



Black Spartans (1907-1948)

Curators

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Artist

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Exhibit Curators Statement

“Black Spartans (1907-1948)” represents ongoing research in SJSU Special Collections & Archives identifying documentation of Black experiences throughout SJSU history. This exhibit is the first of several installments.

Much of the information we have comes from the Spartan Daily student newspaper and the La Torre yearbooks. With too few exceptions, Black Spartans' stories are not told in their own words but from the perspectives of their majority white classmates. This is reflected in the language and focus of the articles. We invite you to read critically.

The Black Spartans featured in this exhibit pursued their educational goals while contending with institutionalized racism and other major crises of the 20th century: two World Wars, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and polio. Locally, “the deed to virtually every home in San Jose” included restrictions against Black and Asian residents known as “restrictive covenants” (Spartan Daily, February 16, 1948, page 2). On campus, blackface and minstrel shows were a regular part of student events.

“Black Spartans (1907-1948)” is an invitation to the community to join us in surfacing these stories, ensuring these histories are preserved and presented in a way that honors these students' lives. Contact us at special.collections@sjsu.edu to participate.

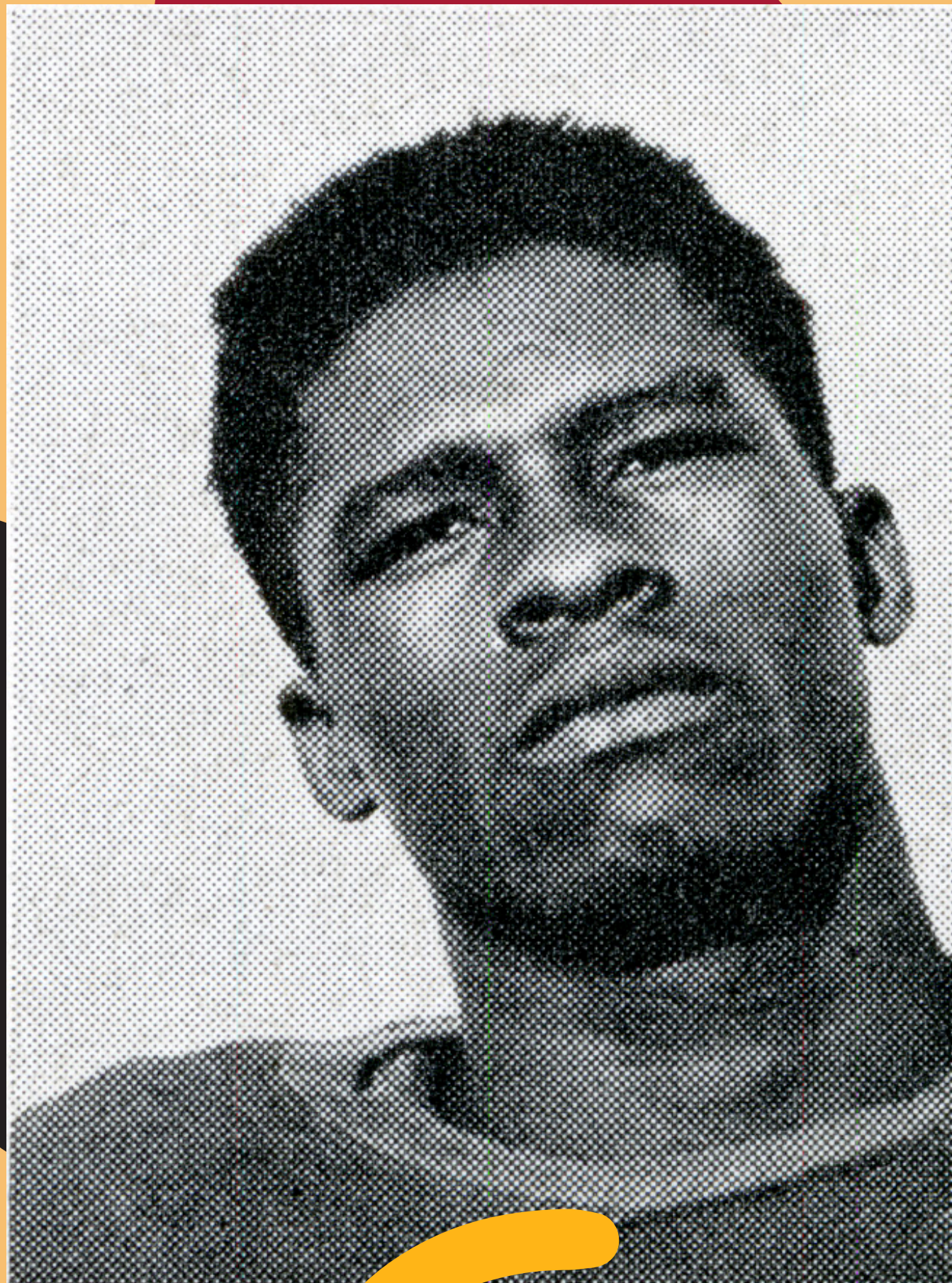
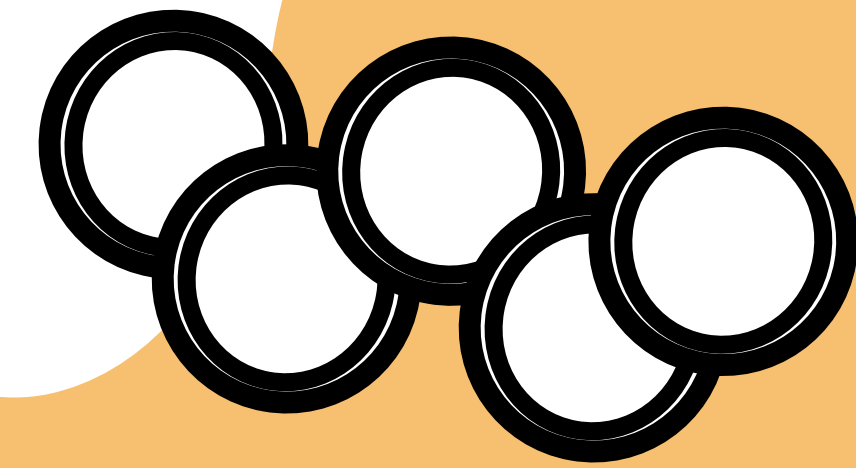
Carli V. Lowe - University Archivist
Kate Steffens - Special Collections Librarian

Artist Statement

The “Black Spartans (1907-1948)” exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil rights leaders, athletes, or celebrity-personas, the story of a graduate from a state school wasn't valued because we weren't part of the mainstream culture. As a Black Spartan myself, I was deeply connected to these individuals that started out just like me. I saw a reflection of myself and my community throughout the process of making these mixed media portraits and came to realize how important it is to know your history because it becomes a catalyst for knowing who you are.

