



Minute Mile

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.

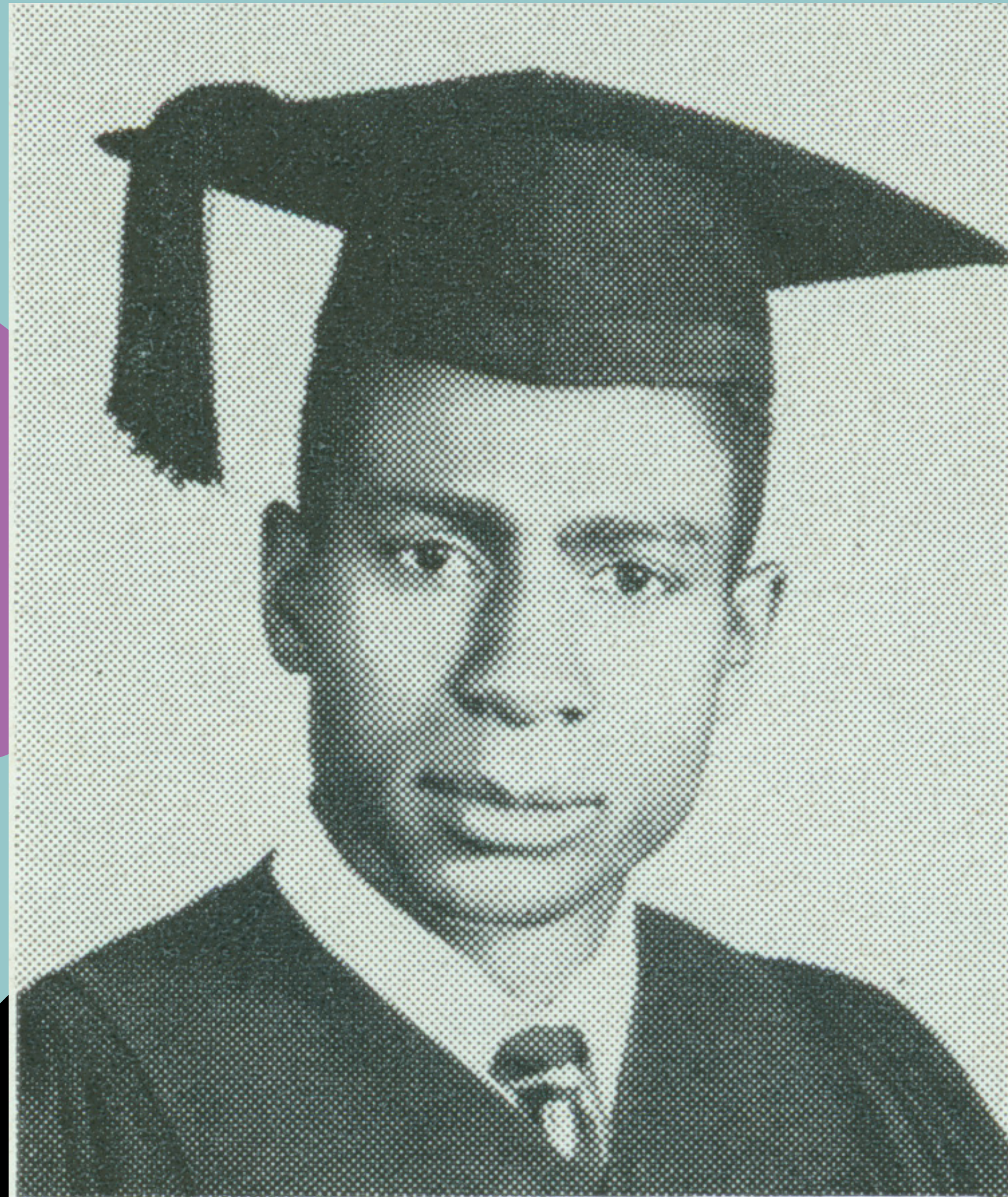
Carli V. Lowe - University Archivist
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Artist Statement

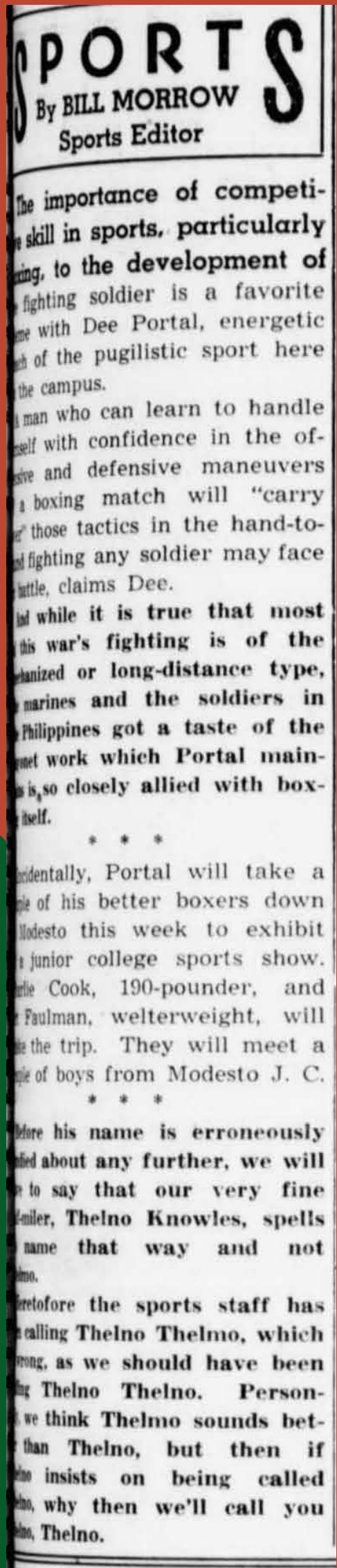
The "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil 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



Thelno Knowles attended San Jose State College from 1941-1943, and from 1946-1948 following service in World War II. He majored in Philosophy. He was a member of the campus Cosmopolitan Club, and spoke on the topic “Is This Democracy?” at the Student Center in 1943. He was a record-holding member of the track team, and competed in the AAU Championships in New York along with fellow Black student track athletes Irving Smith and Willie Steele. In 1943, Coach Bud Winter said of Knowles, “There is no man in the nation with a better chance to run a 4-minute mile.” In 1945, while serving in World War II, Knowles won the European Championship at Frankfurt, Germany. During his Senior year, Knowles traveled to Los Angeles with four other track team members to compete in the invitational Coliseum Relays held by USC. In 1948, he was a captain on the SJSC varsity track team. In addition to track, Knowles took part in novice campus boxing matches. He graduated in December 1948.



Spartan Daily

May 5, 1942

Sports editor Bill Morrow offers his opinion on Thelno Knowles's name while clarifying that his name is spelled "Thelno" and not "Thelmo" as it is often misspelled.

THRILLING EVENTS

Possibly the more thrilling events were the mile relay, the two hurdle races and the battle for third place in the 100 yard dash between Hank Ruiz of San Jose and Mike Kershaw of Fresno, which Ruiz won by a couple of inches.

In the last lap of the relay Knowles and Joe Shropshire of Fresno got off to an event start. Shropshire sprinted out into an early four-yard lead but going into the last turn Knowles turned on the heat and as they came into the home stretch they were neck and neck. Knowles kept opening up his stride and went on to win by less than two yards. His time for the quarter mile was 48.8.

