

Sequoia ace Jim Matejka vaults 13-2

By PAUL McCARTHY

REDWOOD CITY — Bull-shouldered Jim Matejka of Sequoia High thrilled a chilled crowd of some 2,800 track and field fans here last night by winning the pole vault and with it the top prize in the third annual Sequoia Invitational Track Meet.

The bespectacled Cherokee vaulter cleared 13-2 on his second attempt after knocking out the rest of a talented field two heights earlier. The height is tops in the state.

Matejka's dramatic feat—in the face of highly publicized stars from all over Northern California — won him solid backing for the William S. Mc-Birney award as the night's outstanding individual performer.

Others winning heavy backing in the balloting of the five-man committee were Richmond's ebony streak, Rudolph Jackson, for his double sprint win; Salinas' Eddie King after a near-perfect 440 triumph and relay lap, and Riordan's Bob Harrington, twin winner in the hurdles.

It was a night made for record-breaking in spite of the cold winds which prevailed almost until the end.

No less than 15 field or meet records went tumbling down as leaders in the program's 18 events battled down to the wire. In virtually every event on the varsity docket winning efforts were near the best recorded in the state to date.

Don't get the idea that the Peninsula aces were completely outclassed by their trans-Bay and down-valley neighbors.

By actual count, P.A.L. representatives won six events:

Burlingame's Leon Kreuger came close to his 138-foot best in winning the discus at 135-2 $\frac{3}{4}$; Gino Della Libera of San Mateo flipped the plate 130-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ for third.

Della Libera already had won the shot at 53-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ —just one inch off his own meet record, and Lincoln's Don Dirienzo took third at 51-9 $\frac{1}{2}$. That's his best to date, incidentally.

The summary:

Here's How Invitational Stars Finished in Big Meet

Low hurdles, first heat—1. Bob Harrington, Riordan. 2. Jay VanderZweip, Lincoln, S.F. 3. Dennis Ballam, Sequoia, :19.7.

Low hurdles, second heat—1. Henry Aguilar, James Lick. 2. Jack Heass, St. Ignatius. No time.

Low hurdles, final—1. Bob Harrington, Riordan. 2. Jay VanderZweip, Lincoln, S.F. 3. Henry Aguilar, James Lick. :19.8.

Class C 75, first heat—1. Jasper Edwards, El Cerrito. 2. Sal Rodriguez, Willow Glen. 3. Pete McIntyre, Menlo-Atherton. :08.3.

Class C 75, second heat—1. Eddie Hoskins, El Cerrito. 2. Tony Noce, San Mateo. 3. Sonny Martinez, Jefferson. :08.1 (New meet and field record; old mark :08.3 by Fred Schulenberg, Sequoia, 1953).

Class C 75, final—1. Jasper Edwards, El Cerrito. 2. Tony Noce, San Mateo. 3. Eddie Hoskins, El Cerrito. :08.3.

High hurdles—1. Bob Harrington, Riordan. 2. Henry Aguilar, James Lick. 3. Dave Dawson, St. Ignatius. :15.2.

Tribune Mile—1. Ray Hale, Downey (Modesto). 2. Ron Larrieu, Palo Alto. 3. Jim Rector, Jefferson. 4:30.9. (New meet and field record; old mark, 4:31.4 by Mary Gross, Lincoln (SJ), 1954).

Class B 330—1. Don Wetteland, Burlingame. 2. John Nardone, Salinas. 3. Steve Mack, Jefferson. :38 flat.

100—1. Rudolph Jackson, Richmond. 2. Larry Lambert, Hayward. 3. John Aguiar, James Lick. :09.8.

440—1. Eddie King, Salinas. 2. Roger Peterson, Burlingame. 3. Ken Stryker, Los Gatos. :49.1. (New meet and field record; old mark, Hosea Harper, Alameda, :50.6, 1954).

880—1. Don Chesarek, Riordan. 2. Ron Gross, Richmond. 3. Doug Robertson, Los Gatos. 2:00.

