtly improved.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>73</sup>Ibid.

<sup>74</sup>Ibid.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE MODERN ERA

Track was brought back to the intercollegiate scene in 1946. The final period of track and field at La Crosse was begun with a great deal of enthusiasm, as well as with a group of very talented athletes. Mr. Gautsch had not yet returned from service and Gordon Bahr was the coach of the 1946 team.

"T.C. Annihilates Iowa Sprinters," was the headline in the school newspaper after La Crosse captured the opening meet of the year with Luther. The article related that going into the final event, the mile relay, La Crosse was nine points down. Mulrooney, Kenney, Murphy, and Aarstad put together a winning effort in the relay and La Crosse won the meet  $68\frac{1}{2}$  to  $67\frac{1}{2}$ .<sup>76</sup> This meet also uncovered one of the finest trackmen ever to participate for the maroon and gray, Jim DeMerit. DeMerit, a Port Washington athlete, scored fifteen points in the first meet, and this was just a slight indication of what was to come in the future.

The comments of the "Spectator Speaks" from the school newspaper seem to show that the interest in track had grown at the college:

"Ardy Aarstad ran like a scared rabbit in the quarter mile. He had every reason to. Someone on the first turn cried, "You get him on the inside while I get him on the outside." They made a mistake there cause that's how "Ardy"

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<sup>76</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 10, 1946.

won the race. The height of conceit--Wally Wirz lounging on the grass while the boys made futile attempts at bettering his mark in the broad jump. Well, Murphy, you beat him but why give the crowd heart failure doing it? The sleeping beauty was "brought around" by a kiss after the two mile."<sup>77</sup>

With interest high and talent great the La Crosse State Teachers broke Milwaukee's eighteen year domination of the state conference track meet.<sup>78</sup> La Crosse amassed  $57\frac{1}{2}$  points to Milwaukee's  $52\frac{2}{3}$ , while Oshkosh garnered  $24\frac{1}{2}$ , and Stevens Point managed only  $1\frac{1}{3}$  of a point. La Crosse was led by Jim DeMerit and Bob Murphy. DeMerit won the high hurdles, the shot put, and anchored the winning 880 relay team, and Murphy romped home ahead of all competitors in the mile and two mile. Also contributing first place finishes to the championship effort were Wally Wirz in the broad jump, Ardy Aarstad in the quarter mile, and Hubert Rhode in the high jump. Joining DeMerit on the champion relay team were Aarstad, Mulrooney, and Morris.<sup>79</sup>

One of the finest schedules up to this time greeted the 1947 track squad. The team's best competition was afforded at the Iowa Relays at Cedar Falls, where they met the best small college competitors in the Midwest. They were hopelessly out-

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<sup>77</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 28, 1946.

<sup>78</sup>The La Crosse, 1947, p. 79.

<sup>79</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 28, 1946.

classed in this meet but gained the experience that helped them to five straight wins during the season.<sup>80</sup>

In the victory over Oshkosh, Warren Skenadore snapped his bamboo pole attempting ten feet, six inches and was taken to the hospital.<sup>81</sup> The metal poles which succeeded the bamboo were much more sturdy and the threat of breakage was reduced greatly. The steel and aluminum poles did have their disadvantages. The aluminum poles were quite stiff and very thick. A man had to have monstrous hands to hold on to the pole. The Swedish steel pole, which was used until the sixties, was tapered for better handling but was very stiff and afforded the vaulter very little whip to aid in propelling him over the bar. With the advent of the fiberglass pole, however, the danger of injury was again heightened due to the possibility of breakage and less control by the vaulter of his pole.<sup>82</sup>

The 1947 La Crosse track team finished second in the four team state meet, but Jim DeMerit again won the high hurdles and the shot put. The times in the state meet were not exceptionally good; however, DeMerit increased his winning distance in the shot by three feet over the previous year.

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<sup>80</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, April 25, 1947.

<sup>81</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 29, 1947.

<sup>82</sup>Interview with Mr. Floyd Gautsch, La Crosse, March 25, 1968.

Improvements were necessary for a good track at Memorial Field. These improvements were made during the spring and summer when it was easy to work on the track. This disrupted an entire track season, as the athletes had to find a new place to work out. The team worked out wherever they could find a suitable spot. The cinder road east of the baseball field and west of the old housing units was used, as well as the alley where the Florence Wing Library stands. Myrick Park and numerous other areas were utilized in an attempt to maintain the high standard of La Crosse track. Special practices were even held on the track at Sparta, but this was found to be unpopular because of the traveling distance.<sup>83</sup>

The new track had a cinder surface and was curbed with concrete. The runways for the field events were also cinders. In 1960, the athletes decided to build cement slabs for the discus and shot put rings. This was done to give the weightmen a consistent surface from which to throw. With the addition of Mitchell Hall to the campus, asphalt runways were installed south of the office wing to afford a consistent takeoff for pole vaulters and high jumpers. Foam rubber pits were also added to this area. The fact that the pole vault and high jump was no longer held at Memorial Field hampered the spectator, but it was much better for the participants.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>83</sup>Ibid.

<sup>84</sup>Ibid.

With eighteen of twenty lettermen returning from the fine 1947 team, hopes were high to recapture the state championship from Milwaukee in 1948. Reliable Jim DeMerit was the only triple winner in the state meet in which La Crosse lost to Milwaukee by eight points. DeMerit won the low hurdles, the shot put, and the broad jump. Co-captain Bill Cross could not recover from an early season injury and this probably cost La Crosse the championship, as he was certain to place and probably win both dashes.<sup>85</sup>

Jim DeMerit closed out his track career in 1949 by winning three firsts in the state meet and bringing his total of firsts to ten in his four years of competition for La Crosse. DeMerit was one of the most outstanding athletes of the modern era of track and field at La Crosse. His greatness was due to his versatility. Few athletes are versatile enough to be able to win such diverse events as the hurdles, shot put, and broad jump in the state meet. He also had good enough speed and endurance to participate in the mile relay. In his senior year, La Crosse finished seventeen points behind Milwaukee in the state meet, but Jim DeMerit had contributed his usual fifteen points to the team's total.<sup>86</sup>

"There were no individual stars as the team represented one of the most well balanced squads in our history."<sup>87</sup> This was

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<sup>85</sup>The La Crosse, 1949, p. 170.

<sup>86</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

<sup>87</sup>The La Crosse, 1951, p. 47.

the description of the 1950 team that scored fifteen points in the St. Thomas College Invitational at St. Paul and finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet.

The 1951 squad got a late start because of the inclement weather, but came on strong to beat Luther in the mud and pouring rain of the first meet. La Crosse commanded power in the distances as the cross country team had won the state crown.<sup>88</sup> The La Crosse thinclads won the Mankato Invitational, as Dan Bauer won the 220 in 23.0 seconds and Bill Spalholz won the 440 in 52.0 seconds.<sup>89</sup> The Indians tied for third at the St. Thomas Invitational, finishing ahead of eleven teams. La Crosse finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet and also lost a dual to the Gulls 66 5/6 to 64 1/6.<sup>90</sup>

After a dismal season in 1952, finishing fourth of five teams in the state meet, an effort was made to improve the track fortunes at La Crosse in 1953. For the first time ever an eight lap relay team was entered in the Milwaukee Journal Games and finished third.<sup>91</sup> After a very successful season of winning all four of their dual meets, La Crosse finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet. The Indians showed excellent individual per-

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<sup>88</sup>La Crosse Teachers College Newspaper, The Racquet, April 12, 1951.

<sup>89</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 3, 1951.

<sup>90</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 11, 1951.

