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**HUCK FINNEGAN**

**Harriers Multiply**

FASTEST GROWING sport in scholastic ranks is cross-country . . . Twenty-two years ago, Tom Hines of Brookline High instituted the state-wide hill and dale meet, and '67 boys responded. This year (Nov. 7) the entry list was 817, divided as follows: 189 in Class A, 159 in Class B, 128 in Class C, 341 in Class D. Next year an E Class will be added.

Ten years ago White Stadium was opened to the Boston schools. In addition to the football schedule, Joe McKenney introduced a cross-country program and put Cliff Ronan of Boston English in charge. Cliff had 65 boys his first year. Today he has 175 from all the city's schools, and has become so busy that McKenney has given him Joe Carey and Eddie Grant as assistants while Ed Bell handles the field event men.

**Meehan Breaks Record**

WALTER DESMOND of Charlestown won the district schools championship, was runner-up to Tommy Meagher, Jr., of Boston Latin in the Reggies and climaxed an excellent season with an eighth in Class C of the State meet. He and two Boston Tech boys, Larry Johnson and Jim Settlers (Class A), were the only Boston entries to score in the Nov. 7 meet, run in rain, wind and mud. The top 10 in the four classes finished this way:

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| <p><b>CLASS A</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Ryan Buckley, Lawr'ce CC</li> <li>2 Ronald Davis, Brookline</li> <li>3 Fred Strachan, Arlington</li> <li>4 Larry Johnson, Technical</li> <li>5 Peter Looney, N. Bedford</li> <li>6 John Mitchell, Quincy</li> <li>7 Jim Settlers, Technical</li> <li>8 Clyde Ward, Arlington</li> <li>9 Joe Croteau, Lawrence CC</li> <li>10 Phil Agnoletti, Malden</li> </ol> <p><b>CLASS B</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 David Dunskey, Gloucester</li> <li>2 Jim McDermott, Wor. Sou.</li> <li>3 Tom Enird, Lexington</li> <li>4 Dennis Le Blanc, Fitchb'g</li> <li>5 Jim Santamarra, Natick</li> <li>6 Paul Norris, Beverly</li> <li>7 Jim Barnicle, Natick</li> <li>8 Gene Colburn, Needham</li> <li>9 Bill Norris, Beverly</li> <li>10 Bob Clariza, Beverly</li> </ol> <p><b>CLASS C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 John Pape, Wach'sett Reg.</li> <li>2 Lenoard Box, St. John's P.</li> <li>3 Richard Stack, St. John's P.</li> <li>4 David Allen, Winchester</li> <li>5 Chris Lane, St. John's P.</li> <li>6 John Kochler, Malden C.</li> <li>7 Sam Lund, Wach'sett Reg.</li> <li>8 Walter Desmond, Ch'st'wn</li> <li>9 David Bates, Winchester</li> <li>10 Don Brown, Winchester</li> </ol> <p><b>CLASS D</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Ed Meehan, Oliver Ames</li> <li>2 Ken Turgeon, Dartmouth</li> <li>3 Norbert Martell, Bell'gh'm</li> <li>4 Pat O'Donnell, Scituate</li> <li>5 Eric Anderson, E. Bridg't'r</li> <li>6 Bill Potter, Holbrook</li> <li>7 Harold Caswell, Midd'l'b'ro</li> <li>8 Albert Yelle, Norton</li> <li>9 Ronald Peck, Silv'r L. Reg.</li> <li>10 Richard Cloutier, Bell'gh'm</li> </ol> |
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**Colleges Want 'em**

BUCKLEY'S time for the 2½ mile course was 12:30, Dunskey's 12:16 (new B record) Pape's 12:52, Meehan's 12:30 . . . How misleading times can be is proved by Meehan's victory in the New England's last Saturday. The Oliver Ames boy defeated the best from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut, lowering the record, set by Paul Scott of Scituate, from 12:03 to 11:48 and pulling five others along with him under the old mark. They were Bill Johnson of Glastonbury, Conn.; Bob Johnson of Brattleboro, Vt.; Bob Crothers of Fitch High, Conn.; Tom Baird of Lexington; Gerry Crommett, Portland, Me.

These boys are scouted by collegiate coaches as eagerly as football players. Scott, for example, is now attending U. of Michigan, and Meehan can call his own shots.

Marathoner Johnny Kelley, here with young Crothers remarked: "This is the beginning of a new era. These boys soon will be erasing every distance mark in collegiate and AAU books."

Says Cliff Ronan: "There are many new schools springing up all over the state and many of them do not have football teams. Cross country gives them an outlet, and the program keeps expanding every year. West Roxbury Catholic Memorial, for example, has no football but has 75 out for cross country."

Unfamiliar names among the high schools, like Wakefield Memorial High, Notre Dame of Fitchburg, West Roxbury Catholic Memorial, Wachusett Regional High, Reading Memorial, Bristol County Agricultural, Bellingham, Dartmouth, Hamilton, Everett Vocational, Middleboro Memorial, Lawrence High of Falmouth, Narragansett Regional High, Masconomet High etc., all entered cross country teams.

**Faster and Faster**

TIMES certainly do change . . . Until a decade ago, the mile run was barred from the Boston school program. "Too much strain on a boy's heart" said the medics. Their thinking has been changed. Today the 2½ mile cross country run is just an extended sprint. Meehan averaged 4:45 a mile over the course last Saturday.

Where is it all leading? . . . Probably to more Olympic championships. The U. S. has never won the 5000 meter or 10,000 meter Olympic runs. It hasn't won the marathon or mile (1500 meters) since 1908.

The high school cross country programs may change all that.