220—1. Rudolph Jackson, Richmond. 2. Larry Lambert, Hayward. 3. Ed Pucchetti, Lincoln (SF). :21.7.

Class B 1320—Charles Lagomarsino, Santa Rosa. 2. Herb Cloe, El Cerrito. 3. Don Lee, Lincoln (SJ). 3:27 flat. (New meet and field record; old mark, 3:28.8., Danny Bluth, El Cerrito, 1954).

Shot Put—1. Gino Della Libera, San Mateo (53-9½). 2. Marvin Anderson, Salinas (52-3¾). 3. Don Dirienzo, Lincoln, SJ (51-9¾).

Discus—1. Leon Krueger, Burlingame (135-2¾). 2. Darrell Mulloy, S.F. Polytechnic (131-1½). 3. Gino Della Libera, San Mateo (130-2¾).

High jump—1. Dick Dailey, Hayward (6-¾). 2. Tie: Eurael Bell, El Cerrito, and Wilford Gasper, S.F. Polytechnic (5-11).

Pole vault—1. Jim Matejka, Sequoia (13-2). 2. Jess Undlin, Burlingame (12-3). 3. Keith Anders, Los Gatos (12 feet). (New meet and field record; old mark, 11-10¾, by Charlie Hightower, San Jose, 1953, and Undlin, 1954).

Broad jump—1. Dick Dailey, Hayward (21-11). 2. Ray Hayworth, Mt. Diablo (21-5½). 3. John Perkins, El Cerrito (21-2½).

Class C Relay (440)—1. George Washington, S.F. (McPherson, Litrin, Torres, Takeshita). 2. Jefferson (Sonny Martinez, Gerry Rosenberg, Buddy Pollard, Danny Micelli). 3. Lowell, :46.8. (New meet record; old mark, :47.4, Menlo-Atherton, 1954).

Class B Relay (440)—1. Burlingame (Stu Welch, Gordon Shellberg, Frank Goss, Don Wetteland). 2. El Cerrito. 3. Mountain View. :45.9. (New meet and field record; old mark, :46.1, Santa Clara, 1954).

Class A Relay (880)—1. Salinas (Hardy Nielsen, Rickie Ames, Don Pittman, Eddie King). 2. Lincoln, S.F. 3. Richmond. 1:30.9. (New meet and field record; old mark, 1:31.9, Alameda, 1954). (Note: Mt. Diablo finished second but was disqualified; wrong lane).

Meet's Standout Can't Believe It

Modest Jim Matejka couldn't believe it when told he'd won the McBirney Award as most outstanding athlete at the Invitational last night.

"Oh, sure," he said while showering up in the Cherokee

gym, "I know—April Fool! Big joke, but I'm not falling for that one."

Assured by messengers that the crowd was waiting for his appearance, Matejka gulped and quickly dressed for presentation ceremonies.