<sup>91</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, March 27, 1953.

performances but seemed to lack the depth of a champion. Dave Gessert set a conference record in the broad jump of 22 feet, 1½ inches and placed in every event he entered. Gessert tied for first in the high jump, took second in the low hurdles and fifth in the pole vault. Tom Rosandich won the high and low hurdles, Lyle Sampson won the 100 and 220 yard dashes, Larry Michels won the 440 and the 880 relay team won.<sup>92</sup>

In 1954, a five foot eleven inch, 160 pound, Negro athlete from Racine began what was to be one of the most brilliant track careers ever at La Crosse. Bill Provine had received the American Legion Athletic Award as the best athlete in his high school class, and judging from his record at La Crosse, it was well deserved. For the next four years the fortunes of La Crosse track and field teams were the fortunes of this elementary major.<sup>93</sup> In his first meet, Bill won the low hurdles, the 100 yard dash, and the broad jump. The 1954 track squad won the state crown as Provine won the 100 and 200 yard dashes, the high hurdles, and the broad jump. His best event, aside from the broad jump, was probably the low hurdles, but since Captain Jim Crowley could win that event, Provine's versatility was used to add wins in other events.<sup>94</sup>

In 1955, indoor conditioning was done in order to get the squad in shape for the Milwaukee Journal Games. The indoor con-

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<sup>92</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 29, 1953.

<sup>93</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 7, 1957.

<sup>94</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 27, 1954.

ditioning was done in the Indian Room of Main Hall. This area did not afford a great deal of space and consequently very little running was accomplished. The balcony of Wittich Hall was used for indoor running until it was condemned. The floor of the men's gymnasium in Wittich was used until the runners incurred leg injuries and this was stopped. With the construction of Mitchell Hall, the indoor running facilities were improved immensely, but because of lack of adequate indoor space it had to be shared with the baseball and tennis teams. A field house addition would have improved track performances and undoubtedly would have attracted better track athletes to the school.<sup>95</sup>

The weather hampered performances throughout the year and a good showing was not made in the state meet. In the Luther meet, Bill Provine leaped twenty-three feet, five inches for a new school record in the broad jump. This record is still standing in 1968.<sup>96</sup>

The 1956 season brought one of the most power laden teams the college had ever seen. The team won all of its six meets including the state meet with awesome ease. Provine set conference records by winning the high hurdles in 15.1 seconds, the low hurdles in 24.4 seconds, and the broad jump at 22 feet, 10 and 3/4 inches. Freshman Wes Mooney, another sprinter from Racine, set the school record in the 100 yard dash at 9.9 seconds and

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<sup>95</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

<sup>96</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, April 28, 1955.

Ralph Karst set the school 220 yard dash record at 21.8 seconds.<sup>97</sup> Ken Renning broke Bob Heinz's 880 record by running 2:00.8. Tom Giombetti cleared six feet, one and one-half inches in the high jump and the 880 relay team of Mooney, Karst, Kollath, and Fangmeier set new school records in their respective events. Things looked very promising for the future as few seniors were to be lost from this powerhouse.<sup>98</sup>

The sharpest looking group of La Crosse track athletes took to the field in 1957, outfitted in new meet warmup uniforms. Add to the list of Provine, Mooney, and Renning such powerful weightmen as Jim Butterbrodt, Richard Pampuch, and Joe Fleckinger and it is not hard to see an improvement of La Crosse track fortunes. Numerous injuries and inclement weather plagued the team throughout the year, but they did manage to place third in a strong nineteen team field at the Beloit Relays. The crowning note came with a championship in the conference meet, defeating archrival Milwaukee by thirty points.<sup>99</sup>

Add to the new meet warmups, multicolored shoes and you have an attractive looking group of athletes on the 1958 squad. Looks however do not win meets, and this team had to replace a number of excellent athletes lost to graduation. Ron Heins set a new high jump record in the second meet of the year at six feet,

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<sup>97</sup>The La Crosse, 1957, p. 127.

<sup>98</sup>Track Booklet, 1956.

<sup>99</sup>The La Crosse, 1958, p. 138.

two and one-eighth inches.<sup>100</sup> The La Crosse team lost a dual meet to Milwaukee and things did not look very bright for the state meet. Milwaukee had a fine pole vaulter, assured of first in that event at the start of the meet. La Crosse had a couple of good vaulters, but nobody that could come close to the lad from Milwaukee. Being justifiably confident, since he had made twelve feet, six inches during the year, the Milwaukee vaulter passed until the bar was raised to twelve feet and then missed the height three times. This put him out of the event without a place. La Crosse won the meet  $64\frac{1}{3}$  to  $62\frac{1}{2}$  points.<sup>101</sup>

The 1959 squad was greeted with new running uniforms. These uniforms were made up of gray nylon durene basketball type jerseys and maroon running shorts of nylon. These were a far cry from the woolen jerseys and satin running shorts that were worn immediately after the war. The uniforms worn between the woolen and the nylon were mostly of cotton. The uniforms of 1967 were white in color and had La Crosse printed diagonally from the right shoulder to the left waist in a new rubberized lettering. The uniforms of 1967 were much lighter in weight than those of the 1940's and the shorts and jerseys were also much more brief.<sup>102</sup>

Great depth in the weights was shown at the beginning of the 1959 season. Three men were able to throw the discus over

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<sup>100</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 15, 1958.

<sup>101</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

<sup>102</sup>Ibid.

138 feet and three men could throw the javelin over 160 feet. At the Iowa Relays at Cedar Falls in near freezing temperatures, a real oddity took place. Three teams were in the finals of the high hurdle shuttle relay, La Crosse, Northeast Missouri, and Wartburg. The Northeast Missouri team jumped off to a big lead. One of their runners left before his teammate touched him on the shoulder. This disqualified the team. La Crosse was running second, far behind the Northeast Missouri, but far ahead of Wartburg. Veteran hurdler Al Vandenberg, running anchor for the Indians, hit a hurdle, stumbled, and ran around the next hurdle, disqualifying the La Crosse team. Wartburg finished a distant third, but because of the two disqualifications was awarded the winning trophy. The second and third place awards were not presented. In the same meet Darrell Jackson and Ron Heins placed second in the pole vault and high jump, respectively.<sup>103</sup>

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee romped through the conference meet by thirty points over La Crosse, which finished second. Jerry LaLuzerne won the javelin throw in the state meet and Ron Heins tied for first in the high jump. This researcher was fortunate enough to win the 880 in a new school record time of two minutes, seven-tenth seconds.<sup>104</sup> Dick Trickle set a new school record in the two mile at ten minutes and seven seconds.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>103</sup>Track Booklet, 1959.

<sup>104</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, June 4, 1959.

<sup>105</sup>The La Crosse, 1960, p. 159.

The 1960 track season was again plagued by inclement weather. At the Beloit Relays, in a sea of mud, Scheafer, Marshall, Burling, and Wheeler won the shuttle hurdle relay event. Darrell Jackson was able to get off a record twelve feet, two and one-eighth inches vault with his impeccable form and grace.<sup>106</sup> A week before the state meet, Bill Lauritzen, sophomore from Beaver Dam, broke Jim DeMerit's shot put record by throwing the shot forty-six feet, seven inches.<sup>107</sup>

The 1960 state meet at La Crosse's Memorial Field was one of the most unusual of all time. It rained in La Crosse all day Friday and until about ten-thirty Saturday morning. Most of the track was under an inch or two of water. The water was pumped, shoveled, and swept off the track and by the beginning of the meet the track was in fair condition. It was in good enough condition to allow Conrad Henry of UW-M to set a new conference and stadium record of one minute, fifty-six and nine-tenths seconds in the half mile run. Milwaukee won the meet by two and one-half points over La Crosse.<sup>108</sup>

About forty participants turned out for the 1961 track squad. This team was plagued by the loss of a good number of veteran athletes because of scholastic ineligibility. In the early part of the final period of this history of track and field

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<sup>106</sup>The La Crosse, 1961, p. 167.

<sup>107</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, June 2, 1960.