My work explores the intricacy of identity and the role culture, tradition, and history play. These portraits are embodiments of our Black Spartans, they are visual representations of the colorful and captivating lives they led. Through this work, I hope to influence other artists and individuals to take part in researching and finding out the infinite layers of what it means to be Black. Our history is beyond our struggle. We are the blueprint.

Yeab Kebede
'22 Digital Media Arts



Originally from San Diego, **Willie Steele** attended San Jose State College from 1942-1943, then finished his schooling at San Diego State. While best known for his skills at the broad and high jump, Steele also played multiple other sports including baseball, football, and boxing. In 1942, he set the college's field jump mark record with a 25'7" jump, which stood as the record until 1966, earning him the National Junior Broad Jump title. In 1945, Steele competed in the Allied Track and Field Championships at the Foro D'Italia stadium in Florence, Italy and won both the broad and high jump events. While at school, Steele batted .310, and after graduation from San Diego State he made the 1949 second All-CCAA baseball team as a first baseman. He competed in the 1948 London Olympics and won gold in the long jump. Steele served as an Army Private First Class in the Fifth Army in World War II. He became a director in Oakland's Parks and Rec Department, and retired in 1988. Steele passed away on September 19, 1989.

San Jose Places Third In PAA Track Meet

Steele Double Winner For Spartans; Olympic Club, California Stars Too Much For Local Tracksters

Willie Steele, dusky jumper from San Diego, stole the honors at Berkeley Saturday afternoon when he took two first places in the PAA track and field championships as the Spartans finished third behind the Olympic Club and the University of California.

Steele nabbed his first victory when he leaped 23 feet 10 inches in the broad jump defeating Freeman of Salinas Junior college, Kern of Stanford and Tharp of California.

Steele posted his second victory in the hop, step and jump with a mark of 45 feet 10 inches. Barks-

dale of Marin Junior college was second, Tharp of California third and Corbett of the Olympic Club was fourth.

Billy Smith, Spartan hope in the 100-yard dash, fell short by two yards of nipping California's Hal Davis as the two battled it out to the tape. Smith had Davis for the first 60 yards being ½ yard in front at the halfway mark.

Smith fell short in the broad jump failing to qualify but did tie for fourth place in the high jump along with Jim Jackson at 6 feet 1 inch. The winning height was

6 feet 4 inches set by Hart of Stanford.

Thelno Knowles fell two inches short in the half mile to be nipped by Fulton of Stanford in the fast time of 1:54.7. Although finishing fast, Knowles could not nip Fulton, who managed to take the lead going into the second lap.

Frank Minini took fourth in both the shotput and discus. He managed to make only 48 feet 5 inches in the shot and 134 feet 10 inches in the discus. Larry O'Connor was third in the javelin with a 173 feet 8½ inch heave.

(Continued on page 4)

Spartan Daily

May 4, 1942

Willie Steele wins first place in broad jump and in the hop, step, and jump competition at the PAA track meet in Berkeley.

SECONDS AND THIRDS MAY DECIDE WINNER OF
CLOSE CONTEST; TWO TEAMS EVENLY MATCHED

SPARTAN RHYNE
MAY BE SLOWED
BY LEG INJURY

By NIELS NIELSEN

Two of the greatest college track teams in the nation clash when the Fresno State Bulldogs meet the San Jose State Spartans in a dual meet this afternoon on Spartan Field at 4 o'clock.

Both teams have fine records. San Jose hasn't lost a dual meet this season, while Fresno has only lost to the University of Southern California Trojans. In the large meets in which both teams have appeared, San Jose has come out on top. The Spartans finished ahead of the Bulldogs in the San Francisco Olympic club indoor meet and again Saturday in the PAA championships where they scored 24 5/6 points to Fresno's 19 5/6.

However, eliminating the hop, step and jump which was won by Willie Steele (and which is not included in an ordinary meet), the two teams would have been tied.

RHYNE INJURED

Coach Winter's hopes for a win took a serious slump when Bill Rhyne pulled a leg muscle during practice Thursday. Rhyne didn't run in the PAA and still has quite a limp. Originally he was counted on for quite a few points, competing as he does in the 220 yard dash, 440 yard run, 220 yard low hurdles and the relay. How many of these events he will be able to enter and how well he will do in those he does enter is one of the big question marks of the meet.

FRESNO MILERS TOPS

Fresno is conceded first and second in the mile and two mile, where Art Cazares and Bobby Madrid rank among the top runners in the country; while San Jose has a monopoly in the broad jump, formed by Bill Smith, Willie Steele and Chitoshi Akizuki.

The rest of the events are pretty well open, with the exception of the sprints in which Fresno has one man, Al Jackson, who should grab a place in both the century and furlough.

COACHES' JUGGLING

It will be interesting to see the results of the second-guessing of Coaches Winter and Flint Hanner. Hanner will run quartermiler Joe Shropshire in the 440 and 880, and will enter Madrid in the half mile as well as the mile and two mile.

Winter plans to hold Guido Teresi out of the mile so that he can save everything for the two-mile grind and perhaps give Madrid a battle. Winter will run miler Bob Ingram in the 880; quarter-miler Thelmo Knowles in the 440, sprinter Ralph Kaufman in the shot put, and entering Elwood Clark who has been out with a bad shoulder in the javelin.

On the policy of the coaches juggling their entries, Coach Winter remarked, "We're both guessing and if either of us don't guess right, it may be just too bad."

Spartan Daily

May 5, 1942

Willie Steele competes against Fresno State in the broad jump.