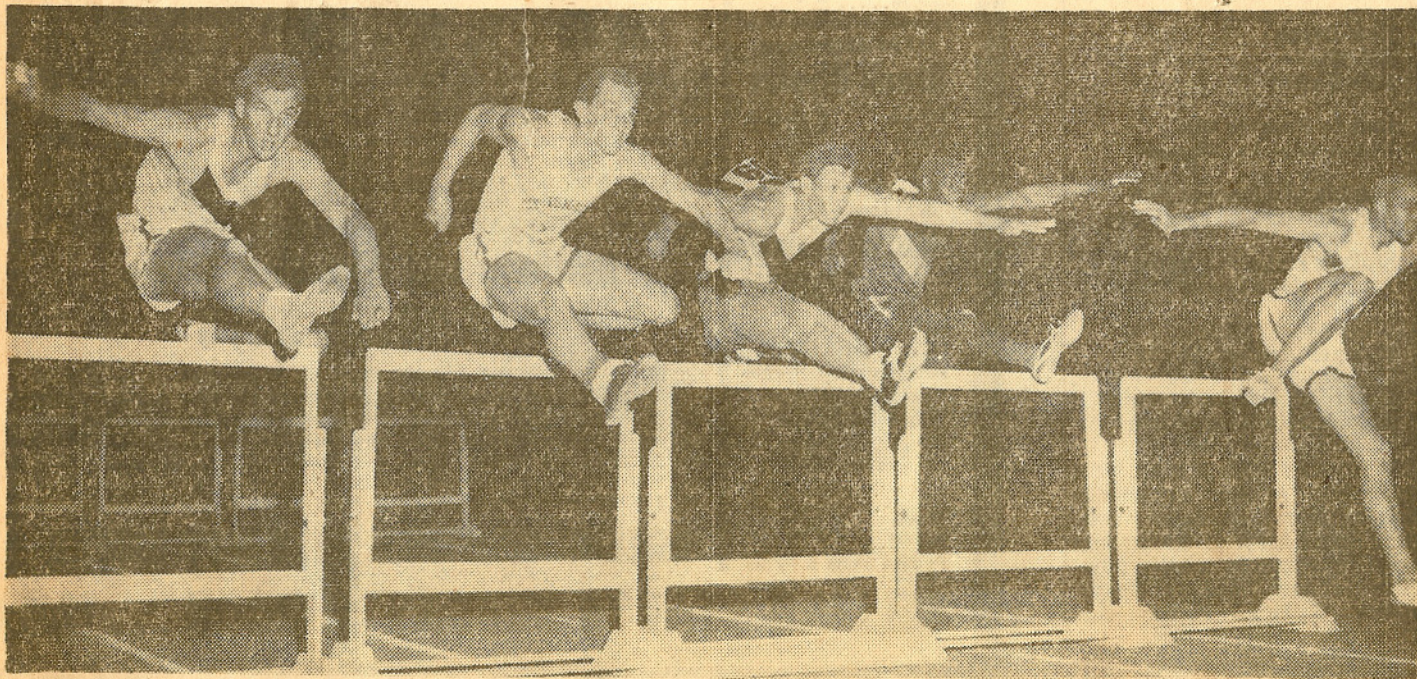
Records Fall

TRIBUNE SPORTS

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PRIZED PREP — Sequoia's Jim Matejka gets enthusiastic congratulations from Sequoia Invitational Pres. William S. McBirney (left) after winning the experts' vote as top performer in last night's third annual high school cinder classic. It was the first time an athlete had taken home the top prize without having to win two or more events. But judges were solid in their voting for the modest Indian junior after his record-breaking 13-2 pole vault win.



HURDLE HOPPERS—Opening event on the program last night, the 120-yard high hurdles, found the picked field tightly packed at the fifth barrier (above). Left to right are Bur-

lingame's Reed Baird, St. Ignatius' Dave Dawson, James Lick's Henry Aguilar, Richmond's Curtis Yarborough and the eventual double winner, Riordan's classy Bob Harrington.

ing Rector with 25 yards to go and barely caught Larrieu as both runners lunged for the tape. It was a rare mile finish. More like the 100-yard dash.

"I was lucky to win," Hale said afterwards. "I had a terrific side-ache throughout the race and I didn't know how I was going to catch Larrieu after he built up that early lead."

But he did "catch" Larrieu. And, brother, you can bet the sparks will fly when these three meet again!

Zatopek Games Aide

VIENNA (AP) — Czechoslovak track star and Olympic champion Emil Zatopek has been appointed a member of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee, Communist newspapers report.

King, Matejka Join Forces To Beat Out Burlingame Stars

By HOWARD CARR

Sequoia High School's brilliant junior pole vaulter, Jim Matejka, was voted the outstanding competitor in the third annual Sequoia Invitational track meet here last night but in winning the award, he beat out another top-flight-er in Salinas' brilliant runner, Eddie King.

An oddity was that both Matejka and King won their specialties—the vault and the 440—by decisioning a pair of Burlingame performers, Jess Und-

lin and Roger Peterson, respectively.