<sup>108</sup>The La Crosse, 1961, p. 167.

at La Crosse eligibility was no problem. If you could stay in school you were eligible to participate. This changed shortly after and scholastic eligibility rules were stiffened. The rule that affected a number of participants on the 1961 track squad was not an athletic eligibility rule, however, but a minimum academic average that was to be obtained after four semesters at La Crosse. A two point was established as the minimum academic average to stay in school after four semesters and a number of the track men had not maintained this. The eligibility rules of 1967 are more rigid than any previous ones. A student-athlete must not only maintain a two point if he is to remain in school after four semesters, but must get at least a one point five in twelve new credits the semester prior to his activity in a sport. Also, the student must have passed twenty-four new credits the previous two semesters in school and be carrying twelve new credits during the semester of competition. If a freshman enters school on probation because of being in the lower quartile of his high school graduation class, he is ineligible scholastically and a transfer from another college or university may not participate in his first semester at La Crosse.<sup>109</sup>

Good balance dominated the 1961 track season. Bill Lauritzen broke his own record in the shot by putting the metal ball forty-nine feet and Dick Trickle broke his two mile record with a nine

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<sup>109</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

minute, fifty-one and four-tenth second run.<sup>110</sup> In the state meet this researcher won the half mile and Ed Noltner tied for first in the pole vault. La Crosse finished second to Milwaukee in the state meet.<sup>111</sup>

Track is normally a non-contact sport, but in a dual meet between La Crosse and Winona, a slight altercation took place in the 880 yard run. So as to not predispose the reader, this researcher will quote the school newspaper with reference to the incident. "A hotly contested race came in the 880 when the Indian's Hector Fischer and Winona's Dick Anderson got into a shoving contest before Anderson finally won."<sup>112</sup>

Prospects looked good for the 1962 Indian track team with eighteen lettermen returning from the 1961 team. Sprinter Ron Butzman, a graduate of Logan High School and a transfer from the University of Wisconsin gave the squad added power in the dashes. Ron ran a wind aided nine and seven-tenth second 100 yard dash in the conference meet and finished second in the event. He pulled a muscle in the 220 yard dash, where again he could have won or at least placed second. Bill Lauritzen won the shot put and placed third in the discus and Dion Wheeler finished second in the 220 and 440 yard dashes. Dick Gryphan won the high jump

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<sup>110</sup>Track Booklet, 1961.

<sup>111</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 25, 1961.

<sup>112</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 11, 1961.

setting a new school record at six feet, four inches.<sup>113</sup> Chances of winning the meet looked bleak for La Crosse when it came down to the last two events, for Platteville, only a few points behind, was very strong in the two mile and La Crosse had lost Butzman for the all important relay event. At the beginning of the two mile it began to rain quite heavily, but it stopped at about the end of the first mile. The boy running third was from Platteville. While running he removed his rainsoaked short sleeved jersey and finished without a shirt or a number. Dick Trickle finished fourth for La Crosse. Assistant Coach Leo Schnur protested to the meet officials and the Platteville boy was disqualified. Trickle moved up to third place and La Crosse defeated Platteville for the conference crown by one and one-half points.<sup>114</sup>

Only two men were lost from the 1962 championship team and the team was especially strong in the discus. Gary Crites, Dave Heinecke, and Dave Parisey were all school record holders in the discus at one time or another. These three young men were all capable of throwing the discus over 140 feet.<sup>115</sup> Crites led the third place La Crosse team in the conference meet by winning the shot put and discus, setting a new conference record in the discus with a heave of 154 feet, six inches. Ron Czechowicz won the conference pole vault with a twelve foot leap.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>113</sup>The La Crosse, 1963, p. 176.

<sup>114</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

<sup>115</sup>College Newspaper, The Racquet, May 2, 1963.

<sup>116</sup>Track Booklet, 1963.

The 1964 track season was divided into three different parts. The first of these began and ended with a ninety-one to forty-five victory over Platteville. In subsequent meets the success dwindled. The Indians came on strong in the conference meet to finish third behind Milwaukee and Whitewater.<sup>117</sup>

La Crosse lacked the depth that could have made them true contenders for the crown. Two competitors were state champions and both participated in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Meet. Ron Byers set the school high jump mark at six feet, four and one-half inches. This jump was good enough to give him first place in the state meet and he then went on to place eighth in the national meet. Dave Heinecke had been the number two La Crosse discus thrower the previous year. In 1964, Dave won the conference meet and set a new school record of 156 feet, three inches in the national meet. Heinecke placed eighth in the N.A.I.A. meet. Gary Crites, former state champion and La Crosse record holder in the discus, had transferred to the University of Wisconsin or even greater power would have been felt from Indian weightmen.<sup>118</sup>

In 1965, the fortunes for La Crosse track again brightened with twenty lettermen returning. Bad weather forced postponement of the first two meets of the year. The Macalaster Invitational was participated in for the first time and the grass-tex track

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<sup>117</sup>Track Booklet, 1964.

<sup>118</sup>Ibid.

seemed to agree with La Crosse athletes as four school records were broken. Jerry Braza set a new 880 record at one minute, fifty-nine and four-tenth seconds, Tom Busse went thirteen feet in the pole vault, Dan Ehler set the three mile record at fifteen minutes, thirty-six seconds, and the mile relay team set the school mark at three minutes, twenty-eight and eight-tenth seconds.<sup>119</sup>

In the state meet, La Crosse finished four points behind champion Whitewater. Tom Busse set a new conference record by vaulting thirteen feet, seven and one-half inches. Dan Ehler established a new conference record in the three mile by running the distance in fifteen minutes, seventeen and six-tenth seconds. The old reliables, Dave Heinecke and Ron Byers, won their respective events. Heinecke broke ex-teammate Crites' record by throwing the discus one hundred, fifty-four feet, six and one-half inches. Byers won the high jump in less than record form at six feet, one inch.<sup>120</sup>

The school representatives met before the state meet and changed future conference events slightly. Subsequently the 440 yard relay would replace the 880 relay. The triple jump would be included in the conference meet beginning in 1966. The 330 yard intermediate hurdles would replace the 220 yard low hurdle event in the 1967 conference meet. (This event was only run in 1967

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<sup>119</sup>Track Booklet, 1965.

<sup>120</sup>Ibid.

and following another change was replaced with the 440 yard intermediate hurdles for the 1968 conference meet.) A motion by Mr. E. Brodhagen of Stevens Point, to reduce the three mile to the old two mile event was defeated by a five to three vote.<sup>121</sup>

Mr. Jim Brown took over as head track coach from Mr. Gautsch in 1966. This was the second year the team was able to work out in the new physical education facility. Seventy-seven men reported for the track team, which was preparing for an indoor meet for the first time in history. On March 19, 1966, La Crosse beat Stout seventy to thirty. This was the beginning of what looked to be a great season. La Crosse lost to Whitewater and was upset by Platteville in dual competition, but looked very strong in a quadrangular, where they defeated Stout, Stevens Point, and Oshkosh, and in a triangular, walloping Platteville and River Falls.<sup>122</sup>

The state meet of 1966 was held at Madison on the University of Wisconsin track. La Crosse finished fifth in the meet. In a conversation with Mr. Brown about the meet, he stated that everything had gone wrong. This team throughout the year had broken numerous school records and had defeated all of the teams, save Whitewater, in previous competition. This was probably one of the finest track teams La Crosse had ever developed and they did not do well in the state meet. The conference, on the whole,

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<sup>121</sup>Ibid.

<sup>122</sup>Track Booklet, 1966.

seemed to be getting stronger, but there was no logical reason for the poor showing.<sup>123</sup> Glenn Lasch tied Oaks of Oshkosh for first in the pole vault with a new conference record of thirteen feet, nine inches.<sup>124</sup>

The 1967 Indian track team was coached by Mr. John Hancock, as Mr. Brown was at the University of Illinois working toward his doctorate. For the first time the conference meet was held as a two day affair, with the trials being run on Friday beginning at five in the evening and the finals beginning Saturday at noon.

