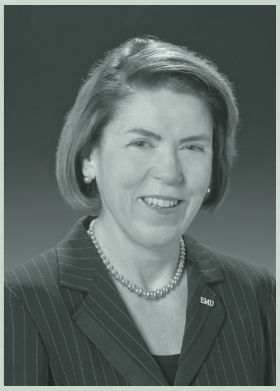
Pioneers of EMU Track & Field/Cross Country



April 17-18, 2009

A Message From President Sue Martin and Athletic Director Derrick Gragg



Susan W. Martin



Derrick L. Gragg

Welcome to the celebration of the Pioneers of Eastern Michigan University Track & Field/Cross Country. This event is intended to honor the student-athletes and coaches who helped build the foundation for a program that has been a center of excellence for our University. In our state, in our country and across the globe, EMU Track & Field/ Cross Country has earned unparalleled acclaim. Tonight we stand together to salute nine decades of Track & Field/Cross Country achievement.

As we honor our past, we celebrate our current teams and all those that will follow. Each time a runner takes to the track, he or she is, in a sense, continuing the race that began in the 1880's. Tonight, we not only recognize the great runners, throwers and jumpers and their unforgettable victories, but also the intangible elements of competing at the highest levels of collegiate athletics and the lifelong lessons it provides.

As we look to the future of EMU Track & Field/Cross Country, we urge you to carry the spirit of tonight's celebration beyond the arena. Your support can make a difference as we begin to write the next chapter in our storied history.

We are both delighted to share this important event with you. We extend warm congratulations to all of our student-athletes and coaches, past and present. Thank you for joining us tonight and for your ongoing devotion to EMU Track & Field/Cross Country. Keep running.
Go Green!

Sue Martin
President

Derrick Gragg
Athletic Director

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On the Covers

Pioneers of Track & Field/ Cross Country

Credits

The Pioneers of Track & Field/Cross Country commemorative program was compiled, written and designed by Sports Information Graduate Assistant Amanda Decker. Pictures courtesy of EMU Library Archives, Sports Information Archives and EMU Track & Field and Cross Country Archives.

Pioneers of Track & Field/Cross Country

Program of Events

Welcome
- Scott Hubbard '72, Master of Ceremonies

Remarks
- Derrick Gragg, Athletic Director
- Sue Martin, President

Invocation

Dinner

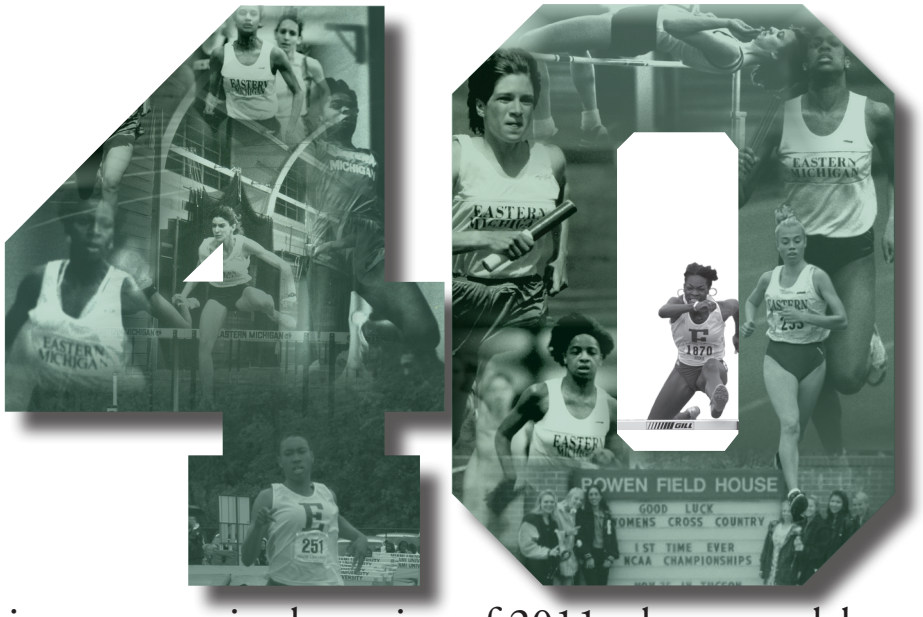
Reflections of EMU Track & Field/Cross-Country

Video Presentation

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Pioneers of EMU Track & Field/ Cross-Country Committee: Ken Behmer '64, Gary Collins '73, Amanda Decker, Sports Information Graduate Assistant, Craig Fink, Associate Athletic Director for Development, Fred LaPlante '72, Dre Pettus '75, Rick Ross '75, Eugene Thomas '74 and Floyd Wells '73.

The Pioneers of Women's Track & Field/Cross Country



Please join us in two years in the spring of 2011 when we celebrate the start of the 40th anniversary year of the women's track & field and cross country program at Eastern Michigan University. The program first began in 1972 as a club team under the direction of Bob Parks and became a full fledged varsity sport in 1976.