Spartan Daily

May 6, 1942

Thelno Knowles runs the quarter mile in 48.8.

BILL SMITH WINS THREE EVENTS AS SAN JOSE TRACK TEAM SMOTHERS CONFERENCE RIVALS AT SAN DIEGO

Bill Smith paced the Spartan cindermen with three first places as San Jose walked away with the 2C2A track championships held in San Diego Saturday. In accomplishing the feat, San Jose took nine first places, broke two conference records and tied three others and outscored their nearest competitor, Fresno State, 85¼ to 46.

Not only did Smith walk off with individual scoring honors but he went 6 feet 4 inches in the high jump to crack the con-

ference record of 6 feet 2¾ inches held by Miller of Santa Barbara. He also equalled the 9.8 seconds for the 100 yard dash set by Tommy Nelson of Fresno in 1939.

MORE RECORDS

Thelno Knowles was the other Spartan to shatter a record when he strided the half mile in 1:54.9 to shave off almost three seconds from the mark set by Vin Ruble of San Jose in 1939. Bill Rhyne's 24.3 in the 220 yard low hurdles and Frank Minini's 49 feet 3 inch heave of the 16-pound shot both tied conference records.

Fresno State's Bobby Madrid and Art Cazares finished in a dead heat mile in 4:17.1 to set the only other record of the afternoon.

Frank Minini was the only double winner, besides Smith, taking both his events, the shotput and discus. Larry O'Connor, the other Spartan weight man placed in both these events and lost second place in the javelin to teammate Frank Roberts by a little over a foot.

FRESNO HIT HARD

Fresno was hit hard by the inability of Louie Futrell to get in the hurdles and Al Jackson to run the sprints. These two absences opened the way for San Jose as Omar Cowles won the high hurdles and Bill Rhyne took the low barriers with teammates Charlie Townsend and Bud Veregee in a tie for second spot.

The sprints were almost the same story with Smith winning the hundred, Ralph Kaufman in second spot and Hank Ruiz tying for third with Bess of Santa Barbara. Kaufman came through in the 220 yard dash to tie Bess, the conference champion, for first money.

Smith took the broadjump at 23 feet 5½ inches with his shadow, Willie Steele less than two inches behind.

DISTANCE MEN PLACE

Even the Spartan distance men who weren't rated as having much of a chance pulled through and added their names to the point column. Bob Ingram placed fourth behind Madrid and Cazares of Fresno and Roach of San Diego. The two mile faired better with Eustace Rojas in second position and little Guido Teresi in the third spot.

The mile relay team of Jim Schraub, Bill Rhyne, Ralph Kaufman and Thelno Knowles won, followed by Fresno, San Diego and Santa Barbara in 3:24.1 to give the Spartans the final victory of the day.

Not only did San Jose win the meet and defeat the Fresno Bulldogs by a large score but they also scored more points than the rest of the conference combined. San Jose 85¼ to Fresno, San Diego and Santa Barbara 79¼.

Spartan Daily

May 11, 1942

Thelno Knowles breaks a record in the half mile and contributes to a relay team victory.

SAN JOSE REPRESENTED ON TWO TRACK FRONTS THIS WEEKEND; CINDERMEN INVADE LOS ANGELES AND MODESTO

KNOWLES MAY WIN

Knowles is the boy the southern California experts will have their eyes on. He is one of the best middle distance men to be discovered on the Pacific coast since Ben Eastman trudged the distance a number of years ago. The Negro star is compared with John Woodruff of Pittsburg because of his long ground-eating stride. Knowles is given a good chance to cop the event at the AAU meet tomorrow by many of the bay area and southern California newsmen.

TEAM AT MODESTO

The rest of Coach Winter's track squad will be competing at the Modesto Relays. Smith, Kaufmann and Knowles are not expected to get back to the Northern California Relays in time to compete. It was Winter's notion to fly to the evening meet but plane reservations are still uncertain and therefore the three top stars of the Spartans may not be able to appear.

All but two San Jose men will be entered in the open division. Jim Jackson and Frank Roberts will be Spartan entries in the Freshman high jump and javelin events.

Frank Minini of San Jose, Ed Stamm of Stanford, and Jean Lamoure of Fresno State will compete in the shot put. This event should be one of the best of the meet. Stamm will be rated favorite, although Minini lost to the Stanford weight star by a mere half-inch in the Fresno West Coast Relays last week.

Spartan Daily

May 22, 1942

TheIino Knowles's speed and stride gain attention as he prepares for an AAU meet.

Davis Defeats Smith At Los Angeles; Knowles Takes 880

THREE-MAN SQUAD SCORES 16 POINTS TO TIE CALIFORNIA FOR SECOND PLACE AT SOUTHERN PACIFIC A. A. U. TRACK MEET; FRANK MININI IS DOUBLE WINNER IN WEIGHT EVENTS AT MODESTO

San Jose State's track team opened a double offensive as it entered meets on both the southern and northern fronts and scored 16 points to tie the University of California for second place in the Southern Pacific A. A. U. track and field meet and placed among the leaders in both the freshmen and open classes at the Northern California Relays in Modesto Saturday.

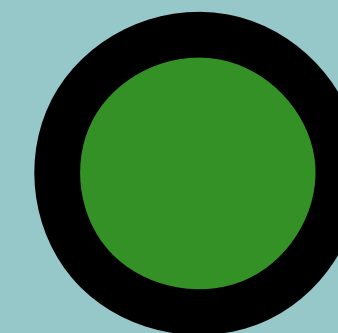
Bill Smith's hopes for a victory over Hal Davis, California sprint sensation, faded again as Davis pulled up in the final 15 yards to nip the flying Smith at the tape in the featured century at Los Angeles. This is the fifth time Davis has beaten Smith and it is possibly their last meeting this season. The winner's time was 9.8, which is slow compared to the 9.4 that they turned in at the West Coast Relays, but the Coliseum track is slow and there hasn't been anything better than 9.7 done there in a decade.

Smith came back to capture the broadjump with a leap of 24 feet 2½ inches, and in doing so defeated Mel Bleeker of the University of Southern California.

Thelno Knowles cut a tenth of a second from the school record when he came home the winner in the 880-yard run in 1:53.9. He won from Fulton, the Stanford freshman who defeated him in the P. A. A. and Smith of U. S. C.

Ralph Kaufman, the third man of the trio to invade the southland, earned his bread and butter with a second place in the 220-yard dash behind Batiste of Pasadena Junior college.

A rather hurriedly thrown together track squad did well enough to gain second place be-



Spartan Daily

May 25, 1942

Thelno Knowles breaks a record in the 880 yard run.



Spartan Daily

May 27, 1942

Sports Editor Bill Morrow describes Thelno Knowles as one of the students in the “nucleus of this greatest-ever track team.”