La Crosse's only victory of the year came in a dual meet with Platteville, but the times and distances were much better than they had been in past years. The competition was getting much better in the conference.

In conversation with Mr. Rollo Taylor, assistant coach of the Indians, he stated that probably one of the most unusual occurrences concerning track took place at Milwaukee in a dual meet with the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Pete Smith, a distance man, missed the bus when it left La Crosse. This did not discourage him and he hitch-hiked to Milwaukee for the meet. As the two mile race began, there was Pete coming over a hill in the distance. Had he arrived in time, Mr. Taylor believed he would have run in his street clothes. This would not have been

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<sup>123</sup>Interview with Mr. Jim Brown, La Crosse, April 1, 1968.

<sup>124</sup>Track Booklet, 1966.

as bad as it seems as Smith never wore track shoes, but always ran in a black pair of regular street shoes.<sup>125</sup>

La Crosse placed third in the conference meet behind Oshkosh and Whitewater. Stan Druckery, freshman from Menomonée Falls, won the 330 yard intermediate hurdles in a record time of thirty-eight and seven-tenth seconds. He also placed third in the high hurdles. Scott Lingren broke the school record by running the 880 in one minute, fifty-six and six-tenth seconds. This also broke the conference record, but Scott placed second in the event to Mathes of Oshkosh.<sup>126</sup>

During the final period of this paper the success of the individual and track teams at La Crosse may have seemed to wane. This was not the case at all, for the competition from the other schools was a great deal stronger than in the past. Records of ten years ago, in many instances, would not even place today. Even with the loss of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee from the conference, the competition is much keener today than it had been previously. The success of La Crosse track and field teams cannot be judged by the won-loss record alone over the last few years, but should be evaluated in terms of the records established by the individuals.

The track facilities were shared throughout the period by the high schools, junior highs, and the Campus School. This, of

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<sup>125</sup>Interview with Mr. Rollo Taylor, La Crosse, April 1, 1968.

<sup>126</sup>Track Booklet, 1967.

course, made it very difficult to get a good workout. Once the meets began it was almost impossible to work out on the track. On occasion Logan High would have a meet on Monday, the University on Tuesday, Aquinas on Wednesday, Central on Thursday, the junior high on Friday, and the University on Saturday. Also, the Peacock Relays, The Bishop's Cup, and a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association track sectional would be held at Memorial Field. With all this activity the track still has held up very well. As one can see, it was very difficult to run a practice during a scheduled meet.<sup>127</sup>

Track was not a particularly popular spectator sport, although it usually drew more people than the other sports with the exception of football and basketball.<sup>128</sup>

The equipment throughout the period remained quite similar. The shoes became more colorful, lighter, and more expensive. With the addition of cement surfaces for the discus and shot ring, flat soled field shoes were used as they also were in the pole vault and high jump. The watches in the early part of the period were not synchronized and wind gauges were not used. Today much care is taken to make sure all of the watches are synchronized; in fact, the Bulova Watch Company sends the watches that are used in the state meet.<sup>129</sup>

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<sup>127</sup>Gautsch, loc. cit.

<sup>128</sup>Ibid.

<sup>129</sup>Ibid.

Posts were placed on the curb of the track and the finish line was stretched from the post to the post opposite it across the track. This prevented the line from not being held straight by the people that were holding it. Regulation hurdles, cross-bars, and standards were mandatory for the state meet in recent years. Previously no regulations governed this and for the meet as many as three different types of hurdles may have been used. The crossbars today are round metal ones as opposed to the bamboo fish poles in the forties. This affords more consistency for the high jump or pole vault. The standards for these events have the crossbars either on the top of the standard or as near the top as possible. This makes any trickery almost impossible.<sup>130</sup>

The weights in 1947 were not weighed or measured before the competition, whereas, today they are marked and only marked equipment can be used in the state meet. Bronz or iron shot puts can still be used, but lead ones are out. The discus was streamlined somewhat and the rubber discus was used for competition in wet weather. The javelin became a more sophisticated instrument. They are made of wood, aluminum, steel, or plastic, and are balanced for the distance a person is able to throw. A person able to throw 150 feet would use a different javelin than the person able to throw 200 feet. Similarly, the fiberglass pole is manufactured for a certain weight vaulter and a person of that weight will get maximum efficiency from that pole.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>130</sup>Ibid.      <sup>131</sup>Ibid.

The starting blocks have changed a good deal during the period. The "T" block, so called because of its shape, was very popular early in the period, but by the early sixties the adjustable Gill block was the best made.<sup>132</sup>

One interesting economic figure that was mentioned in the interview with Mr. Gautsch was the fact that in 1940 the track budget was about \$300, while in 1967 the budget was about \$3500.<sup>133</sup>

At the beginning of the final period, the majority of the athletes were all-round athletes, competing in a fall, winter, and spring sport. Toward the end of the period this was not nearly as true; in fact, the majority of the athletes were strictly track people. Distance runners were involved in cross country, but this is closely allied with track. Very few good trackmen from the city of La Crosse attended the University and most of the track teams were made up of young men from other cities in the state. The people who participated were principally physical education students, and they attended La Crosse for the school's physical education and coaching offerings. Many were probably influenced by their coaches to attend La Crosse.<sup>134</sup>

The rule changes during the period probably had an influence on the performances of the athletes and the administration of the track meets. The exchange zone was lengthened to twenty-

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<sup>132</sup>Ibid.

<sup>133</sup>Ibid.

<sup>134</sup>Ibid.

two feet and only the exchange had to be made in that zone. The man receiving the baton may begin in front of the passing zone, as long as the pass itself was made within the boundaries. Also, the sliding lanes improved the performances.<sup>135</sup>

A coaches meeting before the conference meet has enhanced the administration of the meet and the conference commissioner has improved communications within the conference. The order of events was changed to give maximum recuperation time to those people performing in more than one event. The events have been changed to afford a more interesting meet. The conference meet is now a two day affair with trials on Friday, so again there can be head to head competition in the finals rather than running against a watch.<sup>136</sup> The sector for the discus was reduced, probably for safety's sake.

The reasons for bettering performances during the period seem to be numerous. Specialization has helped improve times and distances. An athlete who concentrated on one sport can work on that sport all year. Off season running and weight training programs have contributed to improving performances. Coaches have better techniques with which to work, and the boys get much better coaching in high school. The facilities and equipment have helped to ameliorate performances. Some of these improvements were aided by the sponge rubber pits, all-weather tracks, runways, and takeoffs, hard surface throwing and putting platforms, balanced

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<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

javelins for different distances, fiberglass poles, and rough-edged discs.<sup>137</sup>

Also, there are better incentives for the athlete. Bigger and better meets are attended, mostly on better facilities than in the past. The indoor season is more attractive because of the close proximity of the audience and the ideal conditions which are present. Many more boys participate and more age given the opportunity to qualify for participation. Lastly, there is better transportation, meals, and lodging than in the past and this motivates people to participate.<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARIZATION

The sport of track and field has been enjoyed by La Crosse athletes for more than a half century and has been an intrinsic part of intercollegiate athletics for nearly as long.

The first track meet was held as an Inter-City Meet back in 1911. Since the first meet, La Crosse athletes have traveled extensively to compete against some of the best small college athletes in the Midwest. Besides the non-conference meets, a state meet was held in the majority of the years since 1915. The participating schools in the state meet have changed from time to time, but the meet, throughout the years, has remained the most important for La Crosse trackmen. The state meet was comprised of all the schools in the Wisconsin State College Conference, but not all of the schools sent teams every year. The following schools participated in the conference in 1967: Eau Claire, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Platteville, River Falls, Stout, Stevens Point, Superior, and Whitewater. The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, the team that dominated track in the conference over the years dropped from conference competition in 1964.