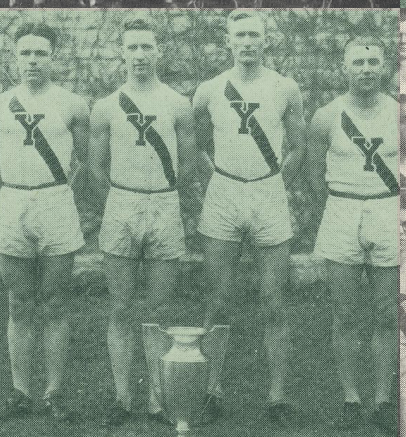
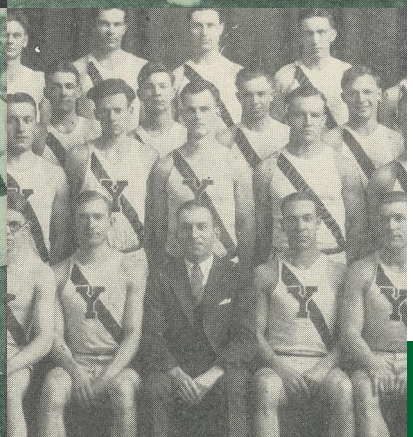
The Pioneers









Track and field is an individual team sport. Each athlete is out there on his own but put together, they represent themselves and the University exceptionally well. Thus is the philosophy of Eastern Michigan University track and field, where individuals may come and go, but the tradition of a deep and well-balanced team will always be there.

"It is not fortunate in possessing one or two individual stars who can take points in half the events of a track meet; but it is a remarkably well-balanced aggregation of speed and long distance men, jumpers and weight performers." **-1914 Aurora**

Although it is difficult to pinpoint the exact date in which track and field began at Eastern Michigan University, it is said that track and field events attracted student attention as early as 1880. That year, the local paper reported that "Normal boasts a student who can clear twelve feet standing jump."

Track and field became very popular in the late 1880s and the Normal Athletic Association (N.A.A.) was formed on October 25, 1887 with the help of Prof. Wilbur P. Bowen. The very early days of track came in the form of "Field Days," that were extended over a period of three days, with the very first being held in 1888, but because of its popularity it was soon moved to the Ypsilanti Fair Grounds.

The earliest records of individual successes in track can be found in the archived stories of *The Normal News* and the Normal Yearbook, *The Aurora*. Joseph Jenkins is one of those individuals, as he "stood head and shoulders above the rest in out-door sports and their successful management." Not only was Jenkins an outstanding athlete, but he is one of the first track coaches on record, beginning soon after graduation in 1891. An official program from a Field Day on May 23, 1891, lists Jenkins as participating in the 100 and 220 yard dash, the throwing of the 16-pound hammer, the putting of the 16-pound shot and vaulting. He won the shot, throwing 35 feet.

The recorded history of track at Normal is brief over the next 20 years, with very few printed records. It is believed that Jenkins, who did not coach during the 1893 and 1894 season, came back for the 1895 season, only to move on the following year. W.L. McDiarmid is the next recorded coach from 1896-1898, before Enoch Thorne took over from 1898-1900. C.T Teetzel was employed by the college in 1900 and served in that position for three years. There are few records from 1903, following Teetzel's departure in 1910, when F.G. Beyerman was secured as coach of the track and basketball teams, with a general oversight of all athletic work, beginning with the 1910-11 school year.

Under the direction of Beyerman, not only did the Normal thinclads enjoy much success over the next few years, but M.S.N.C. gained a sport, as Beyerman started a cross country team with four members for the 1911 season.

Beyerman and the 1913 14-member squad, including future MSNC coach and Hall of Fame inductee Lloyd W. Olds, enjoyed a modicum of success, as the seniors pounded the juniors 69-44 (March 7) and easily defeated Albion, 59-36, on March 16, 1913.

By the 1921-22 school year, the men of Ypsilanti had laid the framework for the program that we have come to know, and Lloyd W. Olds ('16) returned to his alma mater, Michigan Normal, beginning a 22-year career as the head coach. He provided both the expertise to field competitive teams in a sport growing in national popularity and the vision to realize the potential for Michigan Normal track and cross country teams competing on the national and international stage.



Lloyd W. Olds

Within a few years of Olds' return, the

The Pioneers

Michigan Normal track teams began an unprecedented domination in track and cross country. Olds became nationally known for turning out nothing but winning teams since his arrival in Ypsilanti.

Perhaps one of the greatest track stars for Michigan Normal in the 20s was Bernard Otto, competing for the Normalites from 1924-27. By his senior year he was considered one of the best sprinters that Normal had ever seen. While at Michigan Normal, he set the State AAU record for the standing long jump, 10-3.375, and captained the 1927 squad.

Inspiring Strength —Roger Arnett



Roger Arnett

Another track standout under Olds was Roger Arnett. After being discovered by Olds and assistant George Marshall, Arnett became one of the team's best distance athletes. He won the Michigan AAU handicap two-mile race in 1929 and took second in the two-mile run at the Drake Relays and State Intercollegiate Championships in 1930. A serious consideration for the 1932 Olympic Games, Arnett was left a paraplegic following an automobile accident on his way to a meet in Indiana. He would later go on to become a minister to the handicapped.