LLOYD (BUD) WINTER
Coach



HANK RUIZ
Captain



FRANK THOMAS
Manager



Irving Smith
Ben Bramble
Charles Townsend
Eustace Rojas
Dick Knox

Omar Cowles
Thelno Knowles
Jim Schraub
Vern Cooley
Stan Bowen

Elwood Clarke
Guido Teresi
Larry O'Connor
Ralph Kaufman
Frank Thomas

Karl Hummel
Frank Minini
Bud Veregee
Dick Campion
Don Ashby

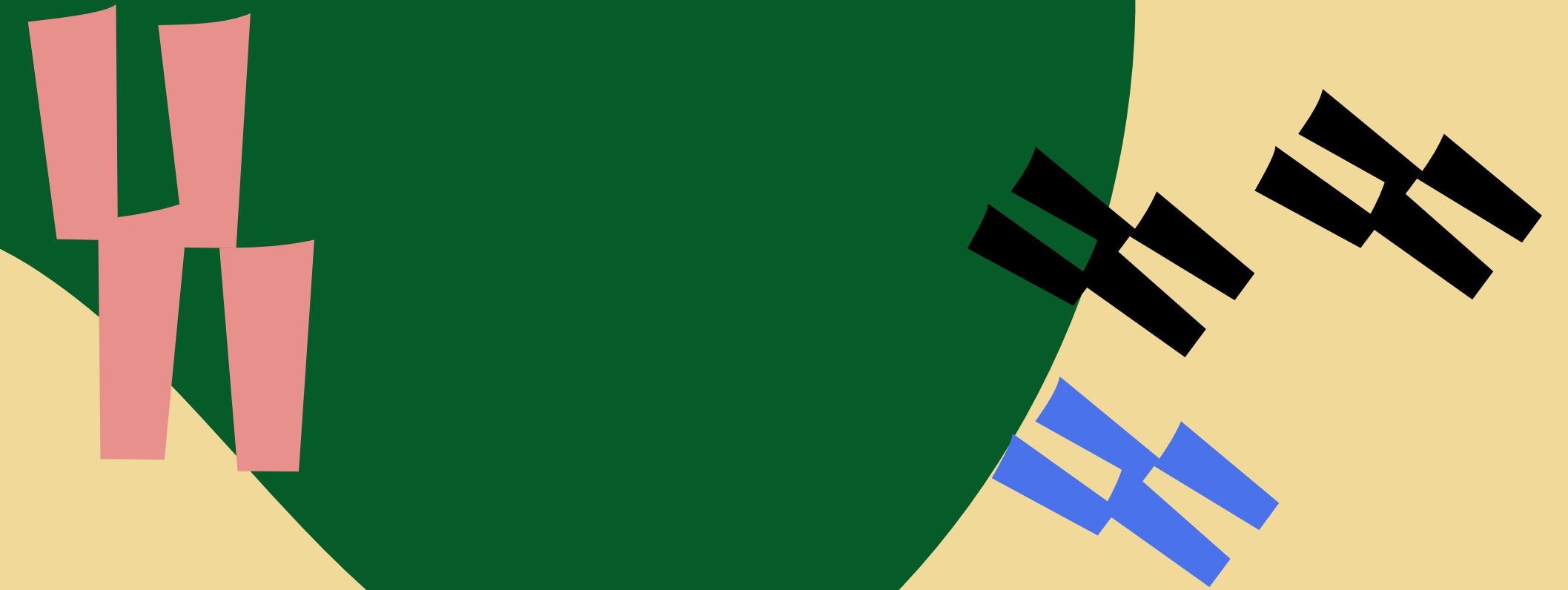
TRACK

The 1942 edition of the San Jose State College track team under the guidance of Lloyd C. "Bud" Winter, in his first year of coaching at San Jose, gained the reputation of being the greatest track and field squad ever assembled at Sparta. Undefeated in a full season of dual meets, San Jose went

La Torre Yearbook

1942

Thelno Knowles is pictured as a member of the track team.



on to win the C. C. A. A. title in San Diego and in doing so scored more points than the rest of the conference teams combined.

The Spartans gained recognition as one of the most powerful track teams on the coast by never finishing worse than third in such large meets as the San Francisco Olympic Club Indoor Championships, The Pacific Athletic Association senior championships, the West Coast Relays, the Southern Pacific A. A. U. meet and the Northern California Relays.

The greatest exhibition of San Jose's strength was in placing second in three meets, the Southern Pacific A. A. U. and

both the open and freshmen divisions of the Northern California Relays.

Five school records were shattered, three of them by Bill Smith who was the largest point gainer on the squad. Smith lifted the broadjump mark to 25 feet and soared to 6 feet 5 inches in the high jump. He lowered the 100-yard dash mark to 9.5 seconds and finished less than a foot behind Hal Davis in a 9.4 century.

The other marks were broken by Frank Minini who tossed the 16 pound shot 50 feet 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches and Thelno Knowles who ran the half mile in 1:53.9.

STEELE, KNOWLES ERASE SCHOOL MARKS IN BROADJUMP, MILE RUN

Delta Theta Omega Wins Inter-Frat Track Tourney Third Straight Year

Two school records fell by the way yesterday afternoon when Thelno Knowles established a new mile mark of 4:23.2 and Willie Steele leaped through the air in the broadjump to come up with a mark of 25 feet 7 inches.

Knowles beat the old mark of 4:27.2 set by Vin Ruble in 1940 and thus added the number two record broken to his credit.

Spartan Daily

June 5, 1942

Thelno Knowles accomplishes a record-breaking broadjump.

Knowles, Steele Honored At Party

Thelno Knowles and Willie Steele, star half-miler and broad-jumper respectively on the San Jose state Spartan track team this year, were honored at a party given by the Cosmopolitan club last night at the home of Dr. Joseph Cooper.

The party was in honor of the two boys who will soon leave for the east coast to participate in a track meet there.

Spartan Daily

June 10, 1942

Thelno Knowles is honored at a party hosted by the Cosmopolitan Club with fellow Black Spartan track star Willie Steele.

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.

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

Thelno Knowles prepares to compete in the AAU Championship as the holder of the best half-mile time on the Pacific Coast.

GOBBLE TROT HITS COLLEGE CAMPUS TODAY

Thelno Knowles Established Favorite To Win Second Annual Turkey Run Held At 12:15 Today On San Carlos Turf; Eustace Rojas Offers Toughest Competition

By DICK FRY

"Let's see, turkey, turkey, turkey, turkey hash, turkey soup, turkey broth, and then I start after the skeleton,"—Thelno Knowles quickly planned, when he was informed that he had been established as an early favorite to cop the turk in the second annual Gobble Hobble to be held today.

Twenty distance men headed by Knowles, national junior AAU 880 champ and fourth place winner in the senior division last year, will step out at 12:15 today from the Men's gym entrance in the second annual San Jose State "turkey run."

Eustace Rojas, the leading two miler on Bud Winter's 1942 track team, which was rated fourth in the nation in dual meet competition, will provide Knowles with his toughest opposition. Rojas led Knowles to the tape last year and many feel that his experience over the distance may again give him the edge over Knowles who is trained for a shorter race.