La Crosse has been quite successful throughout its participation in track; to date La Crosse teams have won 103 meets while losing 98. This record is much better than it seems as the losses include twenty-three second place finishes in the

State Conference Meet. These meets included a minimum of four teams; often more participated. Eight times the Indians won the conference championship, six of these since 1945. A La Crosse team last won the conference in 1962.

The caliber of competition has changed considerably from the first meet when the La Crosse Normal team met the La Crosse High School and the YMCA. La Crosse thinclads are now eligible to compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Meet. Improvement in transportation has increased the possibility of attending more meets and meets that attract better competition.

Twelve men have held the reins as head track coach at La Crosse. They are Mr. Joel Moore, Dr. Carl Sputh, Mr. Raymond Keeler, Mr. Ross Lyons, Mr. Howard Johnson, Mr. Walter Wittich, Mr. Hans Reuter, Mr. Thomas Ausbury, Mr. Gordon Bahr, Mr. Floyd Gautsch, Mr. John Hancock, and Mr. James Brown.

Three men stand out over the years as the most outstanding of many fine athletes. These are Henry Sugden, Jim DeMerit, and Bill Provine. This researcher believes these three men are the most outstanding because of the versatility they had shown in their performances.

A goodly number of unusual happenings have taken place over the years and these were inserted to illustrate the things that can take place at a track meet to make it even more interesting.

The track was built inside the horse track at the La Crosse Fairgrounds in 1912. The horse track was removed and the running

track was moved to the west, closer to the seating facilities, in 1933. In 1948, a curb was placed on the inside and outside of the track and the surface was improved. Also, at the same time the field event areas, runways, and pits were ameliorated. In 1960, cement slabs were added in both the shot and discus circles to afford consistent throwing surfaces. With the addition of Mitchell Hall, an all-weather pole vault and high jump area was added. Asphalt runways and foam rubber pits comprise the area.

With the addition of Mitchell Hall, indoor workouts in the early spring became more feasible. Prior to this, very little running could be done inside. Once the athletes got outside they usually had to share the track with a number of city schools. This did not enhance workouts as many athletes were using the facility.

Track was not necessarily a popular spectator sport. It drew spectators, but not nearly to the extent of basketball or football.

Over the years the equipment worn by the performer has remained basically the same with only subtle changes. The shoes are now in many colors where previously they were black. The field shoes are now flats where previously they were spiked on both the sole and heel. The running shoe now has usually four or six spikes. The running shorts and jerseys are basically similar to those used in the 1920's. The warmups have not changed a great deal although hoods were added and nylon shells are worn

to afford greater protection from the harsh spring winds.

The equipment used in the track and field events has been standardized in recent years to afford more consistency. Improvements have been made in all of the equipment, but probably the most significant improvement was that of the fiberglass pole.

Early in the history of track and field at La Crosse, the athletes were predominantly all-around athletes. Over the years this has changed, very gradually at first, but in 1967 most of the athletes were specialists in track and field. The majority of the athletes were people studying in the physical education area. Very few of the thinclads were from the city of La Crosse. The athletes came to school to get a degree in physical education primarily, and they were not recruited to come here to participate in track and field.

There are numerous reasons for the bettering of records over the years. Specialization of athletes has helped in the improvement of performances. The athlete that is specializing in track is able to work at the sport the entire year rather than budgeting his time around other sports. In the off season he may place himself on a weight training or conditioning program. This makes him a better performer. The coaching techniques have improved. The coaches are also more interested in coaching track. These coaches specialize also, in that each works in a specific area with his events. High school coaching is better today than in the past and the performances of high school athletes is much improved. There are more boys participating in high school track

and their first contact is not at the college level as it was in the early days of track and field at La Crosse. Improved performances are due, in part, to the better facilities and equipment. Sponge rubber pits, all-weather track, runways, and take-offs have helped improve the times, heights, and distances. Hard surface throwing and putting platforms for the discus and shot put have helped give the athlete more consistency. Balanced javelins and fiberglass poles for specific weights of athletes have improved performances. Lastly, better motivation brought about by more attractive meets, the indoor season and better transportation, meals, and lodging have attracted better athletes to the sport. Some rule changes also have aided in improving performances. Olympic tryouts and the publication they receive have also increased interest in track.

An attempt was made in this paper to trace the history of track and field at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse from its inception to 1967. Much has transpired since 1911 and an attempt was made to preserve this. Everything indicates that track and field will remain a significant part of the inter-collegiate athletic program at La Crosse for generations to come.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This researcher, after examination of what has transpired over the years, would like to make the following recommendations with reference to track and field at Wisconsin State University - La Crosse:

1. That a field house be constructed to provide an adequate facility for indoor track. La Crosse is unable to hold indoor meets in the present facility and it is not an effective place to train athletes in the varied events.
2. That an effort be made to provide an outdoor facility that would be used only by the University. It is very difficult to practice while a high school meet is in progress or when numerous other people are working out. This outdoor facility should have an all-weather track.
3. That more recognition be given to the individual participating in track and field by the press, radio and television, and the University. A banquet is provided in football and numerous awards are provided outstanding basketball players whereas the track and field performer gets very little recognition.
4. That accurate records be kept from season to season of performances in track and field. Also, a record of meets attended and any situation of interest from the season should be included in a yearly report from the sport.
5. That an active policy for the recruitment of high school athletes be instituted at the University in the area of track and field.
6. That more attractive meets be attended. A spring trip south for three or four meets during Easter recess would add to the prestige of the University and serve as an incentive to attract fine track and field athletes.

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 June 11, 1925; May 6, 1926; April 7, 1927; April 28, 1927;  
 May 10, 1928; May 17, 1928; April 25, 1929; May 15, 1930;  
 May 22, 1930; March 30, 1931; May 8, 1931; May 15, 1931;  
 May 25, 1931; April 28, 1933; May 12, 1933; April 25, 1934;  
 May 11, 1934; May 20, 1935; June 3, 1935; April 24, 1936;  
 May 15, 1936; April 23, 1937; May 7, 1937; May 14, 1937;  
 April 29, 1938; May 6, 1938; May 27, 1938; March 24, 1939;  
 May 26, 1939; May 10, 1940; May 24, 1940; April 25, 1941;  
 May 2, 1941; May 9, 1941; May 23, 1941; May 1, 1942;  
 May 15, 1942; May 10, 1946; May 28, 1946; April 10, 1947;  
 April 25, 1947; May 16, 1947; May 29, 1947; March 18, 1948;  
 April 28, 1948; March 24, 1950; April 20, 1950; May 18, 1950;  
 March 29, 1951; April 12, 1951; May 3, 1951; May 11, 1951;  
 April 3, 1952; May 1, 1952; May 15, 1952; March 27, 1953;  
 May 29, 1953; May 6, 1954; May 27, 1954; April 1, 1955;  
 April 28, 1955; May 18, 1956; May 7, 1957; May 15, 1958;  
 April 16, 1959; April 30, 1959; June 4, 1959; June 2, 1960;  
 March 16, 1961; April 20, 1961; May 11, 1961; May 25, 1961;  
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APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

## Interviews with:

Mr. James Brown, La Crosse  
Mr. Floyd Gautsch, La Crosse  
Mr. Ole Jorgenson, Neenah  
Mr. Leon Miller, La Crosse  
Mr. Hans Reuter, La Crosse  
Mr. Rollo Taylor, La Crosse

## Newspapers:

The La Crosse Leader-Press  
The La Crosse Tribune and Leader-Press  
The Racquet

## Yearbooks:

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The La Crosse

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## APPENDIX B

## INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Success of the Track Team

- A. Were the track teams successful during this period?
- B. Who were some of the outstanding athletes?
- C. Were there any unusual happenings during the period?

II. Facilities

- A. What was the surface material of the track?
- B. How was the track marked?
- C. Did the athletes work out on the track?
- D. Were the facilities shared with any other teams?
- E. Was there a change in the facilities during the period?  
Might this have had a bearing on improved times and distances?
- F. Was track a popular spectator sport?
- G. Did the track team ever workout indoors? Where?