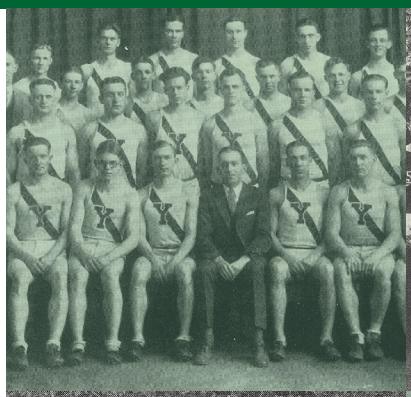
The harriers won a string of State Intercollegiate titles beginning in 1923 that was capped off by the 1929 squad of Wolfe, Bauer, Arnett, O'Connor, Altaffer and Morcombe winning the National Junior AAU Championship, by defeating the Detroit YMCA, Indiana University, Ohio State, the Cincinnati YMCA, Pittsburgh and Penn State. The now-Hurons scored 33 points to give them a large winning margin over their nearest opponents, the Detroit squad, which had 48 points. Roger Arnett, Huron star, ran a beautiful race, covering the six-mile course in 31:33 to take first place in the team scoring. Morcombe, O'Conner and Bauer finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively while Wolfe finished in 20th, the last man to score for Ypsi. Altaffer, who ran his last race for Ypsi there, was running in fifteenth place but was forced to drop out about a quarter of a mile from the finish tape when he was seized with a bad attack of cramps. Not only did the Hurons win the national championship, but they went undefeated throughout the season.

With the Michigan Normal cross country team at an all-time high, the track teams were just as successful, establishing themselves as a midwest powerhouse, especially in relay development, winning dozens of relay titles over the next decade.

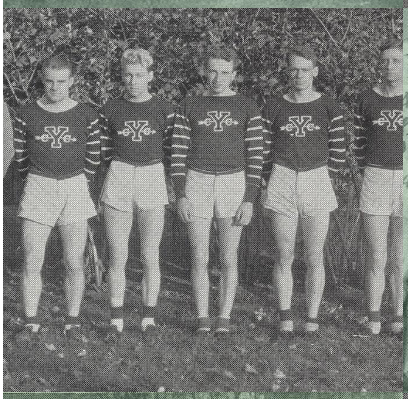
One of the best athletes under Olds' direction was Charles "Eugene" Beatty. Originally scheduled to attend Northwestern, Olds gave Beatty a scholarship and allowed him to enroll. Right from the beginning, Beatty was a success both on an individual level bur also a part of several relay teams. He won the 400-meter hurdles at the Penn Relays in 1931, a victory that would mark him a candidate for the Olympic team, and was named an AAU All-American in the 440-yard hurdles. The next year, he would go on to win the 400 hurdles at Penn for the second straight year, and would do so again in 1933, becoming one of only a handful of individuals to gain three successive relay titles.

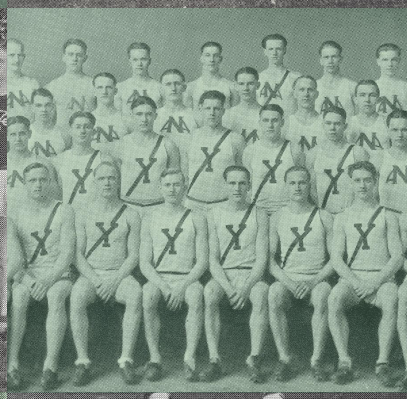
In 1931, a host of veterans gave Olds another top ranked state and conference team. Normal's mile relay quartet of Lawrence Brown, Ken 'Red' Simmons, Beatty and Rha Arnold was one of the best in the country.

The 1932 track team was a team for the ages, with some of the best athletes in the country on the team. The mile relay team of Merrill Hershey, Arnold, Simmons, and Beatty went undefeated, taking first at the State Relay Carnival, the Matched Meet at Madison Square Gadens, the Canadian National Relay Championship, the Cleveland Relay Championship and the Penn Relays (College Division).