Late entrants yesterday raised the number of starters to 20 insuring plenty of competition and a good race. Last minute,

GOBBLE HOBBLE FORM CHART

ENTRANT	COMMENT	ODDS
Eustace Rojas.....	Poison oak may prove a hindrance. Might have to scratch him, but at present will just start him from scratch.	Even money
Thelno Knowles.....	His motor scooter sidelined with blown tires and no gas, Knowles will have to stretch his shanks to win this one. Starts from gym with Rojas.....	Even money
Ernest Ribera.....	Natural athlete—may be a dark horse in this unpredictable event. Starting with 10 yards to good.....	10-6
Jack Breslin.....	Will battle fellow San Matean Ribera for a place among the unknowns. 10 yards out.....	10-6
Ken Horn.....	Probably in best shape of all entrants. To start 20 yards in front.....	2-1
Jim Chiniel.....	One of those fine fellows from the soccer team — sportsmanship may cause him to let other fellow go first—and so, defeat.....	106-1
Pete Mesquita.....	Expects to buzz right along—but may be out if other contestants rub down with citronella oil.....	106-1
Manuel Alvarez.....	Late entrant—probably will arrive at finish late also.....	106-1
George Goodwin.....	The pride of Eckert Hall says, "Turkey for all",.....	106-1
William Greene.....	Name possibly holds the answer to ability.....	106-1
Daniel J. Murphy.....	The "J" gives him an edge—in what, we don't know. An Irishman, so watch it.....	106-1
Frank Davidson.....	Definitely a dark horse — can't even heckle him.....	106-1
George Kellogg.....	Ran around the Paly track last Sunday —predicted from oxygen tent that he would finish well up—maybe even high enough to qualify for a pair of wings.....	106-1
Chiniel, Mesquita, Alvarez, Goodwin, Murphy, Davidson, and Kellogg will start from Sixth street.		
Warren Kleist.....	Could be, but sounds a little doubtful.....	1001-1
Ruel Lefler.....	Couldn't do injustice to the boy since we don't know him. But unless we have been deceived, he'll get the bird —Brooklyn variety.....	1001-1
Pierre Martinet.....	Early-season favorite has dropped far back in field—you just don't run three miles without some training. Will start from turn-off at Seventh street with Kleist and Lefler, and probably finish about six blocks further.....	1001-1

TURKEY TROT WINNERS GET BIRD



It may be a meatless day for the rest of the nation, but the three first-place winners in today's GOBBLE HOBBLE will have all they can handle. The first-place winner will receive the gobble held by comely JANET ANTHERS above, while the second-place man will receive old MEANDER THE GANDER from the cute blonde JANE BAUMGARTNER. The cluck holding BREWSTER THE HEN is SPARTAN DAILY CO-SPORTS EDITOR "SCRAPPY" SQUATRITO, who was drafted to pose when the RHODE ISLAND RED, MARY VIRGINIA BRISTOW, failed to show up for the picture. She will present the third-place man the bird.

—Photo by JohnnyDuns.

KNOWLES WINS HOBBLE; ROJAS COMES IN SECOND

"Now I'll just raffle off old Tessie and take myself down to Fresno on the proceeds."

Resting peacefully today after coasting home in 17:15.8 to capture the second annual Turkey Run, Thelno Knowles started planning to pick up a little spare change and hustle down to Fresno.

Rated even with Eustace Rojas, last year's winner and second placer yesterday, Knowles took over the lead at the half-way mark and stretched out to win going away.

In third place three blocks back came the real dark horse of the event, Ed Rudloff, fugitive from the waterpolo team who hung onto second place until the pack started the long journey home and then he dropped back to capture Brewster the Rooster—third-place prize.

The toughest battle of the day came between fourth and fifth placers Ruel Lefler and Jack Breslin. Lefler edged Breslin by two yards in the final ten yards.

Knowles' time, although not as fast as Rojas' for the distance last year, could have been much faster if someone had pressed him. As it was, Knowles slowed greatly on the return trip and enjoyed a comfortable lead all the way.

Spartan Daily

November 24, 1942

Thelno Knowles wins the Gobble Trot, taking home a turkey as the first place prize.

Fast Fights Feature Novice Boxing Preliminaries

By JOHNNY HUBBARD Three technical knockouts were chalked up by novice boxers in the second session of the annual journey in the Men's gym last night—Bob Hill over Frank Gaglia, Mark Courts over Ad Fishel, and Thelno Knowles over Walt Schreiner—and these battles were outstanding among the total of fifteen tussles which took place. The first TKO came in the third fight of the evening in the 135 lb. class, and was accomplished by Hill against his opponent in very fast time — the crusher coming just about fifty seconds after the opening of the first round. Jim Chinici in the same weight division earned the right to meet Hill in the finals by scoring a convincing decision over Ray Abbott.	A LA ARMSTRONG Reminiscent of "Perpetual Motion" Henry Armstrong was 155 lb. Mark Courts as he hammered Ad Fishel into submission in the first canto. He dropped his man twice in quick succession, and then referee Frank Bramhall stopped it. Three other winners came through in the 155 lb. section, the semi-finals of which will take place tonight along with the finals. Victors were: Wayne Fontes dec. Frank Thomas; Gus Pinoris dec. Bill Meyers, and Bryan Bradford dec. Bob Mason. 175 lb. BATTLE Probably the most exciting battle on the entire card was the Knowles-Schreiner 175 lb. clash, with Knowles a TKO winner. The lanky track star started throwing	leather from the bell, and although Schreiner tried to stay with him, Knowles was just too fast and often for him. He held the lead all the way through, had Walt in trouble in the first and second, and then finished it midway in the final stanza. George Thomas, another light-heavy, won his semi-final against Pres Kendall on a decision, and so will meet Knowles in the finals tonight. 165 lb. CLASS A thrilling final looms in the 165 lb. class between Willie Steele and Bill Watson—both of them looking very classy in toppling their adversaries last night. Steele had little trouble with his much shorter opponent, Pete Mayer, and Watson outslugged his much larger enemy, Knight Pitsker.	HEAVIES Heavyweights, too, provided plenty of excitement for the large crowd on hand. Jack Porter, at about 185, gave Bob Creighton, almost 20 pounds heavier, a bad time for a while, but Creighton's weight and condition enabled him to come out on top. In the other "man mountain" tussle Bob Case eked out a surprise decision over his favored opponent, Dan Conforti. Tony Lovaglia and Orlyn Gire were victorious over Chet Young and Charlie Casazza respectively at 145—and they will meet each other tonight. George Carroll came on fast in the last round to squeeze out a close decision over Bill Briones at 127 lbs.	TEAM STANDINGS As far as team scores go, the standings read something like this: The "Mystery Men" hold a one-point lead over the APO-Gamma Phi fraternity team, 12-11. "Mac-Arthur's Maulers" are in third position with nine digits. The Y. M. C. A. outfit is fourth with eight, the V-House "Canvasbacks" fifth with seven—and trailing are the "Pearl Harbor Avengers" with four, with the GPS "Aggies," the P. E. Majors, and the Soccer Team entry having one point each. Points are figured on the following basis: Five points are given to winners of final matches, three to winners of semi-finals, and one to winners of the preliminary fights.
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Spartan Daily

December 11, 1942

Thelno Knowles wins a technical knockout in a novice boxing competition.

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 opines that "there is no man in the nation with a better chance to run a four-minute mile than our own Thelno Knowles."

Cosmopolitans Meet Tonight

"Is This Democracy?" will be the topic of a panel discussion at a meeting of the Cosmopolitan club tonight at 7:30 in the Student Center.

Waneta Lowe, chairman, announces that Thelno Knowles and Bill C. Smith will discuss the question, after which refreshments will be served.