III. Equipment

- A. What type of shoes were worn?
- B. What was the uniform like?
- C. What type of timing devises and finishing tape were used?
- D. What wer the markings used on or near the track?
- E. What were the field event standards and crossbars like?

- F. Were the hurdles and starting blocks any different than they are today? If so, how did they differ?
- G. What were the weights like? Shot? Discus? Javelin?
- H. Did the pole vault pole differ from today's pole? How?

#### IV. Athletes

- A. Were the athletes strictly track athletes or were they all-round athletes?
  - B. Were they mostly from La Crosse?
  - C. Were they principally physical education people?
  - D. Why did they come to La Crosse?
- V. How do you think the rule changes alter performances? What were some of the rule changes?

#### VI. What were some of the reasons for the changes in performances?

## APPENDIX C

## TRACK COACHES

1912 - 1913	Joel R. Moore
1914 - 1917	Dr. Carl B. Sputh
1918 - 1926	Raymond Keeler
1927	Ross Lyons
1928 - 1930	Raymond Keeler
1931 - 1938	Howard Johnson
1932	Walter Wittich (Interim Coach with Johnson Ill)
1938	Hans Reuter (Johnson Ill Last two days of Season)
1939	Thomas Ausbury
1940 - 1942	Floyd Gautsch
1946	Gordon Bahr
1947 - 1965	Floyd Gautsch
1966	James Brown
1967	John Hancock (Interim Coach for Mr. Brown)

## SCHOOL RECORDS AT WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY - LA CROSSE

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>100 Yard Dash</u>		
Lee Griffin	10.4	1913
Emil Fuzer	10.3	1928
Henry Sugden	10.1	1937
Henry Sugden	10.0	1938
Wes Mooney	9.9	1956
<u>220 Yard Dash</u>		
Lee Griffin	23.4	1913
Charles Hunt	23.1	1932
Henry Sugden	22.5	1938
Ralph Karst	21.8	1956
<u>440 Yard Dash</u>		
Marcus Byers	59	1912
Harold Ryan	54	1912
Harold Ryan	53.6	1912
William Irvin	52.8	1933
Carl Rude	51.3	1934
William Spalholz	51.2	1951
Ron Richardson	49.5	1958
<u>880 Yard Run</u>		
Robert Keyes	2:15.4	1912
Art Renner	2:10.	1919
William Irvin	2:06.8	1933
Bob Heinz	2:02.6	1948
Ken Renning	2:00.8	1956
Hector Fischer	2:00.7	1959
Gerald Braza	1:59.4	1965
Scott Lingren	1:56.5	1967
<u>Two Mile</u>		
Arnold Fields	10:25.5	1921
Wes Mayer	10:23.4	1953
Dick Trickle	10:05.4	1960
Dick Trickle	9:51.4	1961

<u>Mile</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
Robert Keyes	5:20	1912
Bill Walker	5:05	1916
Bob Randall	4:52.6	1919
Bob Randall	4:51	1920
Don Espeland	4:40.5	1932
John Reinhold	4:33	1954
Larry Morrison	4:27.5	1965
Rod Leadley	4:25	1967
<u>High Hurdles</u>		
Charles Hyde	16.2	1912
Howard Armstrong	16.0	1922
Bill Provine	15.1	1956
Stan Druckery	14.8	1967
<u>Low Hurdles</u>		
William Bonneville	27	1912
Hugh Downey	26.6	1914
Bob Wieshbecker	25.9	1927
Jim DeMerit	24.5	1948
Bill Provine	24.4	1956
<u>Three Mile</u>		
Pete Van Handel	16:02	1964
Dan Ehler	15:09	1965
<u>Intermediate Hurdles (330 Yards)</u>		
Rick Kaufman	40.4	1966
Stan Druckery	38.7	1967
<u>Intermediate Hurdles (440 Yards)</u>		
Steve Noffsinger	59.2	1966
Stan Druckery	55.8	1967
<u>Two Mile Relay</u>		
Cross, Klinzing Van Handel, Braza	8:18.3	1964
Braza, Klinzing Gianforte, Hardy	8:12.3	1966

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Distance Medley</u>		
Grover, Braza Docauer, Klinzing	11:06.9	1966
<u>Four Mile Relay</u>		
Esten, Van Handel Cross, Klinzing	19:20.0	1965
Curtis, Mahorski Docauer, Klinzing	18:48.0	1966
<u>480 Yard High Hurdle Shuttle Relay</u>		
Noffsinger, Byers Fahning, Robarge	1:09.3	1964
Noffsinger, Dallman Fahning, Kaufman	1:07.0	1966
<u>800 Yard Low Hurdle Shuttle Relay</u>		
Noffsinger, Meronk Dallman, Kaufman	1:35.5	1966
<u>Mile Relay</u>		
Irvin, Espeland Nichols, Twesme	3:39	1932
Sevrenny, Bowerstoch Champine, Rude	3:37.1	1935
Thiel, Timm, Aarstad, Brown	3:36.7	1948
Timm, Heinz Brown, Thiel	3:32.9	1948
Richardson, Lehrke Gutkowski, Gaurke	3:31	1957
Morrison, Grover Schockmel, Werner	3:30.3	1964
Morrison, Schultz Schockmel, Werner	3:28.8	1965
Schockmel, Schultz Bloedel, Hardy	3:22.8	1966

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>880 Relay</u>		
Wiederhoeft, DeZwarte Birchall, Sugden	1:34.0	1938
Muckler, Mueller Wiederhoeft, Sugden	1:33.8	1939
Sampson, Fangmeier Berzinski, Hannah	1:32.1	1953
Mooney, Karst Kollath, Fangmeier	1:31.0	1956

<u>440 Relay</u>		
Witek, Gardiner Schockmel, Werner	44.8	1965
White, Herbage Schockmel, Bloedel	44.1	1965
Schultz, Schockmel Thurman, Bloedel	43.7	1966
Gorecki, Gartland White, Druckery	43.5	1967

	<u>Height</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>High Jump</u>		
Emil Krause	5'5½"	1911
Will McCormick	5'8"	1919
Hebby Reget	6'	1921
Ole Jorgenson	6'3/4"	1925
John Bjorge	6'1"	1933
Tom Giombetti	6'1½"	1956
Ron Heins	6'2 1/8"	1958
Dick Gryphan	6'4"	1962
Ron Byers	6'4½"	1964

<u>Pole Vault</u>		
Holway	9'	1912
Al Meinert	10'	1916
Harry Thompson	10'8"	1920
Julius Juel	12'	1931
Darrell Jackson	12'6"	1954
Grady Steensrud	12'8"	1964
Grady Steensrud	13'1"	1964
Tom Busse	13'7½"	1965
Glenn Lasch	13'9½"	1966
Glenn Lasch	14'	1967

	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Broad Jump</u>		
Lee Griffin	20'3"	1912
Will McCormick	20'7"	1920
Hebby Reget	20'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1921
Lauren Harr	21'4"	1933
Lauren Harr	22'10"	1934
Bill Provine	23'5"	1955
<u>Discus</u>		
Nels Erickson	83'9"	1912
Harold Taylor	111'9"	1915
Harold Taylor	114'4"	1919
George Dahlgren	117'	1921
Max Pascover	119'5"	1922
Phil Hovind	126'7"	1932
James Butterbrodt	138'4"	1957
David Parisey	142'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1961
Gary Crites	154'6"	1963
David Heinecke	156'3"	1964
<u>Shot Put</u>		
Nels Erickson	33'11"	1912
Harold Taylor	38'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1916
Harold Taylor	39'3"	1919
Clarence St. Peter	40'7"	1932
Jim DeMerit	43'1"	1947
Jim DeMerit	44'8"	1949
Bill Lauritzen	49'	1961
Gary Crites	50'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1963
<u>Javelin</u>		
Will McCormick	173'10"	1918
Jesse Lyon	184'4"	1929
Joe Fleckinger	190'4"	1957
Joe Fleckinger	201'	1958
Richard Pampuch	201'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1958
<u>Triple Jump</u>		
Steve Noffsinger	39'2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1964
Gary Gardiner	39'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1965
Jeff Haebig	41'2"	1966
Russ Kinney	42'7"	1967