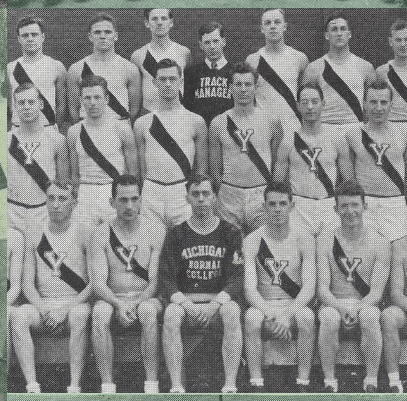




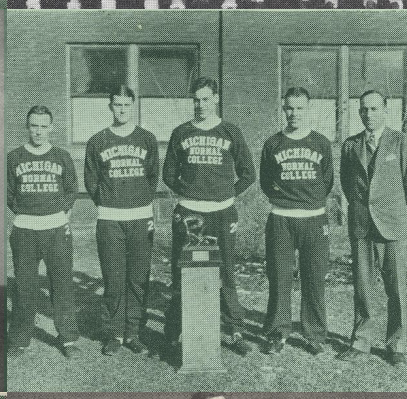


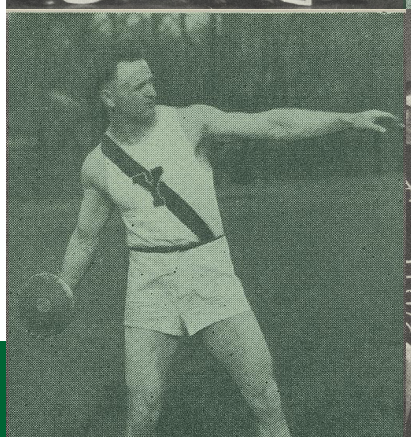


















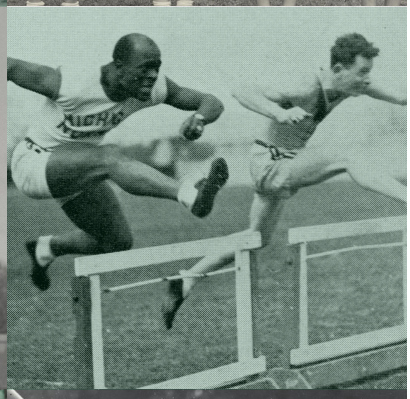




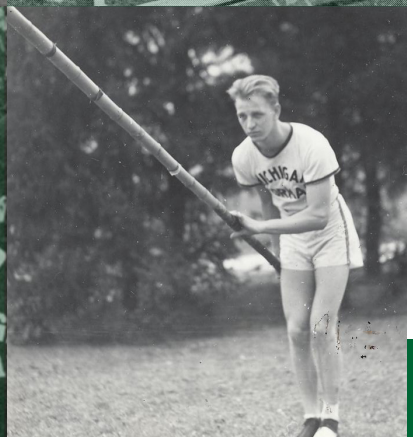












Future head coach and alumnus George Marshall, an assistant under Olds, would coach in the fall of 1932 and would take the reins dropped by Olds while he was on a leave of absence for a year. The Hurons went undefeated under Marshall's direction and won the State Intercollegiate and State AAU Cahmpionship and finished third at the Central Intercollegiates and the National Intercollegiate Championships. Del Allman, an MSNC graduate would serve as the coach for the track team during the 1933 track season.

Over the next 10 years, back under the direction of Olds, the Huron hill and toppers and thinclads would continue to be successful, producing standout teams and individual athletes. Individuals such as Abe Rosenkrantz, Bill Zepp, Tom Quinn, Duane Zemper, Whitey Hlad and Ed Rosenzweig would come to Michigan Normal and rise to outstanding individual accomplishments.

Rosenkrantz was All-CCC in 1934 and was a three-time All-Sate selection and runner-up. He was perhaps one of the best 880 yard runners in the U.S. at the time, winning the Indoor CCC (1935-1936) and in 1936 ran 1:50.3 and just missed an Olympic berth. Zepp was an All-Central Collegiate Conference and two-time All-State selection. He won three CCC two-mile races during his career and was an All-American. In 1936 he became one of the best 800-meter runners in the country by winning the prestigious Millrose Games with a time of 1:56.5. He came within inches of qualifying for the 1936 Olympic Team in the semi-final heats of the Trials at Randalls Island with a record setting 1:50.3 to Ben Eastman's American record time of 1:49.8. He returned to Michigan normal for the 1936-37 school year and was chosen to captain the squad. He held the 880-yard records at both the Notre Dame Fieldhouse and UM's Yost Fieldhouse. He set the State AAU outdoor record (1:54) that year and won the 880-yard run at the 1937 Millrose Games. More importantly, he rallied his relay teammates at the 1937 Penn Relays after the leadoff man was bumped by another athlete and dropped the baton. Rosenkrantz and crew would not give up, as he anchored the team to victory.

Over the next several years, Olds and Marshall put together standout teams that would rival nearly everyone, defeating schools at relay carnivals and trouncing opponents in dual meets. Over the course of Olds' career, he put together a 28-2 dual meet cross country record and 132-24 record on the track. In fact, with the success that the Hurons were having Olds was having difficulty scheduling dual-meet competition heading into the 40s, as schools found it too risky to schedule Michigan Normal, afraid of defeat.

Despite the difficulty of scheduling dual-meet competition, Olds continued to put together top notch team, as the Hurons would continue to sweep through the seasons like the proverbial fire horse-with speed to burn.

The early 40s saw Michigan Normal develop another group of

RED'S GIRLS —KENNETH 'RED' SIMMONS



Red Simmons

There are several things that Red Simmons is remembered for in the track and field community. He was a member of the then-Michigan Normal track team in the early 30s as a standout hurdler and relay man, but perhaps one of his biggest accomplishments is as the father of track and field for women in the state of Michigan. After retiring from the Detroit Police Department in the 50s, Red and his wife decided to recruit and coach women's track and field in Ann Arbor. He organized the Michigammes Track Club at a time when there were few interscholastic opportunities for high school girls in Michigan. He would later become the University of Michigan's first women's track coach.

OH HOW THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED —BRIGGS GYM

The 24 lap unfinished interior of what is now Briggs Hall was used for track and field training for almost 20 years in the first half of the 20th century. Despite this handicap, the Hurons were a national power. Prior to the erection of this building, the Green and White used an even smaller balcony track in the old gym, which once stood across from Welch Hall and next to the water tower.



Practice at Briggs Gym

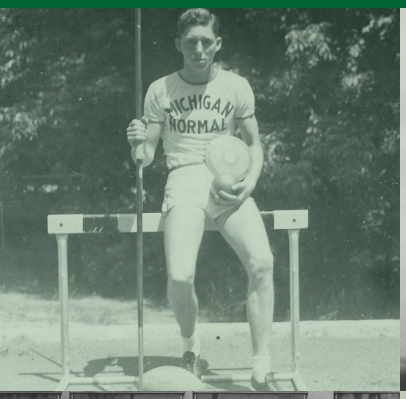
standouts, that included Tommy Quinn, Duane Zemper, Charles 'Whitey' Hlad, and Ed Rosenzweig. Those teams of the early decade will be remembered as producing exceptional athletes.