That Matejka would get the outstanding competitor award was almost a foregone conclusion after the bespectacled youngster won his event at 13 feet, 2 inches—8 inches higher than he ever had cleared before and well over the meet and Terremere Field record of 11-10 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Undlin also broke the former record, but the Burlingame climber—who also has done 13-2 this season—was no match

for the determined Cherokee last night. Undlin took second at 12-3 after just missing 12-8 on his final try.

King, although missing out on the outstanding competitor award, nonetheless proved to the 2,800 fans gathered why he's the pride and joy of Salinas High School track fans.

He proved it first when he won his specialty, the 440, in :49.1, considerably lower than the meet and field record of 50.6.

And he proved it again when he anchored Salinas' 880 relay team to first place in 1:30.9, also a new meet and field record.

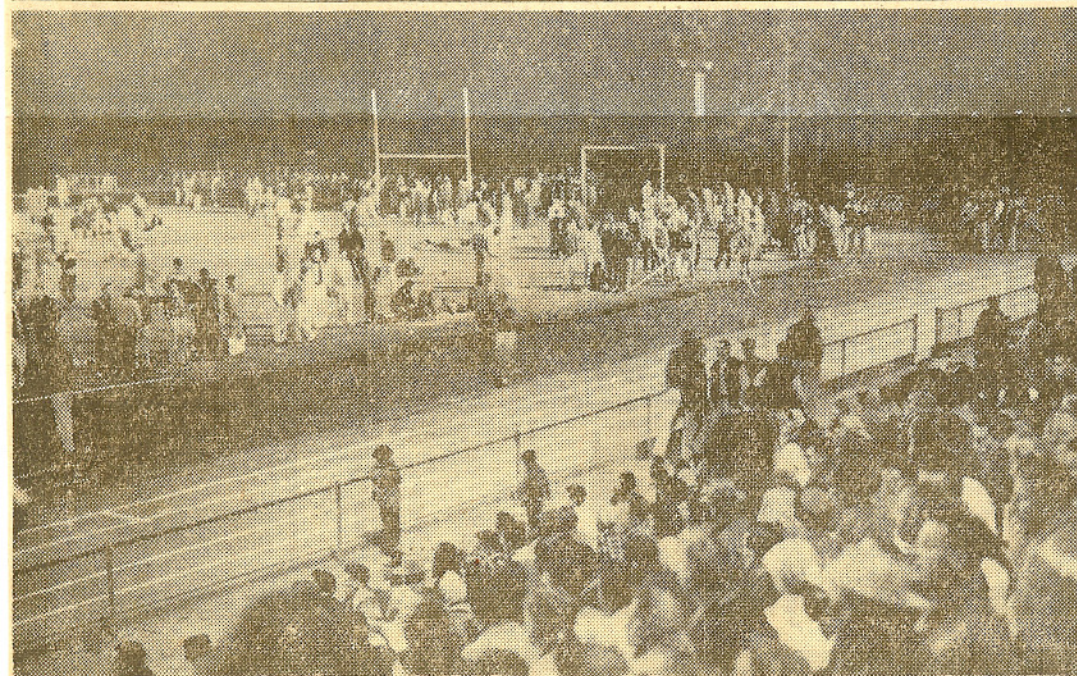
It would be hard to say which of King's races—his 440 run or his anchor lap on the relay team—was the more brilliant for both were drama-laden.

In winning the 440 King went to the front early, held his lead throughout, staved off Peterson's closing rush and won by from 5 to 10 yards.

In the relay, King had to make up a 3-yard deficit in the final 220 yards but this he did, again with yards to spare. He breasted the tape some 5-6 yards ahead of the second-place Lincoln of San Francisco anchorman.

McGovern Busy

All photos on this page are the work of Tribune Camera-man Reginald McGovern, who turned up as one of the busiest men on the field at Sequoia High last night.