From
the
Sidelines

By WILBUR AGEE

Track Chatter

San Jose State college track records are still not definite this year as the three leading record-breakers on this year's varsity track team will make one more attempt to better the old marks now on the records tomorrow afternoon in the interfraternity track meet.

The three who will attempt these new records are Thelno Knowles, Willie Steele and Bill Smith.

Knowles, already holder of the 880 mark at 1:53.9, will attempt to make it three when he runs the 440 yard sprint and the mile run. As anchor man on the relay team, Knowles turned in an unofficial time of 48.9 in the quarter mile but has yet to run the mile this year.

Smith, currently the possessor of the 100 yard dash, high jump and broad jump records, will attempt his fourth mark when he enters the 220 yard dash.

Steele, who set a new record at 24 feet 8¼ inches just one jump before Smith established the new record, will try to better it tomorrow. On a foul jump, Steele also has hit the 25 foot mark.

Omar Cowles, Spartan hurdler, will also be among those seeking records tomorrow although he is competing for the Delta Theta Omega fraternity. Cowles unofficially established a new high hurdle record when he turned in a 14.6 mark in the Fresno Relays. However, because he placed only third, the mark did not count.

Cowles will also attempt the 220 yard low hurdles tomorrow. He has not as yet attempted the low barriers to any extent this year because of his bad leg early in the season.

Smith, Knowles And Steele Will
Attempt To Break School Records
In Annual Meet; DTO's Are Favored

Willie Steele, Bill Smith and Thelno Knowles, record breaking colored track men this year, will attempt to better their marks tomorrow afternoon on the local cinderpath at 3:45 o'clock in the annual inter-fraternity track meet.

All three will compete unattached. Steele and Smith will make one more try at the broadjump mark, which is now at the 25 foot mark. Smith will also enter the 220 to try and better the school mark. He will not attempt the century as no one would be capable of pushing him to any fast time. Knowles will attempt to set new records in the 440 and mile, thus passing up his favorite event, the half mile.

Smith is exceedingly fast in the 220, but has not been timed since in high school as he has been concentrating on the 100, broad jump and high jump.

Knowles, although never officially timed in a 440 this year, posted better times than any other quarter milers while anchoring the relay team this year. He has not been timed in the mile this year either.

Smith has the best broad jump mark in the nation this year at 25 feet, and Steele has a mark of 24 feet 8¼ inches.

Delta Theta Omega, already possessor of the trophy for two straight years, will be attempting to win it for the third straight year so as to keep it permanently. From all reports they should have little difficulty in retaining their crown.

Their main hope lies with Omar Cowles, ace hurdler, who should have no trouble in taking both the 120 yard high hurdles and the 220 yard low hurdles.

Delta Sigma Gamma, runners-up last year, rest their hopes on Dick Knox, who last year took the mile and should be favored to repeat.

The remaining four teams have no outstanding contestants and can only hope for the unexpected to bring up their point total. All contestants have had little workouts and are not expected to post fast times.

The P. E. majors will be in charge of the meet and will handle the officiating duties.

All entries must be turned in to Douglas Bacon or Ivan Olsen some time early today.

Spartan Daily

June 3, 1942

Willie Steele and two of his track teammates attempt to break San Jose State records in the annual inter-fraternity track meet. Steele goes for a record in the broad jump, for which he needs to surpass the 25-foot mark.

Three San Jose Track Stars Go East This Week

San Jose State's great trio of track stars — Bill Smith, Thelno Knowles and Willie Steele — will leave late this week for the National AAU meet in New York, where they will compete for the Southern California Athletic association team.

All of these men will be eligible to enter the junior and senior championships as none of them have ever won an AAU title.

Collectively they are capable of scoring about 20 points. Smith and Steele both have marks better than anyone else in the broad-jump and stand a good chance of finishing one-two. Steele is Pacific Coast champion in the hop, step and jump and should finish high in that event.

Smith has two 9.5's in the 100 yard dash, and Knowles has the coast's best time of 1:53.9 for the half mile, which makes him a pre-meet favorite.

Spartan Daily

June 11, 1942

Willie Steele heads to New York with fellow Black Spartans Bill Smith and Thelno Knowles to compete in the National AAU track meet. Steele competes as the Pacific Coast champion in the hop, skip, and jump event.

Three SJS Track Stars Compete In AAU This Weekend

Bill Smith, Willie Steele and Thelno Knowles, three of the outstanding performers of Coach Bud Winter's Spartan track team, will compete in the AAU championships in New York tomorrow and Saturday.

Running for the Southern California Athletic association, these men are expected to gain points in at least four events, with the possibility of placing first in at least two of them.

Steele and Smith form the most formidable broadjumping combination in the country, both having done 25 feet or better. They hold the best jumps in the country and stand an excellent chance of finishing one-two. Steele is also Pacific Coast champion in the hop, step and jump and should place among the leaders.

Smith's second event is the 100 yard dash in which he has been running a constant close second to California's Hal Davis. Smith has recorded two 9.5's for the century and followed Davis to the tape by less than a foot in a 9.4 second race at the West Coast Relays. On the basis of these performances, Smith rates one of the favorites in this race.

Thelno Knowles, the third member of the trio, although only a freshman, has the best time on the Pacific Coast in the half-mile. Knowles ripped off a 1:53.9 880 in Los Angeles to defeat the cream of the west's middle-distance men and earn his trip east. However, it is hard to predict what he will do as he has not been pressed hard and is probably capable of even better time when the competition is tough.

Spartan Daily

June 18, 1942

Willie Steele prepares for a weekend of track events in New York.

Spartan Daily

Sports

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1942.

WILLIE STEELE RAMBLES 70 YARDS TO SCORE AS SPARTANS DEFEAT COAST GUARD SEA LIONS 9 TO 0

By JOHNNY HUBBARD
Willie Steele., San Jose's living example of a Horatio Alger "rags to riches" character, wrote another chapter in his "rise to fame" story yesterday in Spartan Stadium when he got his

hands on a short pass, midway in the second quarter, and scooted 70 yards to a touchdown, highlighting State's 9 to 0 win over the Coast Guard.