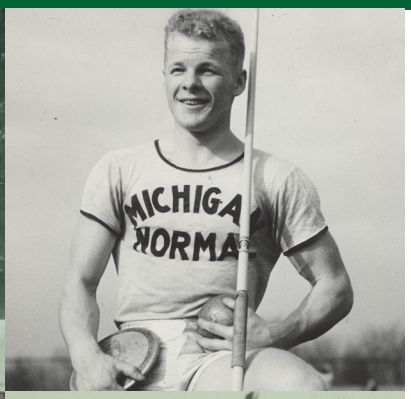
The 1940 cross country team did something no other Michigan Normal team has done, finishing second at the NCAA Division I National Championships. Quinn, Zemper and Bob Lee earned All-American honors, as the team rolled out its 13th straight undefeated season. Quinn becomes the first two-time All-American in any sport in MSNC history.

The 1941 team had a great year, with the opener held at Waterman Gymnasium in Ann Arbor and the combined forces of Findlay and Kalamazoo Colleges fell before the Huron onslaught as the Green and White placed one-two in every event. Loyola was the next victim with the Tarters of Wayne University rounding out the list of the dual-meet victims. Michigan Normal hit its stride during the indoor relay contests. The crack Huron quartet of Zemper, George Cole, Joe Brzezinski, and Quinn alternated with the mile, two-mile and distance medley relays to garner extra wreaths for the Normal Hall of Fame. They began with the annexation of the two-mile and medley distance relays at the University of Illinois Indoor Relay Carnival and followed by capturing the mile and medley distance at the Michigan State Relay Carnival in East Lansing two weeks later. This foursome concluded their hardwood accomplishments when they set yet another American college record, this time in the distance medley event at the Butler Relays. They negotiated the two-and-one-half miles in 10:25.5 to close the lid on the indoor season. Zemper, Cole, Brzezinski and Quinn supplied a laudable beginning for Normal's outdoor season by earning outstanding relay honors at the annual Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa. The Hurons foursome bested a field of 14 universities when they came from behind to win the DMR of the University division in 10:15.8. The Normal runners left a final stamp at Drake, when they returned the next day to win the college division two-mile relay.

The following year, the loss of Quinn, Zemper and Brzezinski and other standouts was no easy task. The Hurons defeated Albion, Kalamazoo and Loyola easily that season. Normal's ace timber-topper Captain Charles 'Whitey' Hlad and thrower Ed Rosenzweig showed the greatest improvement in performances and set outstanding track marks. Hlad hurdled his way into that exclusive circle of world record holders at the Milrose Games, racing the 60-yard highs in a record time of 7.2 seconds during his semi-final heat. Repeating at the Garden's Knights of Columbus tourney, he pushed past Fred Wolcott in the finals to equal his own mark. Hlad equaled three other world marks during his phenomenal blitz of the



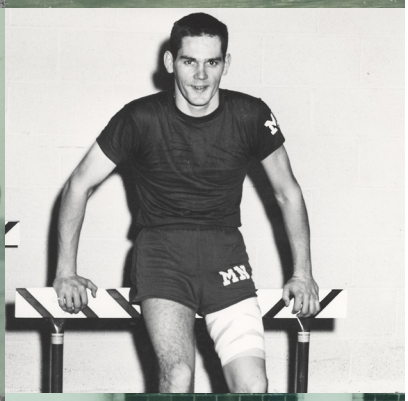


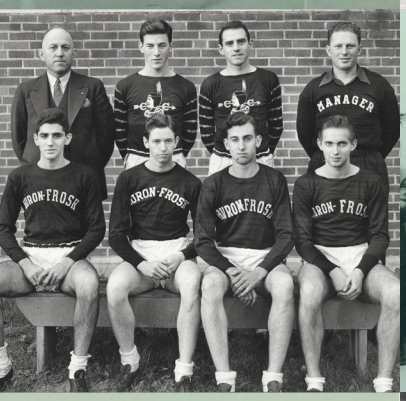






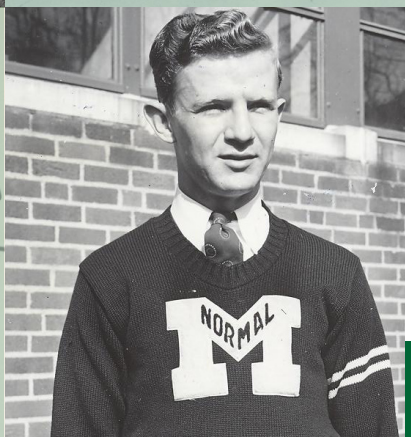












tall timbers. He did the 50-yard highs in 6.1 at the Invitational Chicago Relay, again tied the mark for the 75-yard highs at the Central Collegiates and scampered over the 45-yard highs in 5.4 seconds at the Knights of Columbus relays. Ed Rosenzweig's consistent improvement with the sixteen pound merits plaudits, after breaking his own Michigan Normal indoor record with a heave of 44-11 at the Albion-Kalamazoo meet. He hit his prime at the state relay carnival with a heave of 48-2.25.



1948 Schedule Card

When the war came, Uncle Sam came for America's best and George Marshall took over in 1943 as Olds was now serving as a Lt. Commander in the United States Navy. Despite Olds' departure from the coaching ranks, he did return to Ypsilanti as an administrator and professor in the physical education department. It is said that the sound of his voice could be heard from every corner of campus from the gymnasium, barking commands to regiments of fortunate, or maybe...unfortunate physical education students helping them feel the glory of a conditioned body.