These records have been collected to the best of this researcher's ability. Discrepancies were found in the collection of these records and an attempt was made to correct them.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Distance, Time, Height</u>
1915	Harold Ryan	100 Yd. Dash	10.6
		220 Yd. Dash	24.8
		440 Yd. Dash	55.0
1916	Harry Gaunsick	100 Yd. Dash	10.4
		220 Yd. Dash	24.4
	Harold Ryan	Broad Jump	18'8"
		440 Yd. Dash	53.6
	Ed Braun	High Hurdles	18.6
	Harold Taylor	Shot Put	38'1 3/4"
	G. Leonard Adair	High Jump	5'3 1/2" Tie
		Mile Relay	3:42.0
1918	Mr. Kulczynski	High Hurdles	17.8
		Low Hurdles	28.6
	Will McCormick	Pole Vault	10'
		Javelin	176'10"
		Broad Jump	20'7"
	Earnest Burrows	High Jump	5'2" Tie
		High Jump	5'2" Tie
		High Jump	5'2" Tie
1919	Talbert Jessup	High Hurdles	17.8
		Shot Put	34'8 1/2"
	Harold Taylor	Discus	114'4"
		Broad Jump	20'6"
	Mr. Brown		
1920	T. Gibson	880 Yd. Run	2:09.0
	Dewey Huber	Shot Put	36'8"
	Bob Randall	Mile	4:51.6
	Sidney Burroughs	Discus	109'10"
	Charles Knutson	High Jump	5'5 3/4" Tie
	Hebby Reget	High Jump	5'5 3/4" Tie
1921	Hebby Reget	High Jump	5'8"
	Arnold Fields	Two Mile	10:25.5
	George Dahlgren	Discus	117'
		Hammer Throw	119'2"
1922	Howard Armstrong	High Hurdles	16.0
	Max Pascover	Discus	119'5"
	Ervin Gerber	Hammer	
	Mooney Vandrashak	Javelin	
	Milton Davidson	Pole Vault	
1923	John Torresoni (WICC)	Pole Vault	
1925	Ole Jorgenson	High Jump	6' 3/4"

<u>Year</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Distance, Time, Height</u>
1927	Teddy Weisbecker	Low Hurdles	25.9
1928	Mike Ward	Javelin 880 Relay	181'5" 1:34.9
1929	Bill Austin Jesse Lyons Erwin Kletzien	High Hurdles Javelin Pole Vault	16.9 184'4" 11'6"
1930	Bill Austin Jesse Lyons	High Hurdles Javelin	16.2 183'4"
1932	Don Espeland	Mile	10:26.5
1933	Gordon Yerrigan	Javelin	176'8"
1934	Lauren Harr	Broad Jump	22'10"
1935	Carl Rude Lauren Harr	440 Yd. Run Broad Jump	52.4 22' $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1937	Henry Sugden  Bob Binter	100 Yd. Dash Broad Jump Javelin	10.0 21'6" 178'10"
1938	Henry Sugden	100 Yd. Dash 220 Yd. Dash 880 Relay	10.1 22.5 1:34.0
1939	Henry Sugden  Charles Johnson	220 Yd. Dash 440 Yd. Dash Shot Put 880 Relay	22.6 51.0 41'11" 1:33.8
1940	Edmund Hughes	High Jump	6'
1942	Tim Nugent Jack Woekner	220 Yd. Dash High Hurdles	23.2 16.2
1946	Jim DeMerit  Bob Murphy  Wally Wirz Ardy Aarstad Hubert Rhode	High Hurdles Shot Put Mile Two Mile Broad Jump Quarter Mile High Jump 880 Relay	16.6 40'1" 4:43.6 10:59 20'5" 53.7 5'11" 1:36.8
1947	Jim DeMerit  Bill Cross	Shot Put High Hurdles 220 Yd. Dash	43'1" 15.8 22.1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Distance, Time, Height</u>
1947	Frank Blandin	100 Yd. Dash 880 Relay	10.1 1:33.8
1948	Frank Blandin Jim DeMerit  Bob Heinz	100 Yd. Dash Shot Put Low Hurdles Broad Jump 880 Yd. Run	10.1 43'4" 24.5 21'1½" 2:03.1
1949	Jim DeMerit  Hubert Rhode Ned Hodgson	High Hurdles Shot Put High Jump High Jump 880 Relay	15.8 44'6" 5'6" Tie 5'6" Tie 1:33
1950	Waine La Borde	High Hurdles 880 Relay	16.0 1:34.2
1951	Don Bauer  George Sladky	100 Yd. Dash 220 Yd. Dash Javelin	10.3 22.8 171'9"
1953	R. Lyle Sampson  Larry Michaels Tom Rosandich  Dave Gessert	100 Yd. Dash 220 Yd. Dash 440 Yd. Dash High Hurdles Low Hurdles High Jump High Jump High Jump Broad Jump 880 Relay	10.2 22.7 51.6 15.7 25.5 5'8½" Tie 5'8½" Tie 22'1½" 1:32.1
1954	Bill Provine  Jim Crowley Neil Koeneman Don Heinrich	100 Yd. Dash 220 Yd. Dash High Hurdles Low Hurdles High Jump High Jump 880 Relay	10.6 23.5 16.1 25.8 5'10" Tie 5'10" Tie 1:33
1955	Jim Crowley Dick Rigg Jim Butterbrodt Joe Pleckinger Bill Provine	Low Hurdles High Hurdles Discus Javelin Broad Jump	25.5 15.6 130' 174'8½" 22'7½"
1956	Bill Provine	100 Yd. Dash High Hurdles Low Hurdles Broad Jump	10.1 15.1 24.4 22'10 ¾"

<u>Year</u>	<u>Athlete</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Distance, Time, Height</u>
1956	Phillip Rose	Mile	4:33.4
	Ralph Karst	220 Yd. Dash	21.8
	Tom Giombetti	High Jump	6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Dave Hallberg	Discus	127'9"
1957	Ralph Karst	100 Yd. Dash	10.4
	Dick Rigg	High Hurdles	15.9
	Sten Pierce	Discus	135'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Joe Pleckinger	Javelin	163'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Bill Provine	Broad Jump	22'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Tom Giombetti	High Jump	5'11" Tie
1958	Ron Richardson	440 Yd. Dash	50.8
	<del>Ralph Karst</del>	Low Hurdles	25.8
	Neil Koeneman	High Hurdles	16.1
	Ron Heins	High Jump	6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Dick Pampuch	Javelin	191'11"
1959	Jerry La Luzerne	Javelin	176'11"
	Hector Fischer	880 Yd. Run	2:00.7
	Ron Heins	High Jump	5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Tie
1960	Dion Wheeler	440 Yd. Dash	50.5
	Dick Trickel	Two Mile	10:05.4
	Darrell Jackson	Pole Vault	12'6"
1961	Hector Fischer	880 Yd. Run	2:01.3
	Ed Noltner	Pole Vault	12' Tie
1962	Bill Lauritzen	Shot Put	46'2 3/4"
	Dick Gryphen	High Jump	6'4"
1963	Gary Crites	Shot Put	48'3"
		Discus	154'6"
	Ron Czechowicz	Pole Vault	12'
1964	Ron Byers	High Jump	6'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Dave Heinecke	Discus	147'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1965	Dave Heinecke	Discus	154'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Dan Ehler	3 Mile	15:17.6
	Ron Byers	High Jump	6'1"
	Tom Busse	Pole Vault	13'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1966	Glenn Lasch	Pole Vault	13'9"
1967	Stan Druckery	330 Yd. Hurd.	38.7

The conference champions and their performances have been gathered to the best of the ability of this researcher.