It was exactly the same play that he scored on against U. S. F. last Sunday—a screen pass with Charlie Cook, sub fullback, doing the heaving.

But if that run last week was sensational, yesterday's was a Hollywood press agent's dream. Willie snared the football on San Jose's 30, and wriggling his hips like a hula-hula queen, slipped through the Sea Lion defense behind perfect blocking to race the last 40 or 50 yards absolutely out in the clear.

This play was the bright spot of an otherwise pretty unexciting game which was more or less of a "tit-tat-toe" affair from start to finish, except for those thrilling 30 odd seconds described above.

Coach Joe Verducci's Coast Guard team didn't have much to offer in an offensive way, and neither did State for that matter. But the Spartans have an alibi, and a darned good one—George Foote and Bill Parton, the touchdown twins, Bert Robinson, fullback and key man on attack, and Gray McConnell, rugged tackle, were all out of the game because of injuries.

The first three mentioned make up, along with Bill Perry, quarterback, State's first string backfield. Perry was in the game, but didn't see much action himself.

So it was a reserve backfield and a first string line that accomplished the victory—and did it convincingly, even if the score doesn't show it.

In scoring a total of nine points, six were accounted for by Steele on that run, one was tallied by Bill Perry, making good on the conversion attempt—and the other two were a gift from the Sea Lions due to freak that isn't seen very often on the gridiron.

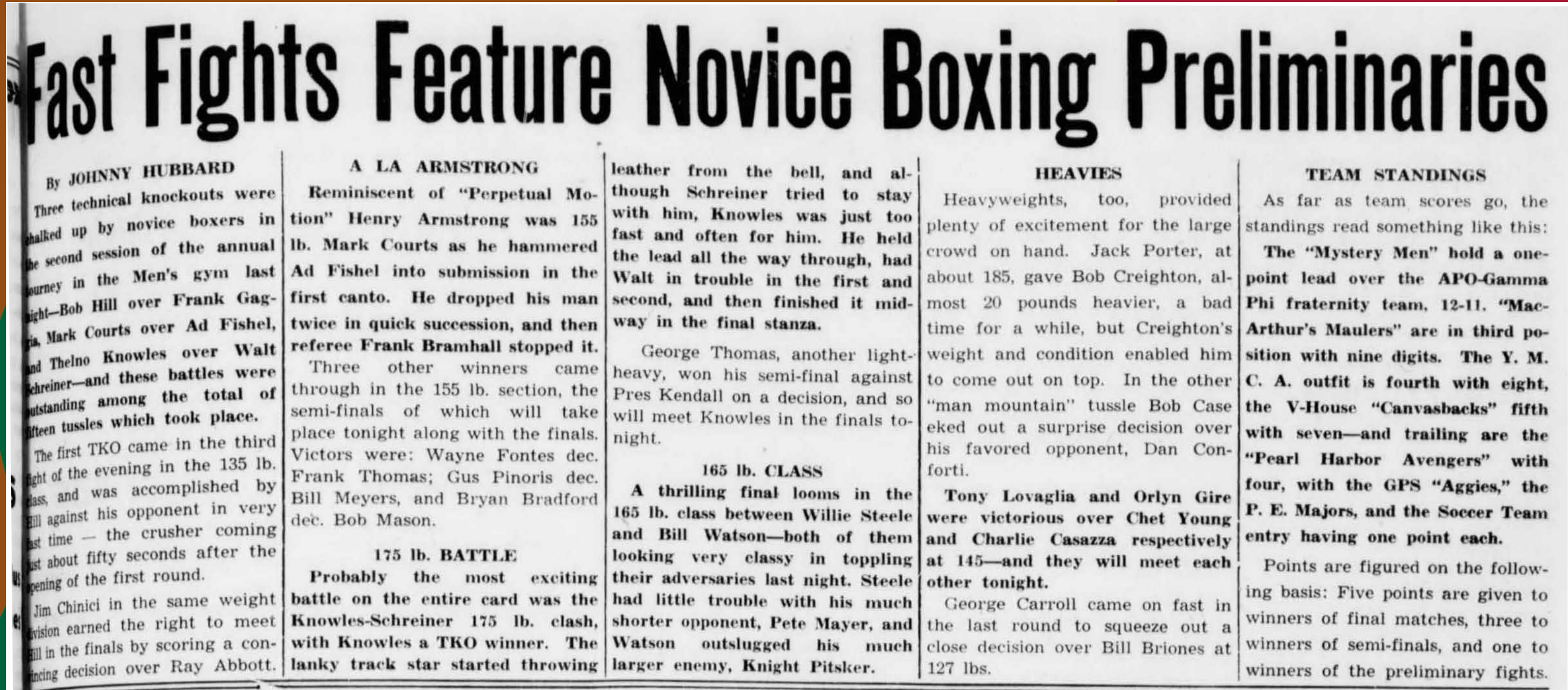
Here's a picture of the situation. Late in the final period, Jack Porter, Spartan reserve fullback, punted a coffin-corner kick that went out on the Coast Guard one-foot line. Joe Haynes, a Sea Lion back, stepped out of the end zone while trying to throw a pass on a fake punt play, thereby giving San Jose two points on a safety.

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
San Jose	0	7	0	2—9
Coast Guard	0	0	0	0—0

Spartan Daily

November 2, 1942

Willie Steele's meteoric rise to college sports fame is compared to writer Horatio Alger's concept of "rags-to-riches," with special focus on Steele's football prowess.



Spartan Daily

December 11, 1942

Willie Steele competes in a boxing bout in the 165 lb. class, handily beating his opponent.