All interested students and faculty members are invited to attend the meeting.

Spartan Daily

February 25, 1943

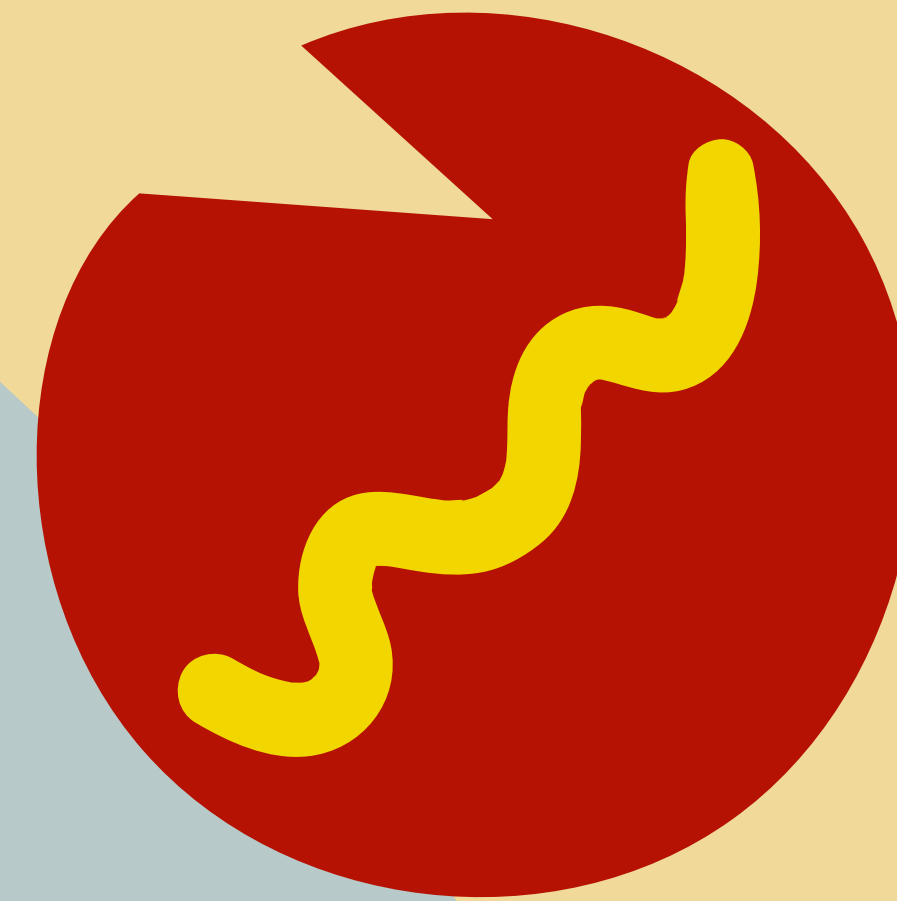
Thelno Knowles discusses the question "Is This Democracy" for a panel discussion hosted by the Cosmopolitan Club.

Thelno Knowles Paces Spartan Track Team To Second Place In Olympic Club Invitational Meet

By BILL MITCHELL

Paced by Thelno Knowles, who won the 1000-yard run for his second consecutive year, San Jose State's Varsity track team placed second in the annual Olympic Club Indoor Track Meet held at the Civic auditorium in San Francisco Friday night. Stanford university took top honors in the star-studded meet of the season.

Thelno Knowles, whose infected toe almost kept him out of the meet, warded off George Grimes, a little-known Stanford runner, by a slim margin of a yard and a half to win the 1000-yard event in the time of 2 minutes 22.5 seconds. Knowles holds the meet record for the event.



Spartan Daily

March 15, 1943

Thelno Knowles wins the 1000-yard run in the annual Olympic Club Indoor Track Meet.

Thelno Knowles is called by the Army Reserves to serve in World War II.

TRACK SQUAD WILL LOSE SMITH, KNOWLES, BLACKWELL, COOLEY IF ARMY RESERVE IS CALLED

By BILL MITCHELL

Billy Smith and three other track stars will be unable to compete with the cinder squad next quarter if the ERC is called as expected. The four include Charles Blackwell, Vernon Cooley, Thelno Knowles, and Smith.

The loss of the four will mean a lessening in the track

power of San Jose for the next season.

Smith, known all over the country as a great 50-yard and 100-yard dash man, will be the greatest loss to the team. Last year Smith gained points in the high jump and broad jump, besides those garnered in the sprints.

Thelno Knowles, recognized as one of the top 880 men last year, continued the good work in the first meet of the season where he came through with a win in the Olympic Club Indoor 1000 - yard run.

Charles Blackwell, a newcomer this year, runs the 440, and was entered in the Olympic Club meet. Blackwell's times have always been in the vicinity of 49 flat.

A pole-vaulter of some renown, Vernon Cooley was entered also in the Olympic meet. His usual mark is around 13 feet.

Spartan Daily

March 18, 1943

THIRTY-SEVEN SPORT STARS DEPART

Both Major And Minor Athletics Dealt Blows By Army Reserve Call; Fate Of Track Team Decided Today

By SEBASTIAN SQUATRITO

From the minor sports of swimming and golf to the major sports of football and basketball, Spartan athletes numbering 37 will be doing their sports cavorting under the auspices of Uncle Sam for the duration.

Leaving, having left, or will leave within the next few weeks are such headline performers as Bill Smith of the track team, Bert Robinson of football and basketball fame, Dave Mines, wrestler, Hal Sonntag, soccer, and so on down the list.

Hardest hit team on the campus at the present time is the track team which, besides losing Smith, has to do without the services of Thelno Knowles, top middle distance man, Vernon Cooley, top pole vaulter; Charles Blackwell, ace 440 man and others.

Proxy Tom Taylor

Spartan Daily

March 29, 1943

KNOWLES, THELNO Pvt. Sgt. 1/18/44

U. S. Army
Co. B. 19th Trg. Bn.
Camp Wheeler, Georgia 5/7/43

Gq. Co. 679 T.D. BN
North Camp Hook, Texas 1/18/44

2286 Bk 2
44-18 Flag 2

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

Keeping his promise to Coach Bud Winter, Thelno Knowles returns to the San Jose State College Track Team after serving in World War II.

VOWING TRACKMEN RETURN TO STATE

By DICK FRY

So they says to me, "what d'ya want, Bud, blood?" and I says, "yeh."

The moral of this story could well be, and is, never give track coach L. C. (Bud) Winter an option on your life. Possessor of one of the finest track teams on the West Coast way back in 1942, Winter couldn't quite see letting so fine an organization get lost without something of a fight so he invited the service-bound athletes to dine at his home one night shortly before Uncle gave them the call. During the course of the evening, Bud, never one to give a good track man

a fighting chance as far as independence goes, suggested that the boys give him the hand on returning to State after the war. And so it was that with the taking of a blood vow and the designation of a secret handshake, Bud unlocked the door and allowed his galaxy of stars to pursue their ways.

Today, some of his boys are back and many of the others are on their way. Slowly but surely the Spartan track team is beginning to take on a healthy color and the happy days of victories over Stanford and Fresno State are again just around the corner.