BIG CROWD GLUES EYES ON EARLY FIELD EVENTS
... Pole vault and shot put (right center) bask in spotlight

Hale's Kick Wraps Up Mile Mark

By GARY WILLIAMS

Showing a tremendous kick in the final 65 yards, Ray Hale of Downey High School (Modesto) came from third place to win the Tribune mile by three inches in the record time of 4:30.0.

Hale's photo-finish win over pace-setter Ron Larrieu of Palo Alto was the best mile in Northern California this season. Larrieu was clocked in 4:30.1 and Jefferson's Jim Rector was six yards back in 4:31.1.

All three times better the Sequoia Invitational and Terremere Field record. The old mark was 4:31.4 by Marv Gross of Lincoln (San Jose) in 1954.

Hale's clocking—and thrilling last-second burst—was even more impressive when you realize that it was only his third race of the season.

The Modesto flash had a previous 1955 best of a mediocre 4:55.3, but he was back in the groove last night — the groove that last year saw him grab second in the State Meet in 4:25.8.

Larrieu set a stiff pace for the seven-man field. He jumped to an early lead and was clocked in 61 seconds at the 440 point and 2:14 at the half way mark. Rector took a short-lived lead just as the final lap got underway. The three-quarter time was a blistering 3:25.0.

Hale, who early in the race was as far back as fifth place, appeared satisfied with a third spot early the final lap. It looked like a familiar Larrieu-Rector duel going into the last lap, with the Palo Alto star out in front by three yards.

Hale was five yards behind Rector when he started his stretch bid at the height of the turn. He breezed past the tiring Rector with 25 yards to go and barely caught Larrieu as both runners lunged for the tape. It was a rare mile finish. More like the 100-yard dash.

"I was lucky to win," Hale said afterwards. "I had a terrific side-ache throughout the race and I didn't know how I was going to catch Larrieu after he built up that early lead."

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Vaulter Gets High Praise From 'Snort'

By DAVE WIK

If anyone is going to break Dutch Warmerdam's world record in the pole vault it's going to be Jim Matejka, the Sequoia vaulter who last night soared 13-2 to high light the all-star meet at Terremere Field.

At least that's the opinion of T. C. (Snort) Winstead, veteran AAU official, who officiated at the prep invitational affair.

"There's no doubt about it," cheered Winstead, "Matejka will go a long way. He's got everything a great pole vaulter needs to become a real champion.

"I was at Modesto the year Warmerdam broke the world mark with a vault of 15-7 $\frac{3}{4}$. And Matejka reminds me a lot of Dutch. He's got the poise, a terrific build, the right temperament and attitude to top the world record. I wouldn't be surprised within a few years if he did do just that," said the veteran track observer.

Winstead, together with another of the country's top AAU officials — Harold Berliner of San Francisco—heaped laurels on several of the other prepsters who thrilled the 2,800 on-lookers.

Both cited speedy Eddie King, the Salinas quarter-miler who set a meet and field standard of :49.1, as a sure-fire college prospect.

Others mentioned were Bob Harrington, Riordan's double winner in the hurdles; Richmond's Rudy Jackson who copped both sprint events; and Ray Hale of Modesto's Downey High School who won the Tribune mile with a 4:30 effort.

Bert Neslon, Los Altos publisher of the internationally known Track and Field News, praised the activity "as one of the finest prep meets I've ever witnessed." He was particularly impressed with King's time in the 440.

Failure by Dick Dailey of Hayward, the state high jump champ, to better his record height of 6-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ set in last year's meet was one of the few disappointing performances. Dailey, figuring in one of the affair's top events, was limited to a winning mark of 6- $\frac{3}{4}$.

However, one observer close to the Hayward camp, pointed out that the cold night air halted considerably Dailey's aspiration for a record performance. He also mentioned that the take-off area was far from ideal.