BUD WINTER GIVES DOPE ON OUTLOOK FOR TRACK TEAM -- "WE WILL TAKE U.S.C. BY 1945" -- NATIONAL A.A.U. CHAMPS SMITH, KNOWLES, AND STEELE RETURN

By DICK FRY
"We will take USC by 1945."
Those were the words of track coach Bud Winter as he discussed the cinder outlook for the coming season.
Certainly not the most pessimistic coach in the game, Winter said he expected the Spartans to enjoy one of the most successful seasons of their history in the coming year. "Unless something goes wrong in the reserve program and all the boys are pulled before the end of the year, we expect to give the best teams in the nation a run.
Winter has three national junior AAU champs returning to backbone his squad this year and with their help he expects to build an outfit superior to last year's team. Bill Smith, Thelno Knowles, and possibly Willie Steele are the boys that the red-head is depending upon.
"I have set up three marks to

strive for this year 9.4 in the 100, 25 ft. 10 inches in the broad jump, and 6 ft. 7 inches in the high jump," Bill Smith quoted Winter as saying.
FOUR-MINUTE MILER
"In my opinion," Winter said, "there is no man in the nation with a better chance to run a four-minute mile than our own Thelno Knowles. Last year Knowles ran the distance in 4:23 without training for the distance." Primarily a half-miler, the San Jose State edition of long John Woodruff, set this mark at the inter-fraternity meet last spring quarter.
At present Winter is having more difficulty arranging meets for his boys than he is trying to hold his squad together. "Although as yet neither the AAU nor the NCAA meets have been cancelled, it begins to look as though transportation difficulties may prevent us from entering," he said.

HINDRANCE AN ADVANTAGE
"However, this same hindrance may give us an advantage in scheduling some of the larger schools in the district who have been forced to give up their extensive road trips and who must look for local talent to provide competition," he added.
Meets with Stanford, California, Fresno, S. F. State, the indoor PAA, the outdoor PAA, St. Mary's Pre-Flight, California Aggies, and the Olympic Club are now on the fire, and more are expected to come up before the season really gets under way.
Practice will open in three weeks at Spartan stadium. This late start will enable the cinder-men to miss the majority of the late rains and to continue their practice sessions without interference to the opening of the active season.

Spartan Daily

January 5, 1943

Coach Bud Winter prognosticates about the future of his three track stars, including Willie Steele who is returning to compete while the possibility of military service looms.



However, storm clouds loomed on the horizon in the person of a powerful U. S. F. eleven that was reputed to be one of the best in the Bay region. The payoff came when Bert Robinson was severely injured in practice the day before the game. Hart-ranft, with his fingers crossed, pressed center Charley Cook into service as a fullback and banked on freshman Danny Con-forti to bolster the spot.

Packed with action from start to finish, the game started in the usual way with Billy Parton romping 60 yards to pay dirt. But the heavier, more experienced Dons were not to be denied and quickly punched over 20 points by half time. With Cook and Willie Steele in the backfield in the second half the Spar-tans began going to town in big way. In the shadow of his own goalposts Cook rifled a pass to Steele who dodged and twisted his way 70 yards down the field for the second State score. Late in the third quarter with Cook carrying the ball on nearly every play the big Gold machine marched from their own 10 to the Don 9 yard stripe, only to be robbed of another score when the over-anxious Cook fumbled and U. S. F. recovered.

Bruised and battered the Spartans barely nosed out the Alameda Coast Guard Sea Lions 9 to 0 the following week on another pass from Cook to Steele. But the State gridders picked up speed again and walloped San Diego 26 to 0 and McClellan Field 27 to 7 on successive Saturdays.

Tackle Gray McConnell, Foote, Parton and Robinson returned to action in the latter game. The first three men had all been on the sick list as a result of the U. S. F. fracas. The season's finale featured the annual big game with a once beaten Fresno State Bulldog.

U. S. F. had been the only team to down the highly touted Fresno squad and the Bulldogs boasted the services of the ace passer, Jackie Fellow, booming fullback Mickey Masini, and fleet halfbacks Jack Kelley and Louie Futrell.

Closely fought all the way through, the game resembled a clash between two titans with Fresno finally eking out a 6 to 0 win. The Spartan line, led by Captain Wilbur Wool, held Fellows down all afternoon but the backs relaxed just once on defense and that was enough for the "Rabbit" to toss a pass to end Jim Molich for the only tally of the day.

Robinson and Cook were both injured early in the game and reserve fullback Jack Porter came into his own after a season of comparative obscurity. Porter passed and ran the Spartans up and down the field with a brilliant per-formance but each time the San Jose gridders got within striking distance of the Fresno goal line the Bulldog de-fense stiffened and held.

The defeat by Fresno was a bitter pill to swallow but with a season record of seven wins and two losses Coach Hartranft was well pleased. Starting out with a green, inexperienced squad he molded it into a powerful grid aggregation that lost by no more than a seven point margin in both defeats. The Spartans wound up the season with a scoring total of 150 points, as against 40 tallied by their opponents.

La Torre yearbook

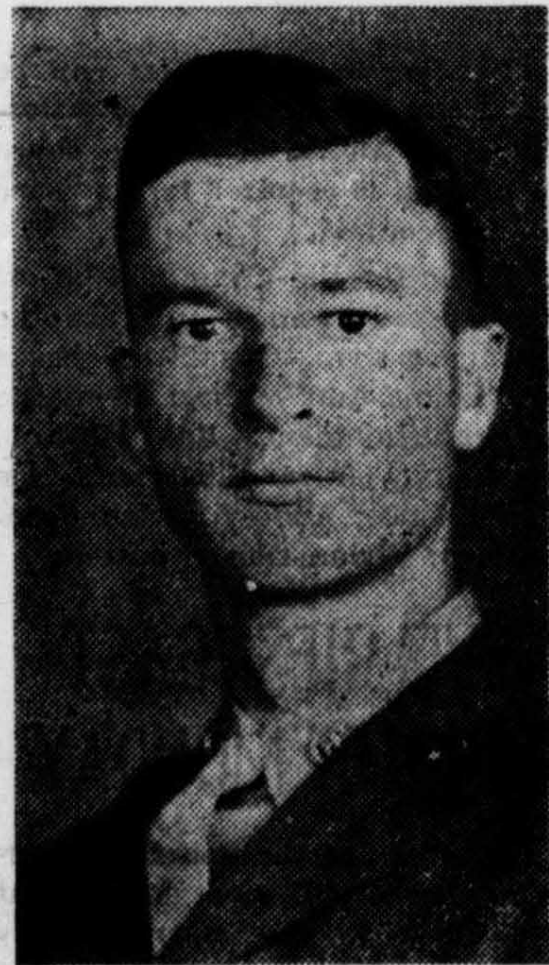
1943

Willie Steele is pictured as a member of the football team, with a detailed description of a game in which Steele scored at least one touchdown.

