

# **Uncoached Lad Wins**

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Toting a track suit over one shoulder and a lunch kit under the other arm, a modest boy named Morgan crept inside the gate at Scott field, Saturday, six hours before the Northwestern Ohio track and field meet was scheduled to start. He had come more than fifty miles from Palmer High School, near Miller City, Putnam County.

A week before he had written a note on a rough piece of wrapping paper to Ted Keller, director of physical education in Toledo schools. It ran something like this. Dear Mr. Keller – I have run the half mile in 2:06. Would it be all right if I entered the track meet? Keller settled the question of jurisdiction and wrote him to come ahead, wondering all the time if the youth had ever had any training and just what he could do against competition.

Morgan came to Toledo alone. Keller and Carl Meissner looked after the boy before the events started for they admired his courage, his desire to put Palmer High School on the athletic map of Ohio. Before the 880 started they gave him a rub-down, each hoping the kid could win.

He didn't win but he ran against a field of 33 – and placed third. He stayed until the meet was over. Then, tired, but happy, he picked up his track suit and his empty lunch box and started back home, still hoping Palmer will have an entry in the state finals at Columbus some time.

## **Boys and Girls Participate in the Same PCL Track and Field Meets and then Separate**

From 1920-1927 the girl's and boy's results were put together for ONE school championship. The boy's would normally have 12-14 events and the girl's 4-6. In 1928, the championships were separated with one boy's winner and one girl's winner. This format continued until 1942. This was the last year that the girls participated in the PCL Meet for 30 years. The girls did not participate in the PCL Meet again until 1971. The first year that the girls were participants in the OHSAA tournaments was 1976.