Other winners included Burlingame's Don Wetteland who ran away from the B 330 field; Jefferson's C relay team of Sonny Martinez, Gerry Rosenberg, Buddy Pollard and Dan Miceli; Burlingame's B relay foursome of Stu Welch, Gordon Shelberg, Frank Goss and Wetteland; and of course, Matejka of Sequoia.

Tony Noce, with a fast start, split El Cerrito's 75 stars, Jasper Edwards and Eddie Hoskins, in the finals after the latter had set a new meet record in a trial heat.

Lincoln's Don Lee placed third in the 1,320 and Palo Alto's Ron Larrieu lost by inches to Hale in the mile which found Jefferson's Jim Rector a solid third.

Jess Undlin of Burlingame placed second at a highly respectable 12-3, even though it wasn't his night to equal his best-in-California height of 13-2.

And don't overlook Jefferson's Steve Mack in the 330, nor Roger Peterson's unofficial time of :50.2 in placing second to King, either, mister.

It was quite a show. Those close to the picture look upon the results as capable of giving the cinder sport a tremendous shot in the arm locally.

And that, after all, is the only reason for holding the meet in the first place.

Sequoia Ace Blossoms Before 2,800

By PAUL McCARTHY

Tribune Sports Editor

Bull-shouldered Jim Matejka of Sequoia High thrilled a chilled crowd of some 2,800 track and field fans last night by winning the pole vault and with it the top prize in the third annual Sequoia Invitational Track Meet.

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Matejka's dramatic feat in the face of highly publicized stars from all over Northern California — won him solid backing for the William S. McBirney Award for the outstanding individual performance.

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It was a night made for record-breaking even in spite of the cold winds which prevailed almost until the end.

No less than 15 field or meet records went tumbling down as leaders in the program's 18 events battled down to the wire. In virtually every event on the varsity docket winning efforts were near the best recorded in the state to date.

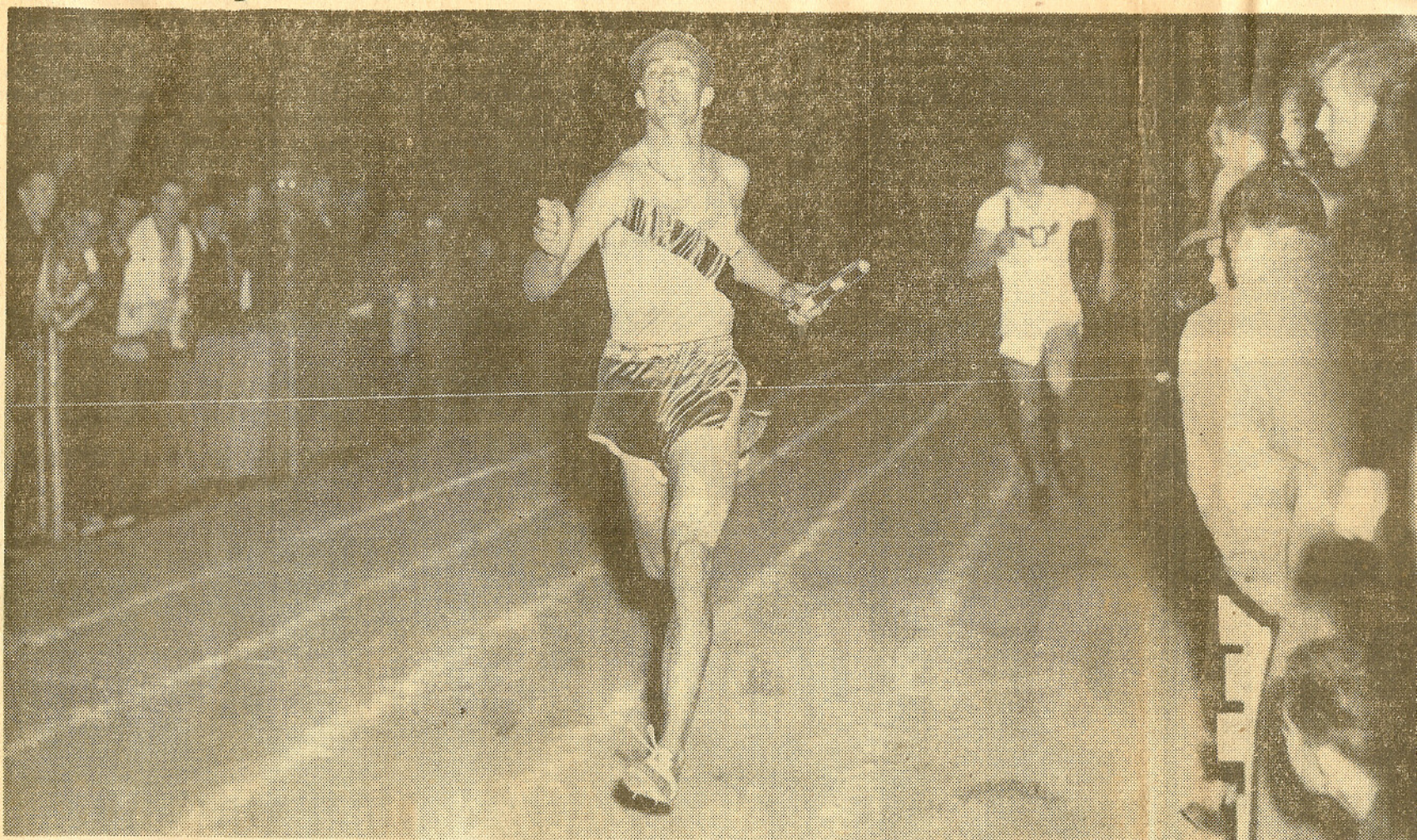
The much-heralded Tribune Mile Run lived up to advance notice and got the three-hour program off to a fast start. Ray Hale of Downey High in Modesto pounded down the stretch to nip Ron (LaRunt) Larrieu of Palo Alto in 4:30.0.