SPARTANS IN THE SERVICE

By ELEANOR FRATES

Marine Second Lieutenant Edward Teresi, student here before his enlistment in 1942, has been graduated from officer communications school at Quantico, Va., and is now awaiting assignment.



LT. RAYMOND JONES

Marine Raymond Jones, former pre-law student here, has been commissioned a second lieutenant, following his completion of basic officer training at the Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. He is now undergoing advanced training.

The newly-commissioned officer entered the Corps in September, 1942, as a private. He was a sergeant when selected for officer training last October.

In formal retreat ceremonies at Salinas Army Air Base, Anthony

Greco was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross which has been awarded to his son, 2nd. Lt. Anthony Greco, former Spartan and member of the boxing and football teams, now missing in action.

In presenting the decoration the base commander said that such awards bespoke the appreciation of a grateful nation for bravery and sacrifice and that this "gallantry shall remain in our memories and inspire us in our duties."

Catherine Pinoris, 1941 graduate of SJS, was with the first group of U. S. Army hostesses to arrive in Europe.

"Yank," Army weekly magazine, reports that the new Foro D'Italia stadium in Italy was used recently for the finals of the Allied Track and Field Championships, rather than the Mussolini-sponsored Olympics for which it was originally built.

Among the contestants participating in the meet was Willie Steele, former athletic star at SJS. Quoting from "Yank," "The Fifth and Eighth Armies didn't fare so well in the meet, though one of the brightest stars on the field was a Fifth Army dogface, Pfc. Willie Steele of San Diego, California, who holds the National Junior broad jump title at 25 feet 7 inches. The California Negro easily won the broad jump at 22 feet 2 inches and the high jump at 5 feet 10 inches."

Spartan Daily

January 26, 1945

After leaving San Jose State to serve in the military, Willie Steele competes in the Allied Track and Field Championships at the Foro D'Italia stadium in Florence, Italy. He wins both the broad and high jump events.

INTERCLASS MEET OURS, SAY JUNIORS

“The Juniors will win the inter-class meet next Thursday and Friday afternoon, no other class will even come close to matching the potential talents of the third year men.”

These are the words of Juniors Fred Lindsey and Bill Perry, who are making public their challenge in the forthcoming interclass track and field meet the latter part of next week.

Track Coach Bud Winter urges all class entries to sign up with him in the P.E. department as soon as possible. Everyone is invited to enter. “You don’t have to flash or be a potential ‘record breaker’ to enter the quadrangular meet,” states Winter.

RECORD PERFORMANCES

The last time the meet was held was in the spring of '42 under Winter's direction. In that meet four school records were broken. Thelmo Knowles, running in the mile event for the first time in his athletic career, was clocked at 4:23 (not bad for a first attempt, huh?).

Willie Steele, that all around athlete, chalked up the best mark in the country that year in the broad jump event, when he went out 25'7."

