

Norm Gordon ... Track Coach Reminiscs On Victories And Oddities of Full Cinder Career

By HERM WEISKOPF

Norm Gordon, assistant track coach, phrased it very neatly when he said his career, "has been highlighted by many oddities."

It was in his senior year at Olney High School, Philadelphia, that he won the 1936 junior national steeplechase title.

In the fall of 1936 he matriculated at the College. His first race on the freshman cross-country team served notice of what was to come as he finished in a tie for first with four teammates as the Lions overwhelmed Cornell, 15-40, at Ithaca, N.Y.

He said the biggest thrill of his career came in January, 1940 when he defeated the

great Les MacMitchell in the mile race at the Seton Hall games. The race was run on a flat indoor track and consisted of ten laps. Leading the pack lap after lap, Gordon had no way of knowing how the fabled NYU star was doing. However, he always put on a little extra speed whenever the crowd roared, for he said he thought this indicated that MacMitchell was starting to move up front.

Odd Record

Working under this system, he led by five yards going into the final lap. Then MacMitchell put on his famed stretch drive. As both runners sped over the remaining few yards Gordon pulled one of the greatest upsets of the day as he outraced the supposedly unbeatable MacMitchell to win by 10 yards. Gordon's time of 4:14 was only 0.06 of a second off the world's mark for flat tracks.

One of the oddest records in the books resulted in 1942 while Gordon was captain of the cross-country team. It was during that campaign he and the captain of the Manhattan squad raced for five miles only to cross the finish line in a tie for first. It is the only time in the history of NCAA competition that two captains crossed finish line tied for first.

The 1942 IC4A indoor championships turned into one of the hottest battles on record as Fordham and Penn State fought it out tooth and nail.

Gordon was forging into the lead in the 1000 yard race and seemed to be a sure winner. As the runners crowded together going down the stretch he was sent sprawling to the floor. Seemingly out of the race, Gordon got off the boards and put on a dramatic burst of speed to pass all but one of the runners and give the Nittanians valuable second place points.

Werner Gives Him Job

Coming into the last event on the program, the two-mile relay, the Lions needed at least a third place finish to take the title. The race was virtually conceded to the Rams, since they had the top relay squad in the nation and had unofficially broken the world's record not long before.

Gordon spoke to Werner before the race and asked what he planned to do. "You probably know better than I do how the boys are feeling," Werner told him, "so I think I'll leave it up to you to pick the squad, provided that you run as anchorman."

With a lump in his throat, but hope in his heart, Gordon picked three others for the crucial race. Max Peters, who had failed to qualify for the 600-yard race ran the first leg against Ed Shine, the best relay man the Fordham Rams ever had. Every time the two hit, the straightaway Shine tried to pass Peters, but on every occasion he was thwarted.

Alex Bourgerie, who had failed to place in the mile for the Lions, was outraced by Joe Nowicki and fell back to third place. Eddie Miller, who did not qualify in the 1000-yard event, took over and held third place as he passed the baton to Gordon for the final leg and the possible championship. Gordon ran third most of the way, but passed a Dartmouth runner and placed second. It was thus that the Lions won their only IC4A title by the slim margin of 11/7 points.

In February, 1943 he donned an Air Force uniform. He served as a P51 Mustang pilot in Europe until the end of the war. In 1945 he was discharged and took up graduate work at the College. A year later he was named assistant track coach.

Gordon lives at 131 S. Sparks avenue with his wife and five children, Jeffrey, ten, Lindsey Rose, six, Valerie, four, Norman Jr., three, and Mary, one.

Baseball's Big Leagues

By The Associated Press

Led by "Red" Schoendienst who collected four hits in six turns at bat, the St. Louis Cardinals hammered out an 11-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs today.

Schoendienst now is batting .342, just two points less than the league leader, Brooklyn's Carl Furillo.

Schoendienst and Stan Musial stepped up their pursuit of the National League batting crown, accounting for six of the Cards' 19 hits.

Schoendienst drove in four runs in getting four hits. Musial produced two hits, one of them his 29th home run of the season, and

boosted his percentage to .336.