It was Hale's second four-lapper of the year, but the way he poured on the coals it was easy to see that he's got the makings of a champion.

Don't get the idea that the Peninsula aces were completely outclassed by their trans-bay and down-valley neighbors.

Burlingame's Leon Krueger came close to his 138-foot best in winning the discus at 135-2 $\frac{3}{4}$; Gino Della Libera of San Mateo flipped the plate 130-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ for third.

Della Libera already had won the shot at 53-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ —just one inch off his own meet record, and Lincoln's Don Dirienzo took third at 51-9 $\frac{1}{2}$. That's his best to date, incidentally.



Male's Kick Wraps Up

◆ **END OF THE LINE**—Eddie King of Salinas, fabulous speedster who had a hand in two meet and field records, streaks into the tape at the close of the Class A 880-yard relay far

ahead of the field. King and Cowboy teammates were timed in 1:30.9, a full second better than the 1954 Alameda foursome's record. Eddie also shattered the 440 mark.

Vaulter Gets High Praise

Marks fall in prep



THE MILE BY A NOSE—Ray Hale (left) of Downey High School, Modesto, lunges into the tape just inches ahead of Palo Alto's Ron Larrieu in a thrilling finish to the mile run at the

Sequoia Invitational Meet in Redwood City last night. Hale's time was 4:30.0, the tops in Northern California this season. Larrieu was clocked in a tenth of a second slower.

Modesto ace nips Larrieu by three inches in mile run

By GARY WILLIAMS

Showing a tremendous kick in the final 65 yards, Ray Hale of Downey High School (Modesto) came from third place to win the Tribune mile by three inches in the record time of 4:30 flat in the prep all-star meet at Redwood City last night.

Hale's photo-finish win over pace-setter Ron Larrieu of Palo Alto was the best mile in Northern California this season. Larrieu was clocked in 4:30.1 and Jefferson's Jim Rector was six yards back in 4:31.1.

All three times better the Sequoia Invitational and Teremmere Field record. The

old mark was 4:31.4 by Marv Gross of Lincoln (San Jose) in 1954.