EVERYONE WELCOME

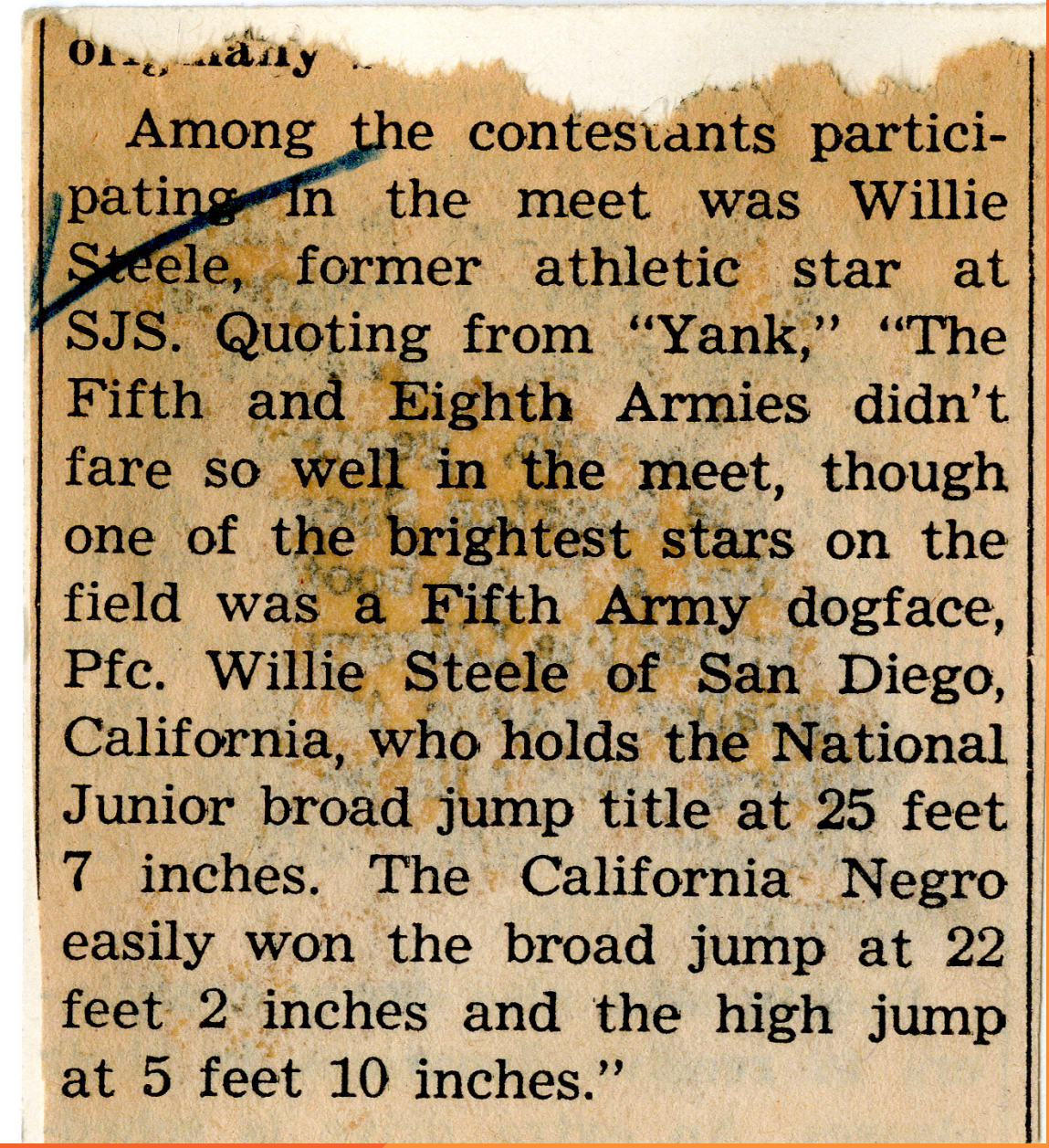
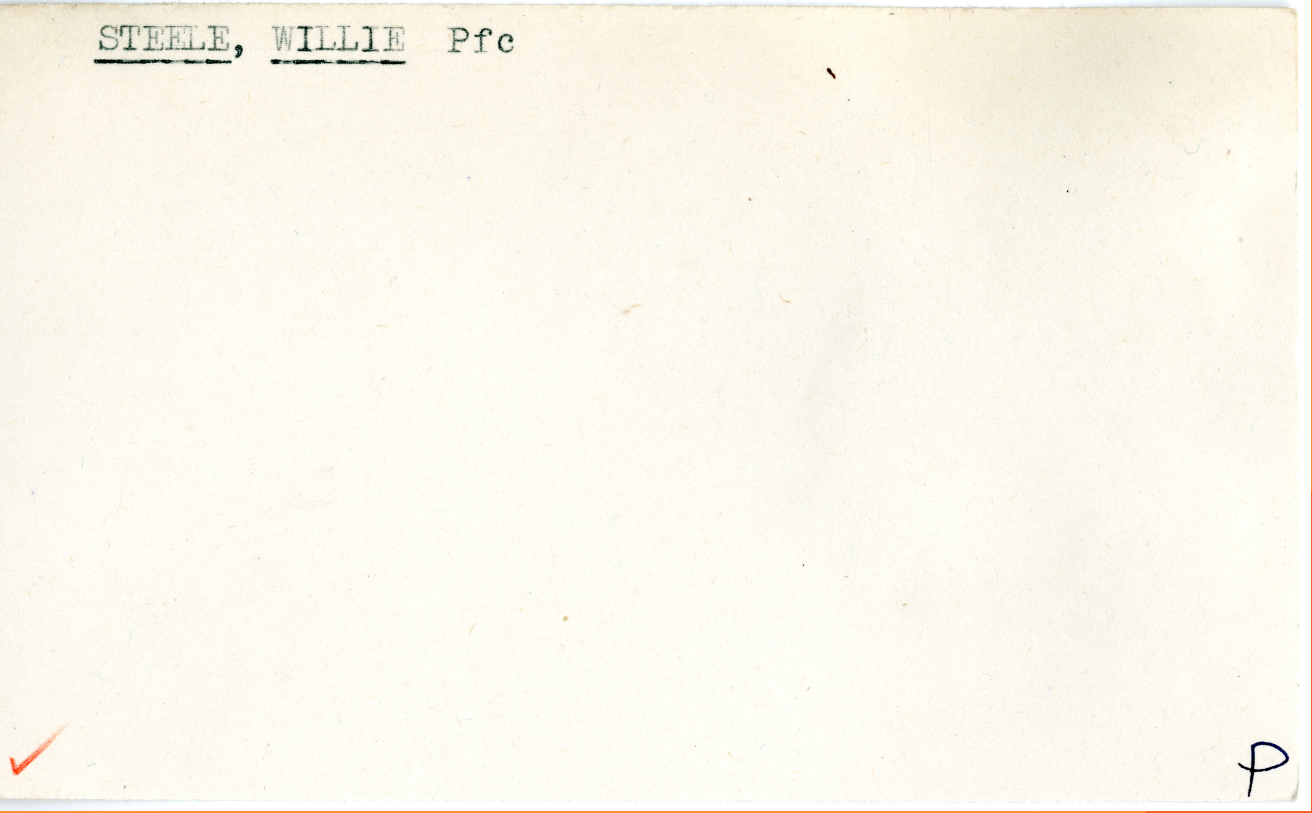
But mediocre track and field men should not be discouraged by these marks, for they are definite exceptions to the rule.

Although varsity track and field men will be eligible to compete in the meet, anyone possessing any talents at all should sign up immediately, designating what class he will perform for.

Spartan Daily

March 8, 1946

Willie Steele’s record-making broad jumps continue to be the stuff of legends even after he leaves San Jose State for the military.



San Jose State College World War I and World War II Collection

TRACK MEN IN SOUTH THIS WEEK

By **DICK FRY**

Southward bound — the deep South, that is—Coach Bud Winter and 24 track men will leave for Santa Barbara this afternoon for their dual meet against San Diego State and Santa Barbara on the El Cajon track Saturday.

At full strength for the meet, the Spartans will be out for their third straight win of the season. After victories over Salinas J.C., Stanford and the Alameda Naval Air station, the Winter men are being heradled as the strongest team in northern California and the only outfit that could give U.S.C. a busy afternoon.

Saturday's meet will be a triple dual affair in which San Jose will be matched against San Diego and Santa Barbara individually. That is, San Diego's points won't be counted in the San Jose-Santa Barbara results and Santa Barbara's markers will not affect the outcome of the Spartan-Aztec clash.

Santa Barbara has succeeded in keeping their track prospects pretty well under cover this year but San Diego, led by former Spartan, Willie Steele, is considered to have a tough outfit. Steele, winner of the broad jump and high jump in the Inter-Allied Games held in Florence, Italy, and one of Bud Winter's top broad jumpers at State in 1942 will perform for the Aztecs in three events Saturday.

Wit the men who know track teams best, it's the Spartans 2 to 1.

Spartan Daily

April 26, 1946

After his military service, Willie Steele returns to the United States, but not to San Jose State, going instead to his hometown college, San Diego State, where he continues his success in sports.