That year coach Marshall's indoor squad boasted a good record during the winter in spite of dwindling man power, winning a three way meet with Albion and Kalamazoo, a meet with Loyola of Chicago, taking a second in the state relays for the two-mile run, winning the Illinois Tech relays, recording a second in the Cleveland Relays for the mile relay and had two seconds and a third at the Purdue Relays.

"Behind the team stands the coach. He is the man who must see that his men get the credit for a successful year, and he is the man who takes the brunt of defeat. He is the man who must make into a smooth working unit, each group of men who bid for places on the teams, which will go on the athletic field to uphold the glory of the college. He is the man who must foresee the situations that his wards will be called upon to meet and he must be the man to prepare them to meet each squarely and in a truly fair manner. He must instill in each man that sense of fairness that makes for clean and honest athletics. If a coach, regardless of the games his team has won or lost, has made each one of his team members an honest and true athlete, then he has added to and upheld the spirit of amateur athletics." **-1930 Aurora**

With the war taking America's men overseas, Michigan Normal was unable to field a team, but Marshall would return in 1946 and spend the next 20 years coaching Ypsilanti's harriers and thinclads. Although successful at several levels from national to even world records, an Olympic berth had still eluded the Green and White. This would soon change, but over the next 20 years, the talent of the Michigan Normal and Eastern Michigan College thinclads would be so profound that even the Olympic team berths at times oddly paled in comparison. How could this be so? The answer is a combination of stunning team victories that were also historic.

The next set of standouts to rise while at Michigan Normal included Al Pingel in the late 40s. Pingel, who was an assistant track and cross country coach in the 60s and 70s for the University, got his start on campus

as an All-American distance man, winning the national junior AAU cross country championship in 1948. Sprinting ace Garion Campbell also had his share of laurels, breaking records and raking in awards throughout his career.

The early 50s saw Michigan Normal continue its dominance in relay development. As a team, the Hurons continued to rise to the top, winning five straight IIAC team titles from 1950-1954, and three more from 1957-1959. The men from Ypsi also won five straight Illinois Tech Relays from 1946-1950. Throughout the decade, Michigan Normal, which became Eastern Michigan in 1956, continued to rack up ITS usual abundance of hardware from the nation's largest meets, including the Purdue and Penn Relays.



George Marshall

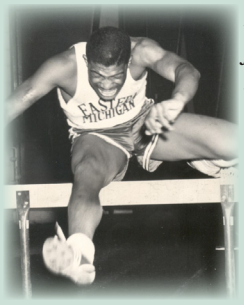
The 1951 relay team of Bob Parks, Abe Ulmer, Ward Gilliam and Stan mConnor set two school indoor records and three meet marks. The Hurons defeated Notre Dame in dual-meet competition that year and the quartet set a school record and beat the foursome from Michigan. The following year, Parks and McConner returned and added Bruce Jacobs and Glenn Davis to the mix, setting yet another school record time of 3:18.4.

Eastern Michigan's first track Olympian began to lay the framework for his legendary career in Ypsilanti in 1957. One of the greatest Eastern athletes of all time, Hayes Jones won two NCAA hurdles titles in 1959 in the 120-yard high hurdles and the 200-intermediate hurdles. He set a consecutive hurdle and dash win streak of 56. He was the first American to appear in the initial five meets with the Soviet Union from 1959-63, was a National AAU indoor champion hurdler from 1959-64, National AAU outdoor champion for three years, as the high scorer in four consecutive IIAC championship meets, and set 23 records throughout his illustrious career. He qualified for two Olympics, first appearing in the 1960 Games in Rome where he earned a Bronze Medal. Four years later, Jones finished at the top, taking home the Gold Medal in the 110-meter hurdles.

Not to be overshadowed was one of the biggest victories in the history of the program. In 1958, the Indiana Hoosiers came to Bowen Field House, returning a home-home series that the Hurons had fulfilled the previous year. That afternoon will go down as one of the greatest in Eastern Michigan sports history, as the underdog Huron track squad defeated Indiana 54-50 in the home dual-meet finale. Hurons' star Hayes Jones accounted for 22 of EMC's 54 points, setting several records along the way. In all, 17 records were broken and the Green and White racked up seven first place finishes, with the 440-yard dash being the only event EMC did not score in.

The Hurons received some unexpected performances from the relay teams, as the mile relay team took the five-point event win to give the

Olympic Firsts—Hayes Jones



Hayes Jones was Eastern Michigan's first track and field athlete to compete at the Olympics, doing so at the 1960 Games. Legendary coach Lloyd Olds had participated in the 1932 and 1948 Olympic Games as a manger/coach for the track and field teams. Jones took third in the 100-meter hurdles in 1960. Four years later, the timber-topper took home the Gold Medal in the same event.