Contrary to the opinion of many of the top military authorities of the country, Winter says war doesn't condition legs. In fact, he reports that his boys, although many of them performed considerably while in service, are having more trouble getting into shape than ever before. With the first meet of the season coming up April 10, this factor is causing the Spartan mentor to lose more than a little sleep. Usually the cinder men have about six weeks in which to train for their first encounter but with all the returning vets staying out of school until the Spring quarter this year, the training period was cut short.

Among some of the mainstays returning are Bill Rhyne, the Maritime service one man track team, Thelno Knowles, winner of the half mile in several European meets, Vern Cooley, CCAA vaulting champ and the man who ruined the pole vaulting competition in a British meet by breaking the only pole in the islands and Larry O'Connor, consistent point-winner for the locals during the 1942 season in the shot, discus and javelin. Eustace Rojda, Spartan two mile ace and second place winner in the 1942 Turkey Trot also re-entered this quarter.

Those who have reported in to Winter with intentions of returning to school in the Fall include hurdler, Bud Veregge, shot-putter, Frank Minine, distance man, Bob Ingram, sprinter, Ralph Kaufman, and javelin hurler Elwood Clark.

Bill Smith and Willie Steele, two very outstanding performers of the '42 season have written that they will not be able to return to State. Smith is married and working in Southern California and Steele is attending San Diego State.

Winter intends to work his squad up until the eve of their triangular meet with Salinas JC, and the Alameda Naval Air Station next Wednesday.

SPORTS SLANTS

By CHARLEY COOK

Tab dusky Thelno Knowles as the man to beat this year in the half mile. A carbon copy of famed "Long John" Woodruff, Knowles has the same build and stride as the world record holder. He participated in several meets while in service but, like so many other track men, is still not in the best of condition. Track Coach Bud Winter plans to curb the conditioning of Knowles and the rest of his charges in order to bring them along slowly and thus "point" for the more important meets of the season.

Not much can be expected of the team, at least until late May, in regard to record breaking times and distances. However, the Spartans should be loaded with enough power to cop the conference carnival to be held here May 11.

Surfelited with potential talent in the form of eight or nine former junior college champions, Winter's only worry now is to bring them back into a semblance of their pre-war condition. Rigors of the service and lack of competition surely have added a burden even to the most talented of athletes.

A handy man to have around on any team is Billy Rhyne. Known for his exploits in football, Rhyne is counted on for a fat share of points in any meet against any competition. He managed to nab high point honors in practically every meet he entered while serving with the Merchant Marine.

Spartan Daily

April 8, 1946

Spartan Daily

April 9, 1946

Track Team Wallops Stanford, NAS; Lindsey Hurls 7-0 Win Over COP Nine

KNOWLES COPS 880

There was just too much Bill Rhyne around Angell Field in Palo Alto Saturday as San Jose State walloped the Stanford University track team 79 5-6 to 56 1-6. The Alameda Naval Air Station squad, without Buddy Young, finished a slow third with 26 points.

Providing 14 points to the Spartan total, Rhyne was all over the field. Bill entered four events and placed in each with first in the 220 and the low hurdles, a second in the 100 and a fourth in the broad jump.

Led by Rhyne and Bob Birmingham, the Spartans took seven firsts and tied for high honors in an eighth when Howard Overhouse cleared 12 feet 6 inches in the pole vault to half Martin Anderson and Larson of Stanford.

(Continued on Page 2)

Billy Rhine Is High Point Man

(Continued from Page 1)

Except for four field events and three track events, the marks turned in Saturday were not as good as the results of the three-way meet held in San Jose last week. Woody Linn showed a big improvement in the discus with a winning throw of 147 feet 7 3-4 inches, and Howard Overhouse raised his previous mark in the pole vault by six inches in tying Anderson and Martin at 12 feet 6 inches.

San Jose cinched the meet by blanking the Indians in three events and piling up a number of seconds and thirds in every race. After winning the 100, Don Smalley came back to run a surprising second in the furlong to edge out Heck, of the Alameda Flyers, who was favored to win the event.

Coach Bud Winter pulled a bit of strategy in the quarter mile when he inserted Thelno Knowles to counter Stanford's surprise entry, half miler George Grimes. Knowles ran a good third in the 440 to pick up two points for the Spartans and came back later in the day to chalk up a win in the 880, his pet race.

Ernie Ribera gave the locals an unexpected three points in the half with a fast second behind Knowles.

Spartan Daily

April 22, 1946

Thelno Knowles brings home wins in a meet against Stanford.

TRACK, GOLF AND TENNIS TEAMS IN COMPETITION TOMORROW

Tomorrow will find all of San Jose State's athletic teams in action, with two contests scheduled at Salinas and Los Angeles and the third being played at home.

Bill Felse's tennis team, newly crowned CCAA champions, play host to the College of Pacific Tigers on the San Jose Tennis Club courts across from Spartan stadium.

Time for the first match has been set for 10 a.m., with the Spartans reigning slight favorites by virtue of their spirited inter-squad practice sessions this week.

Don McKenzie, highest ranking netter, will play in the number one spot for the locals.

Five of Coach Bud Winter's track men will board an airliner early tomorrow morning en route to Los Angeles and the invitational Coliseum Relays. Co-captain Billy Rhyne, Thelno Knowles, Don Smalley, Archie Chagonjian, and Bob Bingham are the men slated to compete.

Rhyne, Knowles, Bingham and Smalley will compose the 440 sprint relay team, while Smalley will also enter the open hundred.

Knowles, at this writing the fastest half miler on the coast, will match strides with Grimes of Stanford, Fulton of the Olympic club, and Gold of UCLA, all of whom have come within two tenths of a second of Knowles' best time.

With final arrangements for the match still pending, Coach Walt McPherson's golfers are tentatively scheduled to engage the Salinas J.C. Panthers on the southern links.

In the first meeting between the two teams, the Spartans rolled up an easy win. Eli Bariteau, Ross Smith, Bud Anderson, Walt McCall, Bob Ouillette and Bob Steele will make the trip.

Spartan Daily

May 24, 1946

Thelno Knowles travels to Los Angeles for the Coliseum Relays invitational as the "fastest half miler on the coast."

Thelno Knowles Withdraws From SJS Track Squad

San Jose State's track stock took a nose-dive today as Thelno Knowles, ace half-miler and Coach Bud Winter's leading hope for national recognition, withdrew from the squad because of a leg injury that has failed to respond to treatment.

Knowles, holder of the school record in both the 880 and the mile run, ran third behind John Fulton and Ralph Gold in the Coliseum Relays last week which saw Fulton set up the best mark in the nation this year at 1:51. Track fans on the coast were looking forward anxiously to the coming PAA meet in Berkeley next month for a return match between Fulton and Knowles and the possibility of a new American record in the half mile.

Coach Winter will lead a five man team to the Pasadena Games Saturday. Bob Likens, Vern Cooley, Don Smalley, Ray Overhouse and Woody Linn will make the trip by car Thursday or Friday.

Spartan Daily

May 29, 1946

Thelno Knowles withdraws from the track team due to a leg injury.

Thirty-One Cinder Performers Rate Athletic Awards

Approved by the student council and released by graduate manager Jerry Vroom today is the list of 11 varsity track awards, 11 freshman numerals and 9 service awards to members of Coach Bud Winter's 1946 track and field athletes.