SPARTANS START 'SPORTS WEEK' WITH CAGE WIN OVER SAN DIEGO AZTECS; PORTAL'S BOXERS OPEN SHOW IN GYM

HUGHES SHOOTS WAY TO EASY WIN

It was San Jose all the way last night, as Coach Walt McPherson's eagle-eyed hoopsters found the range and dumped the invading Aztecs from San Diego 48-28 for their first CCAA win.

For the first three minutes the teams see-sawed back and forth with neither team tallying a bucket. With the score at one apiece, Chuck Hughes broke through for two quick buckets.

Hal Sonntag dropped one through and then Bob Hagen made a pair of tallies swish through the cords in rapid fire order. Hughes came in for another bucket, and then former Spartan Willie Steele showed a burst of strength for the Aztecs and sank two tosses for the visitors.

EARLY LEAD

That put the score at 12-5 and then McPherson started the substitutions rolling. Bob Taylor and Wes Stevenson came through for the Spartans in the scoring column, and although he only made one point, Stu Inman displayed some outstanding floor work to help show the way to victory.

The half ended with the local lads out in front 26-14. The sec-

(Continued on Page 4)

CIVIC AUD

San Jose's Civic Auditorium will be the scene of two Spartan sporting events this week. Coach Dee Portal will wind up his boxing show there on Thursday night and the State basketball team will go against St. Mary's on the hardwoods Saturday night.

It looks as if Coach Bud Winter has plenty of talent this year for his track and field team. Could it possibly compare to the great team of 1942, headed by Bill Smith, Willie Steele and Thelno Knowles, that won so many honors in the Bay Area.

CAGERS CHALK UP CONFERENCE WIN OVER SAN DIEGO

(Continued from Page 1)

ond half almost turned out to be a San Diego affair, but the Spartans soon checked any ambitions the visitors might have had and went on to pile up a sizeable amount of points.

EVERYBODY PLAYS

Coach McPherson used all 14 of his varsity basketball players in the second half, and all but Bob Pifferini made at least one of their tries good. Piff played most of the second half however, and displayed some fine floor work, second only to Inman.

18 FOR HUGHES

Chuck Hughes led the scoring with 18 points, 14 made in the first half. Bob Hagen was second in the Spartan scoring with 8. The rest of the Spartan scoring went as follows: Morgan 4, Romero 3, Robinson 3, Wilson, Denevi, Stevenson and Sonntag 2, and Wuesthoff, Taylor, Staley, and Inman 1.

George Smith and Willie Steele, the ex-Spartan trackman, led the boys from the border city with 5 points. Former All-American Kenny Hale scored 2 points during the game.

Spartan Daily

January 14, 1947.

While at San Diego State, Willie Steele competes against San Jose in basketball.

SJS TRACKMEN FAVORED TO RETAIN CCAA TITLE

San Jose State's varsity track team leaves for Santa Barbara today where they will defend their California Collegiate Athletic Association crown Saturday afternoon and night.

The meet will bring together San Diego, Fresno, and Santa Barbara State, College of Pacific, Calif. Poly, and San Jose.

SPARTANS SHOULD WIN

The Spartans once again will go to the post as favorites to successfully retain their title as kingpin of the CCAA track conference. They will undoubtedly run into stiffer competition than last year, however, when they rolled up 75 points to Fresno's 34.

The following is a summary of the outstanding men and their best marks in each event.

In the opening race, the mile, San Jose's Gene Haynes will be out to break his own school record of 4:21.5, and should have things his own way against Ludwig (SD-4:28), and Day (SB-4:30).

SPRINTS, 440, HURDLES CLOSE

The 100-yard dash follows, and should be one of the closest battles of the night. The Spartan trio of dashmen, Don Smalley (9.7), Steve O'Meara (9.8), and Bob Bingham (9.8), will be pitted against Willie Steele (SD-9.7), and Bob Heck (COP-9.7).

State's Fred Mangini (49.5) should also have a close battle with McVicker (COP-49.6), but is a slight favorite to take the event.

The 120-yard high hurdles event has five men who all have a chance to take top spot. They are Jack Kaiser (SD-14.8), Dick Olsen (Fres.-14.9), Merle Martin (Fres.-14.9), and San Jose's Bill Passey (14.8), and Rodger Smythe (14.9). Their teammate, Jack Passey (14.9), is a doubtful starter due to lack of practice resulting from his leg injury.

Thelno Knowles (SJ-1:54.8) looks like a clinch winner in the 880, as there are no other outstanding runners.

The 220 once again will be a dogfight between Steele (21.2), Smalley (21.5), Heck (20.6 unofficially), O'Meara (21.6), and should take the 220 low hurdles, Bingham (21.7).

Merle Knox (SJ-9:58) will at-

tempt to revenge his loss to Tom Rice (SD-9:50) in last year's CCAA meet.

Fresno's Merle Martin (23.6) but Tom Birmingham (SJ-23.5) and Jack Martin (SD-23.8) may surprise.

Connie Varneck (SJ-8'4") is favored in the high jump, providing his leg doesn't give him too much trouble, and teammate Junior Morgan (8'4") could make it 1-2 for the Spartans.

SPARTANS STRONG IN FIELD

Howard Overhouse (SJ-13'8") will be gunning for a new school record, while John Lankas (SJ-13'4"), Dick Hibner (Fresno-13'), Jack Kaiser (SD-13'), and Cooper (SB-13'), should have a battle royal.

Willie Steele (24'1") appears to be a sure thing in the broad jump, while Bob Engman and Leo Jennings (SB-both 23'6") should press him.

The Spartans' discus trio of Ray Overhouse (162'), Woody Linn (157'4"), and Grant Denmark (157'8") should have things their own way, as should San Jose's Bob Likens (216'8 1/2") in the javelin, and Linn (50'8") in the shot.

Spartan Daily

May 7, 1948

Willie Steele also competes in track and field events for San Diego State, playing against San Jose again in 1948.

SPORT SHORTS

The Aztecs of San Diego State college have only defeated the Spartan gridgers twice in nine meetings.

Willie Steele, broad jumper from San Diego State college, once held the 100-yard dash record in a football uniform which he set while at San Jose State college.

Spartan Daily

October 5, 1948

Willie Steele remains a strong contender from San Diego State while being celebrated for his 100-yard dash record at San Jose, in a race he ran while wearing his football uniform.