Hale's time — and thrilling last second burst — was even more impressive when taken into consideration that it was only his second race of the season. The Modesto flash had a previous 1955 best of a mediocre 4:55.3 but he was back in the groove last night. The groove that last year saw him grab second in the state meet in 4:25.4.

Larrieu set a stiff pace for the seven-man field. He jumped into an early lead and was clocked in 1:01.0 at the 440 point and 2:14 at the half mile. Rector took a short lived lead just as the final lap got under way. The three quarter time was a blistering 3:25.0.

Hale, who early in the race was as far back as fifth place, appeared satisfied with a third spot early in the final lap. It looked like a familiar Larrieu - Rector duel going into the last lap with the Palo Alto star out in front by three yards.

Hale was five yards behind Rector when he started his stretch bid at the height of the turn. He breezed past the tiring Rector with 25 yards to go and barely caught Larrieu as both runners lunged for the tape. It was a rare mile finish. More like the 100-yard dash.

The summary:

120-yard high hurdles—Harrington (Riordan). Aguilar (James Lick). Dawson (St. Ignatius). :15.2.

Mile run—Hale (Downey, Modesto). Larrieu (Palo Alto). Rector (Jefferson). 4:30.0 (new Invitational record, old mark 4:31.4 set by Gross of Lincoln, San Jose in 1954).

B class 330-yard run—Wetteland (Burlingame). Nardone (Salinas). Mack (Jefferson). :38.0.

Shot put—Della Libra (San Mateo). Anderson (Salinas). Dirienzo (Lincoln). 53-9 $\frac{1}{4}$.

100-yard dash — Jackson (Richmond). Lambert (Hayward). Aguilar (James Lick). :9.8 (ties Invitational record set by James Jackson of Alameda in 1953).

440-yard run — King (Salinas). Peterson (Burlingame). Stryker (Los Gatos). :49.1 (new Invitational record, old mark :50.6 set by Harper of Alameda in 1954).

880-yard run—Chesarek (Riordan). Gross (Richmond). Peterson (Los Gatos). 2:00.9.

High Jump—Dailey (Hayward), tie for 2nd Bell (El Cerrito), Gasper (S.F. Polytechnic). 6- $\frac{3}{4}$.

180-yard low hurdles—Harrington (Riordan). Vander Zweip (Lincoln, S.F.). Aguilar (James Lick). :19.8.

C class 75-yard dash — Edwards (El Cerrito). Noce (San Mateo). Hoskins (El Cerrito). :8.3.

Discus — Kruegar (Burlingame). Mulloy (S.F. Polytechnic). Della Libera (San Mateo). 135-2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (new Invitational record, old mark 133-7 set by Lane of Alameda in 1954).

220-yard dash — Jackson (Richmond). Lambert (Hayward). Puccetti (S.F. Lincoln). :21.7.

Broad Jump — Dailey (Hayward). Hayworth (Mt. Diablo). Perkins (El Cerrito). 21-11.

B class 1320-yard run—Lagomarsino (Santa Rosa). Cloe (El Cerrito). Lee (S.J. Lincoln). 3:27.0 (new Invitational record, old mark 3:28.8 set by Bluth of El Cerrito in 1954).

Pole vault — Matjeka (Sequoia). Undlin (Burlingame). Anders (Los Gatos). 13-2 in. (new Invitational record, old mark 11-10 set by Hightower of San Jose in 1953).

C class 440-yard relay—Washington (SF). Jefferson. Lowell (SF). :46.8 (new Invitational record, old mark :47.4 set by Menlo-Atherton in 1954).

B class 440-yard relay—Burlingame. El Cerrito. Mountain View. :45.9 (new Invitational record, old mark :46.1 set by Santa Clara in 1954).

A class 880-yard relay — Salinas (Nielson, Axe, Pittman, King). Lincoln (SF). Richmond. 1:30.9 (new Invitational record, old mark 1:31.9 set by Alameda in 1954).