Hayes Jones







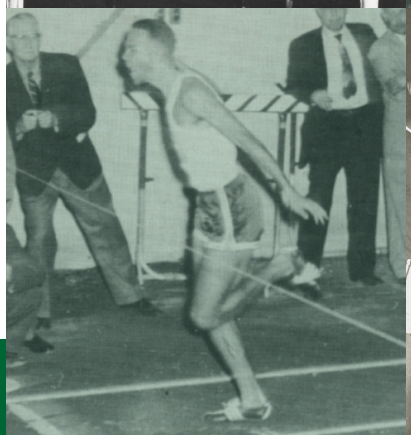


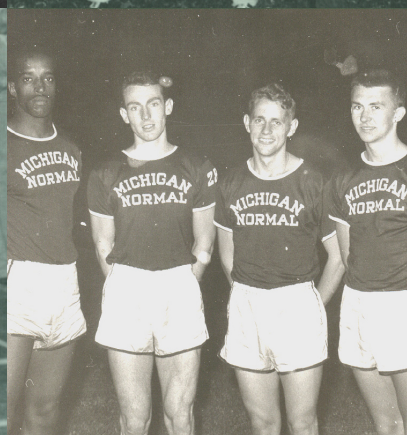


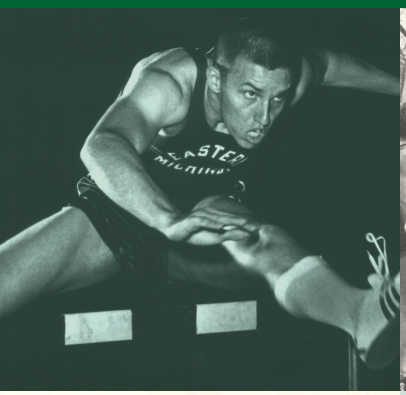






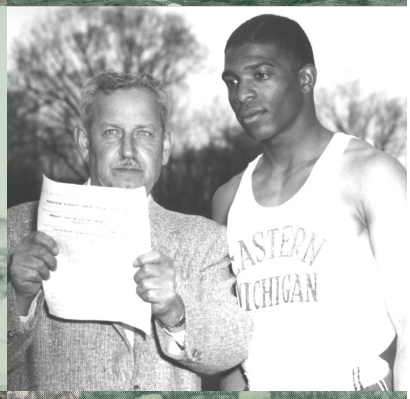




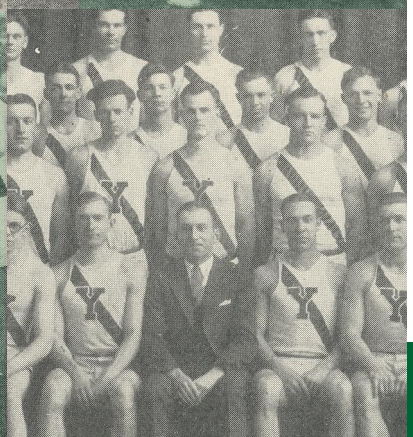








RELIVING THE MOMENT—1958 DEFEAT OF INDIANA

On March 1, 1958, Eastern Michigan College edged the Indiana University Hoosiers 54-50. A complete team effort was necessary to squeeze every point possible away from IU, as the meet came down to the final event, the mile relay. The Hurons were led by Hayes Jones, who accounted for 22 of EMC's 54 points, winning the high and intermediate hurdles the 60-yard dash, the high jump and finishing second in the broad jump.



1958 Team

Hurons the meet edge. The meet had come down to the mile relay, as the Green and White led going into the third leg of the relay, but a dropped baton by an Indiana runner let EMC's Carl Kriger widen the gap between the two schools and Levi Simpson anchored the relay to victory, securing the four-point meet win.

The early 60s brought about a change as new Eastern president Eugene Elliot, de-emphasized athletics, a shift from NCAA Division I to NAIA/NCAA Division II. Despite the setback, the Hurons still fielded talented squads that would rival anyone in any division.

Coach Marshall's era came to a close following the 1966 cross country season and he went out on a high note, winning the NAIA National Championship title. As his health declined, he called in a new coach, but made sure that it was an alum. He knew he had the right man to fill the void he would leave behind, one who could respect what had been built to date and would keep the track and cross country programs going into the next century.



Bob Parks

How does anybody possibly follow the success of previous 60 years, especially coming off a national championship? Well, Bob Parks' answer was simple: do the same, and then, do more of the same, year after year.

The 1967 squad repeated as NAIA cross country champions, which led to even more success in the coming years as the University worked its way through the transitional periods from competing in the NAIA and NCAA. During this six-year period, from 1966-1972, there were an unprecedented eight championships at the NAIA and NCAA College Division levels from he cross country and track and field squads.

Leading the teams of this era were three elite runners, Eugene Thomas, Gordon Minty *(see shaded box on page 11)* and Stan Vinson, who established themselves as some of the best athletes in the world.

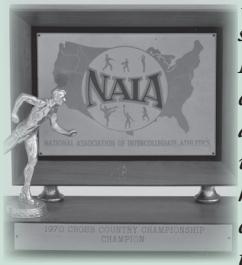
Eugene Thomas held two world records in the 300 yard and 300 meter dash and was also a member of the world record indoor 4 x 200 relay teams with Jim Grant, Bill Tipton and Ian Hall. When 100 meter dash world record holder Ivory Crockett came to Bowen for the 1971 CCC championships, Eugene soundly defeated Crocket by a significant margin in the 60 and 300. Thomas' performance helped lead Eastern to another landmark victory as the Hurons beat defending national champion Kansas and 20 other Division I schools to win the CCC Championship at a packed Bowen Field House.

Stan Vinson was considered by many to be among the best 400 relay anchor men ever. Vinson made a slew of United States track teams in non-Olympic years and competed in multiple Pan-American Games and other international competitions. In 1972 at the Division II national championships, Vinson took the baton in the final leg of the 400 relay and was trailing Adelphi, holders of the indoor world record, by 30 yards.

Vinson would not be denied and ran down his man to help Eastern tie for the win.