The following men received varsity letters: Bill Rhyne, Bob Likens, Thelno Knowles, Tom Birmingham, Ernie Ribera, Ray Overhouse, Howard Overhouse, Vern Cooley, Bob Ehrman, George Terry and Robert Oyen.

FROSH WINNERS

Recipients of frosh numerals were Woody Linn, Don Carroll, Dick Bischoff, Don Smalley, Bill Parton, Glen Hatley, Archie Chagonjian, Dan Titcomb, Ronald Moore, Norman Stocker, and Elgin Martin.

The 11 men receiving service awards were Charley Blackwell, Dick Payne, Bud Hooten, Art Beltran, Craig Holden, Ruel Lefler, Larry O'Connor, Robert Drew and Murray Collins.

Yet to be approved by the council are the awards for tennis and golf.

Spartan Daily

June 12, 1946

Thelno Knowles receives a Varsity letter at the San Jose State College Athletic Awards.

Thelno Knowles wins first place in the San Jose State College cross country meet.

WINTER GREET'S PROMISING SQUAD IN FIRST CROSS COUNTRY TURNOUT

A cross country run, first event of its type since the war, will be among the sports highlights at San Jose State college this season. According to an announcement by coach Bud Winters, the run is scheduled for the near future, and a sign-up rally is to be held at 7 p. m. Tuesday in the office of the Men's Gymnasium. All hands are requested to turn out.

Prospects for the forthcoming endurance grind are good. The list of expected entries is studded with the names of great and near greats of past track seasons. Promises of a good race are enhanced by the appearance of such names as those of Richard Vierra, national JC two-mile champ; Thelno Knowles, national AAU title holder in the jr. half-mile; Murray Collins, State high school champion; Eugene Hayes, SC miler; Tom Bull, Pomona JC record holder, and Len Ralston, marathon runner and Olympic Club 10,000 meter man.

In expressing his hopes for a generous turnout for the event, Coach Winters asks all prospective entries not to be afraid of the competition. "We want to see Olympic champs in the making, and to get a foundation for things to come," he says. Meets are being lined up with Stanford, California, and the University of Idaho. The '47 track season holds a store of bigger and better competition for San Jose cinder men.

Spartan Daily

October 8, 1946

Spartan Runners Defeat Compton

Long striding Thelno Knowles of San Jose State college came through with a surprise performance Saturday morning by winning the cross-country meet 25-31, between the Spartans and Compton junior college. Knowles was clocked in 16:02.3 over the three and two-tenths mile course.

Close behind Knowles was little Richard Vierra of the Spartans who was timed at 16:04.1. Ed Hart, of Compton, the pre-race favorite, finished third in the time of 16:08.9.

In previous cross-country meets, Knowles' best showing was a fourth place, but when the runners came through the gate and on to the track of Spartan field, Knowles was out in front, and out-lastred the vain attempts of Vierra and Hart to win first place. Knowles' sparkling victory gives Coach Bud Winter's cross-country runners two straight wins against no losses.

Other Spartan runners who placed were Don Branson, fourth; Benny Chavez, seventh; and Len Ralston, eleventh. Chuck Jackson of the Spartans came in 14th place, while Douglas Flautt finished in 15th spot.

Spartan Daily

November 12, 1946

Thelno Knowles wins second place in the annual Turkey Trot, taking home a goose as a prize.

ENTRIES URGED FOR TURKEY-TROT

Coach Bud Winter issued a special reminder today to all fraternity presidents and club heads to submit a list of all possible entrants for the third annual Turkey Trot.

The race will start in front of the Men's gym, with the runners going down San Carlos street, south on Seventh street, around the stadium, back down Seventh street, and across the finish line at the gym.

Official starter, Paul Pitman, said he will be on hand to give the contestants a big send-off. Dean Pitman has been an official in every annual Turkey Trot. Dean Pitman went on to say, "I'll be there to shoot off everything from my mouth to a cannon. I plan on having a shotgun handy in case a turkey gets into the race."

There will be prizes for the first four men who finish the race. First place winner will receive a turkey; second, a goose; third, a duck; and fourth, a chicken. The winner of the 1942 Turkey Trot, Thelno Knowles, said, "I'm going to try to win first place again but I know the competition is tough."



HAYNES BREAKS RECORD TO CAPTURE TURKEY DINNER IN 16:25.3; KNOWLES, BRANSON, AND COLLINS PLACE

Shattering all existing records for the three-mile course, Eugene Haynes breezed into a 20 pound turkey dinner Wednesday by taking the 1946 Turkey Trot in 16:25.3 while a crowd of thousands lined the Seventh street finish. Thelno Knowles, pre-race favorite and 1942 winner, was second in 17:8.

Haynes and Knowles, the only entries starting from scratch under Deacon Paul Pitman's gun, set a blistering pace the entire distance to finish 56 seconds ahead of the third place winner, Don Branson, who came in at 18 minutes flat—and he was just that. From the Men's gym, the entrants ran down Seventh street to the stadium, up and around the bowl, and back to Washington square.

NEAR TRAGEDY

The meet had a near tragic ending as Bud Winter, introducing Miss Marcella Brokofsky, who presented the first and second prizes, nearly choked to death pronouncing the lady's name. Revived by the sight of an approaching cameraman, Bud swore to enroll in beginning Russian during the Winter quarter. In addition, Thelno Knowles was pasted neatly in the left optic by the flapping wings of his Canadian Honker as he accepted second prize, and, hence, was not possessed of his usual aplomb when the bulbs flashed.

Murray Collins, ace Lincoln high miler in 1945, placed fourth to cop the prized Barred Rock setting hen, complete with winter egg-laying factor. Behind Collings, the contestants finished in this order: Richard Vierra, fifth; Don Titcomb, sixth; Len Ralston, seventh; Andy Adams, eighth; Doug Flautt, ninth; and Vince Longo, tenth.

Gold Tops Food In Knowles Hut

Thelno Knowles, ace Spartan half-miler and second place winner in the recent Turkey Trot, is caught between a possible golden egg and a definite goose dinner.

While Knowles debates on the possibility that the Canadian Honker awarded him in the Gobble Hobble last week may be a Honkerette, and thus the producer of a 16 karat cackle-berry, his prized possession has taken complete charge of the Knowles household at 276 North Sixth street.

Stephan, or Stephanie, has found that the king, or queen, can do no wrong, and is making the most of the Utopian arrangement. A steady diet of hominy grits and turnip greens is a pretty fair set-up in any language, and Thelno's boarder is well aware of the fact.

As the Daily goes to press, his nibs, or her majesty, has been served with a 24-hour ultimatum to deliver or be delivered—on a plate, with dumplings, yet.

SJ THINCLADS PREPARE FOR INTERCLASS MEET

Track Practice continued on an accelerated scale this last week as the six competing teams were training hard for the coming Interclass Track meet which is being held in the Spartan stadium Friday and Saturday March 11-12.

Coach Bud Winter already has selected the six teams and their captains. The squads are led by Thelno Knowles, Bob Likens, Woody Linn, Tom Birmingham, Merle Knox, and Connie Varneck.

LINN'S MEN

Among those working hard is Woody Linn. He hopes to participate in the 35 pound weight event this season. Linn also is concentrating on the discus and several of his teammates tab him as one of the best 10 men in that event. His squad is the favorite to capture the meet.