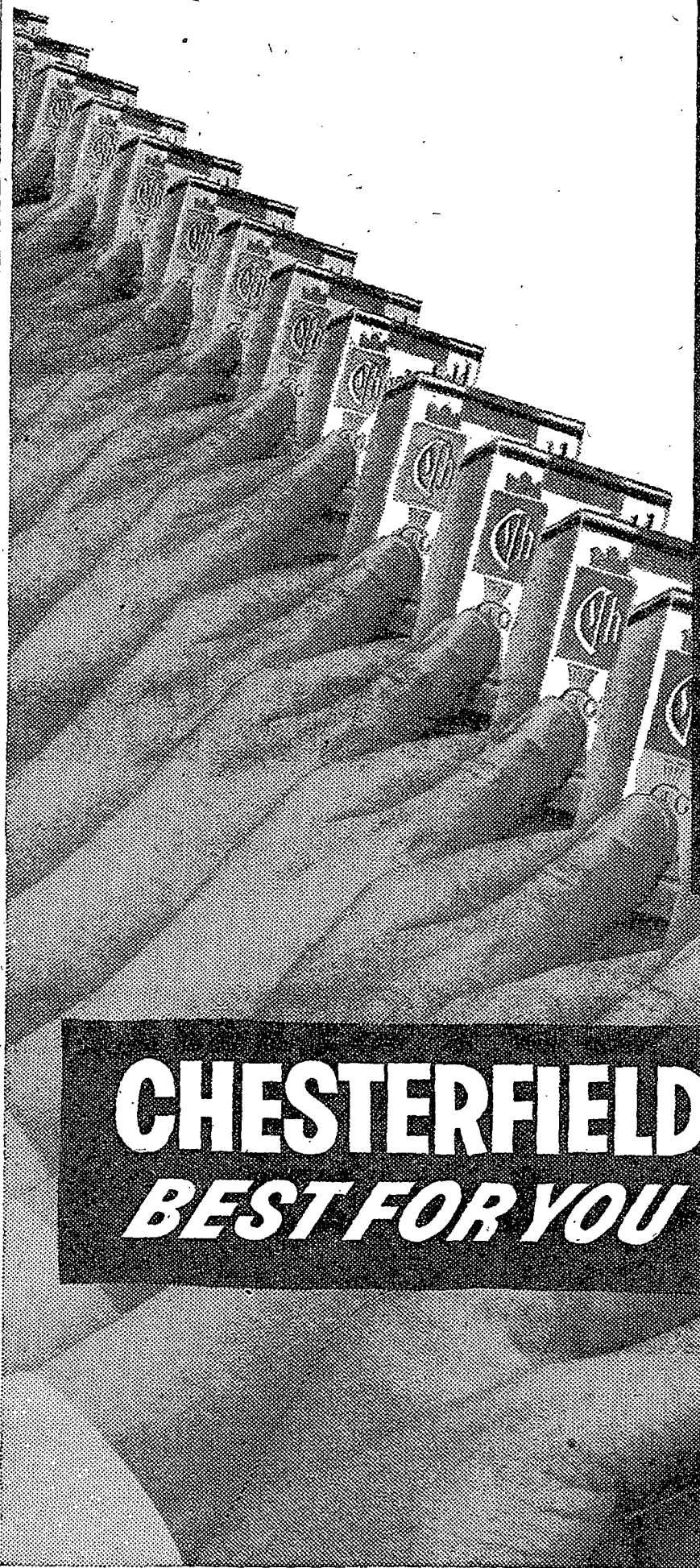
Harvey Haddix became the first Cardinal pitcher to win 20 games since Howie Pollet turned in an identical 20-9 won-lost record in 1949.

The Brooklyn Dodgers said today that an unannounced number of bleacher and standing room only seats would be placed on sale Monday at Ebbets Field at 6 p.m., EST.

The seats, to be sold at the ball park only, are for the opening game there Friday with the New York Yankees. The \$4 SRO seats and \$2 pavilion bleacher seats will be available until the supply is gone.

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