While these three stood out, the teams of this era were a unique blend of teammates that produced among the best true teams at EMU, with diverse abilities to score points in all events, even on a national stage.

RELIVING THE MOMENT—1970-71 NAIA RUN



1970 NAIA XC Trophy

The 1970-71 track and cross country teams did something no other team in the history of the NAIA/NCAA has been able to match. The 1970 cross country team won the NAIA Championship and then went on to win the NCAA College Division Championship, another feat no other team has accomplished. With the win in the NAIA cross country championship, the Hurons would continue their dominance, winning the NAIA Indoor and Outdoor Championship titles, becoming the first and only team to win the NAIA triple crown.

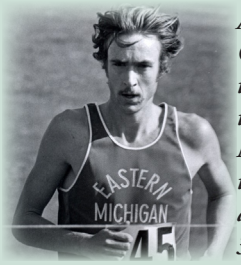
Among the significant contributors were Canadian Olympic hurdler Tony Nelson and Canadian Olympian distance man Dave Ellis who would become the first Huron to be named a four-time All-American, national hurdle champions Bill Tipton and Jerrry Cerulla, All-American half miler, Gary Collins, cross country All-American Bob Boudreau future Olympic Gold medal winner Hasely Crawford, Decathlete Ron Devries, along with Therman Kirkland, Fred LaPlante, Al Ruffner, Terry Furst, Tom Hollander, Ian Hall, Bill Cartright and Wayne Seiller.

The 1972 season was capped off by the swan song victory for EMU, as the squad captured it's last NCAA Division II National Championship in Ashland, Ohio before moving the next year to Division I. Though future gold medal winner Hasely Crawford was disqualified in the 100 meters, the team of Stan Vinson in the 4 x 400 and 400, hurdlers Bill Tipton and Tony Nelson, Gerrade Pettus in the high jump, discus thrower Ron Duncan, Gary Collins in the 800, Fred LaPlante and Bob Sampson in the 1500 and Ron Devries in the decathlon all contributed to this national championship effort.

The success of the 1966-1972 teams would bring an end to an era and usher in the beginning of a new one, as Eastern Michigan would go on to join the Mid-American Conference and rack up dozens of conference championships in cross country, indoor and outdoor track to date.

From the very beginning of the program, the thinclads and harriers that make up the Michigan Normal and Eastern Michigan squads have been taught that they could compete with anybody. Year after year the Green and White have produced powerful athletes and teams that can compete with many of the nation's finest. How has EMU done it? The answer is found in the strong foundation that was laid by the architects of the program. Those who came later only build additional stories to the existing foundation and structure of the track and field and cross country program.

RELIVING THE MOMENT—MINTY'S THIRD TO PREFONTAINE



Gordon Minty

At the 1973 NCAA cross country championships, Gordon Minty finished third behind Steve Prefontaine of Oregon and British Olympian Nick Rose, two of the best distance runners in the world. Minty came close to beating Pre and Rose but was tripped up at the start of the race on a very narrow and crowded course. Though in last place at the 300-meter mark, Minty managed to go from last at the first turn to finish near the front of the pack behind Pre and Rose.



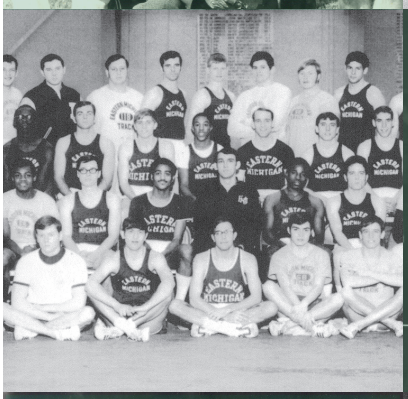


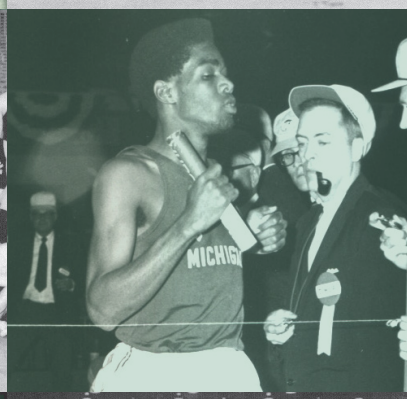


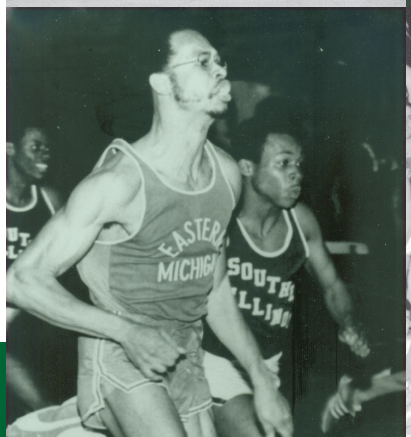


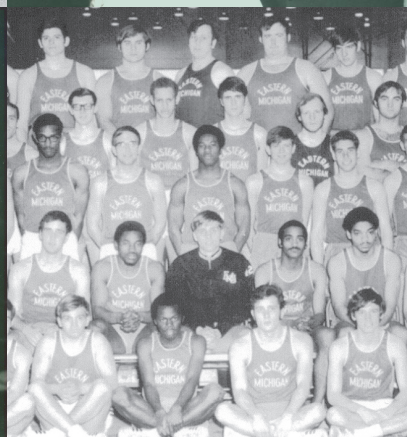













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