Thelno Knowles is expected to go great guns in the 440 and 880 events. His men are gunning for the title in the Interclass meet and are expected to give the Linn trackmen a rugged time for the title.

Spartan Daily

February 23, 1948

Thelno Knowles leads one of six teams in the Interclass Track Meet.

KNOWLES TO RUN FINAL RACES FOR SAN JOSE STATE

By CARL UNDERWOOD

Thelno Knowles will be making his final appearance under San Jose State colors when he enters the NC2A and AAU meets in several weeks. There is an outside chance long striding Thelno will earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team, but the terrific competition this year in his specialty, the 880, will probably prove too much.

Knowles has been churning up the cinders on track ovals since he was a freshman at Santa Monica high. His best time for the 880 that year was 2:15, but by 1941 he had lowered this mark to 1:55.0 less than a second off the interscholastic record.

WINS STATE MEET

In 1941, his senior year, Knowles ran off with the California State High school meet, setting a record of 1:55.6 that still stands.

The following year, Knowles entered San Jose State and helped Bud Winter's first year as Spartan head coach his most successful one. Knowles cut several seconds off his previous best 880 time and won the junior division of the AAU in 1:52.8, especially outstanding for a freshman.

One of the most unusual races Knowles ever competed in also took place in '41. He entered a special 880-yard run and finished about six inches ahead of Les Mc-Mitchell, NC2A mile champ that year. He was disqualified, however, for throwing his arms out in spread eagle style as he hit the finish tape.

WINS EUROPEAN TITLE

Knowles followed practically the whole San Jose State track team into service in 1943. He still competed when possible, and two years later won the European Championship at Frankfort, Germany.

In 1946 Knowles returned to San Jose but as was the case with so many athletes, found it difficult to regain pre-war form.

Last season, however, Knowles began to hit his stride and finished the year by placing fourth in both the NC2A and AAU meets. His times of 1:51.6 and 1:51:8 were the two best he has ever recorded.

This year, Knowles ran 1:54.8 for his top official mark, but clipped off an unofficial 1:52.8 in a relay lap.

Although the 880 has always been his principal race, Knowles anchored many a Spartan relay team to victory in his four years at State, and several times tripped in the 440, 880 and mile relay.

He has always been a great competitor, and providing he's in top shape, Knowles can not be counted out of the national meets or Olympic trials.

Half Mile Man



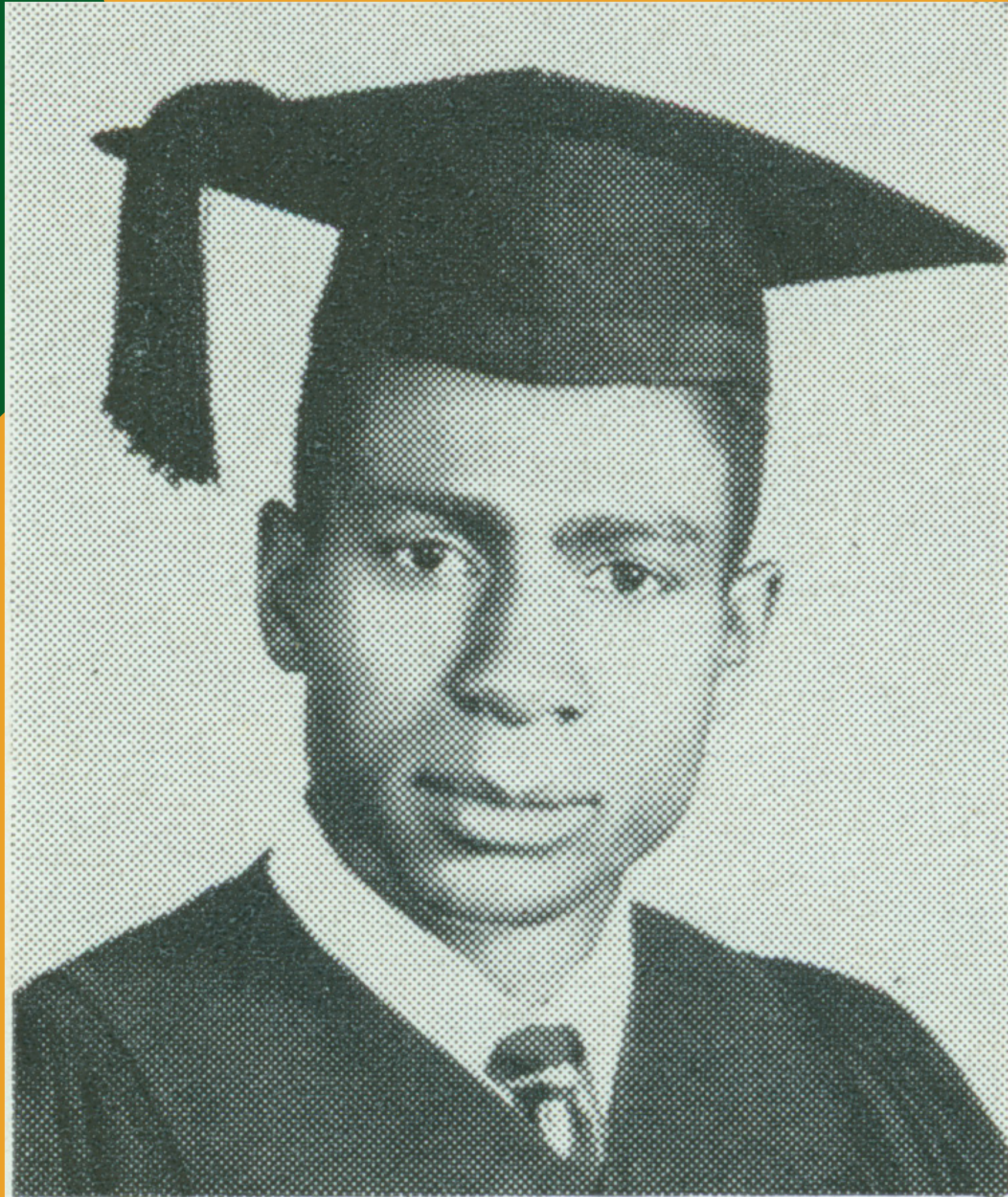
THELNO KNOWLES

Knowles is probably the top middle distance man ever to compete for the Spartan track team. He holds the school 880 record of 1:53.5, made as a freshman in 1942.

Spartan Daily

June 14, 1948

Thelno Knowles prepares for his final competition as a student of San Jose State College.



La Torre Yearbook

1949

Thelno Knowles is pictured as a member of the graduating class.

Thelno Knowles Weds At Chapel in Del Monte

Hayes-Knowles

Miss Dorothy Hayes and Thelno Knowles, former students at San Jose State college, were married Saturday, Jan. 15, at St. John's chapel in Del Monte. Miss Hayes is from Carmel and was a commerce major while attending college. Knowles is from Santa Monica. While at San Jose State college he majored in philosophy and was active in sports. He holds the CCAA record for the 880 yard run.

Bob Lawrence, business major here, was best man.

The couple plan to make their home in Berkeley where Knowles will do graduate work at the University of California.

Spartan Daily

January 19, 1949

Thelno Knowles marries Dorothy Hayes, making plans to move to Berkeley and attend graduate school.