YEARLY RECORDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Place</u>
1911	La Crosse High School and YMCA	2nd
1912	La Crosse High School and YMCA	2nd
1915	State Meet	2nd
1916	Stout	1st
	State Meet	1st
1917	Dubuque	2nd
	Stout	1st
1918	State Meet	1st
1919	State Meet	2nd
1920	State Meet	2nd
1921	State Meet	2nd
1922	Winona	1st
	State Meet	2nd
1923	Stout	1st
	Western Interstate Collegiate Conference	2nd
1925	Winona	1st
	State Meet	5th
1927	Platteville and Eau Claire	1st
	Columbia and Luther	3rd
	State Meet	4th
1928	Columbia	2nd
	Luther and Columbia	2nd Tie
	State Meet	4th
1929	Hamline Relays	
	Columbia	1st
	Luther and Columbia	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1930	Eau Claire and Winona	1st
	Winona	1st
	Luther and Columbia	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1931	Winona	1st
	Luther and Columbia	1st
	Oshkosh	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1932	Winona	2nd
	Luther and Columbia	3rd
	State Meet	6th
1933	Winona	1st
	Winona and Luther	1st
	State Meet	2nd
1934	Winona	1st
	Winona, Luther, and Columbia	1st
	Luther Invitational	3rd
	State Meet	2nd

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Place</u>
1935	Winona and Eau Claire	2nd
	State Meet	5th
1936	Winona	1st
	Upper Iowa	2nd
1937	Luther and Winona	1st
	Upper Iowa	1st
	Luther, Upper Iowa, and Wartburg	1st
	State Meet	3rd
1938	Winona	1st
	Luther Invitational	3rd
	State Meet	3rd
1939	Winona	1st
	Winona and Mankato	1st
	Luther Invitational	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1940	Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Whitewater	4th
	Oshkosh and Whitewater	3rd
	State Meet	3rd
1941	Winona Relays	1st
	Milwaukee Relay Carnival	3rd
	State Meet	3rd
1942	Winona	1st
	Winona and St. Mary's	1st
	Luther Invitational	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1946	Luther	1st
	Upper Iowa	1st
	Luther and Winona	1st
	State Meet	1st
1947	Luther	1st
	Eau Claire, St. Mary's and Winona	1st
	Luther and Winona	1st
	Eau Claire and Winona	1st
	Oshkosh	1st
	Grinnell (telegraphic meet)	1st
	State Meet	2nd
1948	Luther, Winona, and Upper Iowa	1st
	Winona	1st
	Grinnell	1st
	Iowa Teachers, Upper Iowa, and Luther	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1949	Dubuque, and Luther	1st
	Winona	1st
	Oshkosh	1st
	Milwaukee	2nd
	Milwaukee and Whitewater	2nd
	State Meet	2nd

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Place</u>
1950	Winona	1st
	Luther and Winona	1st
	Oshkosh	1st
	St. Thomas Invitational	5th
	Milwaukee	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1951	Winona	1st
	Luther	1st
	Mankato Invitational	1st
	St. Thomas Invitational	3rd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	State Meet	2nd
1952	Luther	2nd
	Winona and Eau Claire	1st
	Midwestern State Teachers College Track Meet	3rd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	State Meet	4th
1953	Winona	1st
	Luther	1st
	Lawrence	1st
	Oshkosh	1st
	State Meet	2nd
	Luther	1st
1954	Ripon	1st
	Lawrence	1st
	St. Thomas and Carleton	1st
	State Meet	1st
	Luther	1st
	Iowa State Teachers Meet	2nd
1955	Milwaukee, Winona, and River Falls	2nd
	Lawrence	1st
	State Meet	2nd
	Luther	1st
	River Falls and Winona	1st
	Michigan Tech and Lawrence	1st
1956	Ripon	1st
	Milwaukee	1st
	State Meet	1st
	Stevens Point	1st
	Luther, River Falls, and Winona	1st
	St. Johns, St. Thomas, and St. Cloud	1st
1957	Lawrence	1st
	Beloit Relays	3rd
	Beloit	1st
	Mankato	2nd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	State Meet	1st

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Place</u>
1958	Luther	2nd
	Stevens Point	1st
	River Falls and Eau Claire	1st
	Beloit Relays	
	Mankato	2nd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	State Meet	1st
1959	Luther	1st
	Iowa State Teachers Relays	
	Winona	1st
	River Falls and Eau Claire	1st
	Beloit Relays	
	Milwaukee	2nd
1960	State Meet	2nd
	Winona	1st
	Luther	2nd
	River Falls and Eau Claire	1st
	Beloit Relays	
	Milwaukee	1st
	State Meet	2nd
1961	Luther	2nd
	Stevens Point	1st
	Winona	1st
	Platteville	1st
	UWM Invitational Relays	2nd
	Milwaukee	1st
	State Meet	2nd
	Luther	1st
1962	Milwaukee	2nd
	Wisconsin State College Relays	1st
	State Meet	1st
	Luther	1st
	Milwaukee	2nd
1963	Platteville	1st
	Whitewater	1st
	River Falls and Winona	1st
	Stout	1st
	State College Conference Relays	3rd Tie
	Milwaukee	2nd
	Luther	2nd
	State Meet	3rd
1964	Platteville	1st
	Whitewater	2nd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	Conference Relays	3rd
	Luther	2nd
	Conference Meet	3rd

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Place</u>
1965	River Falls	1st
	UWM Relays	4th
	Whitewater	2nd
	Macalester Invitational	
	Conference Meet	2nd
1966	Stout (indoors)	1st
	Winona	1st
	River Falls and Platteville	1st
	Platteville	2nd
	Stout, Stevens Point, and Oshkosh	1st
	Whitewater	2nd
	Norseman Relays	
	UWM Relays	4th
	Macalester Invitational	
	UWM	1st
	Winona	1st
	Conference Meet	5th
1967	Milwaukee	2nd
	Platteville	1st
	Platteville and Winona	2nd
	Milwaukee	2nd
	Whitewater	2nd
	Stevens Point, River Falls, Stout, and Michigan Tech	1st
	Conference Meet	3rd

These yearly records have been collected to the best of the ability of this researcher.

TRACK CAPTAINS AT WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY - LA CROSSE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Captain</u>
1912	William Bonneville
1913	M.G. Byers
1915	Adolph Youngberg
1916	Harold Taylor
1918	Will McCormick
1919	Merrill Maurer (Captain-elect Earnest Burrows was not in school)
1921	Hebby Reget
1922	Arnold "Happy" Fields
1923	Howard Armstrong
1925	Ken Clark
1927	Clinton Dawe and Leonard Hettinger
1928	John Westerland
1929	Emil Fuzer
1930	Jesse Lyons
1931	Clark Van Galder
1932	William Moyle
1938	Evar Silvernagle
1947	John Kenney and Jim DeMerit
1948	John Mulrooney and Bill Cross
1950	Frank Blandin
1951	Bill Thrall and Bill Spaltholz
1952	Wes Mayer
1953	Bob Wells
1954	Tom Rosandich and Dave Gessert
1955	Jim Crowley
1956	Willie Berzinski and Dick Rigg
1957	George Fangmeier and Bill Provine
1958	Ron Richardson
1959	Sten Pierce and Al Vandenberg
1960	Dave Hussey and Darrell Jackson
1961	Pat Scheafer and Duane Schluter
1962	Dick Trickel
1965	Phil Esten
1966	Barney Klinzing
1967	Grady Steensrud

The list of track captains at Wisconsin State University has been collected to the best of this researcher's ability. A record of captains was not complete. This is due partly to the fact that an honorary captain was chosen after the season. Discrepancies have also arisen concerning the captains over the years.