



Black Spartans (1907-1948)

Curators

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

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

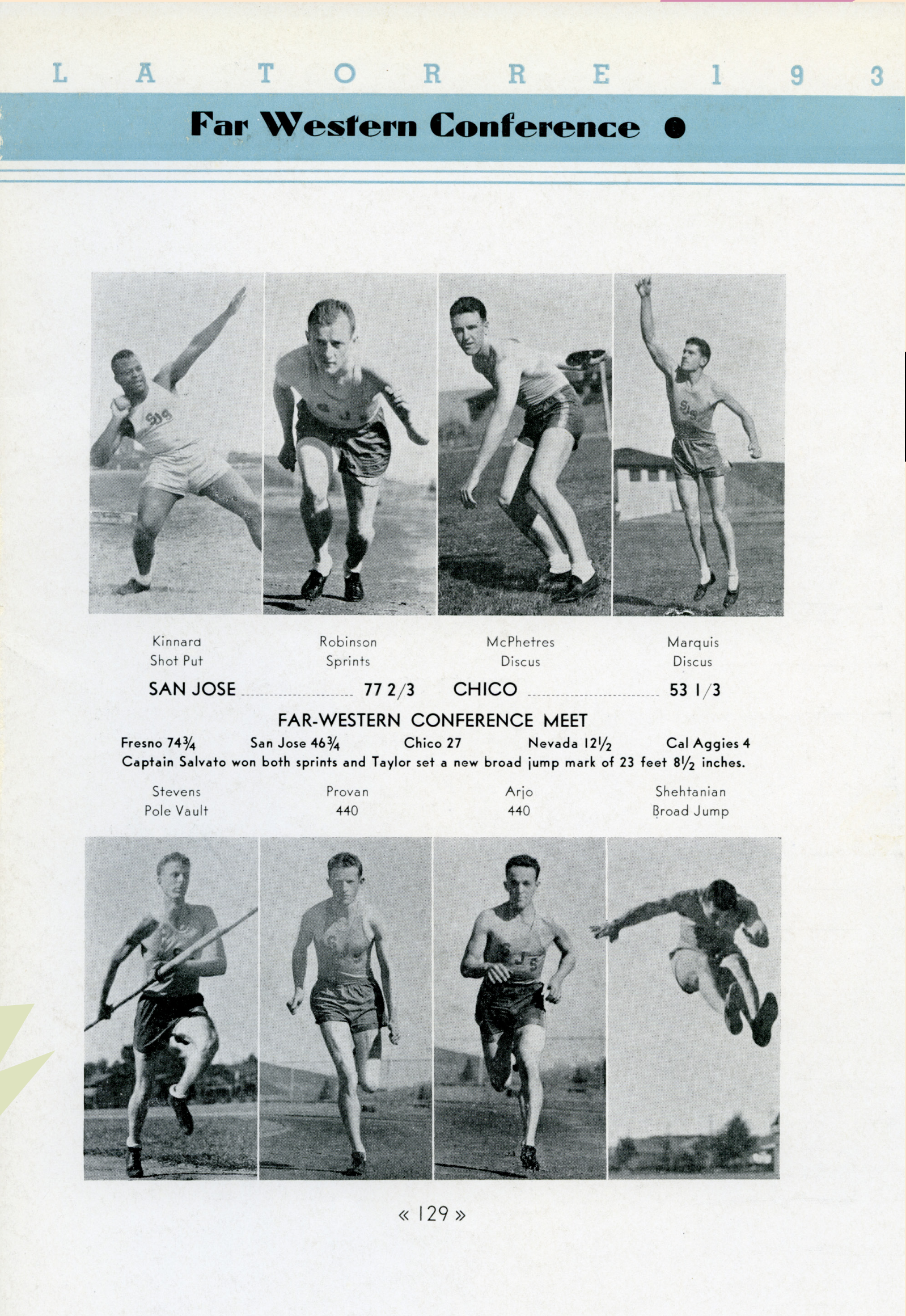
The "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil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

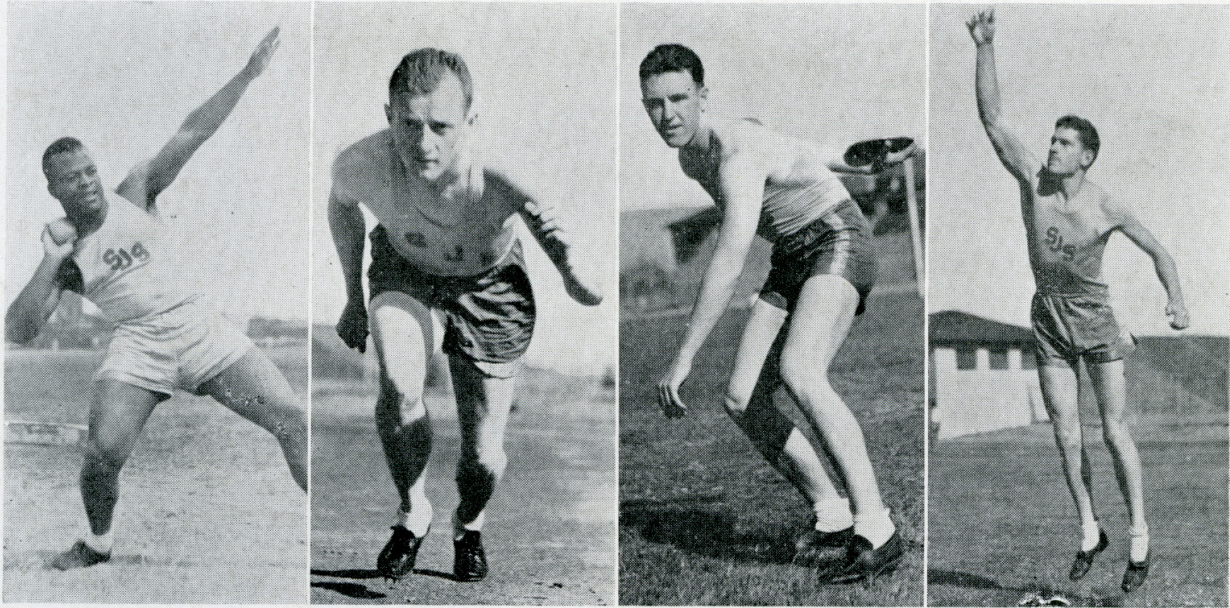


Douglas Kinnard attended San Jose State College from 1934-1935. At SJSC, he was active in sports including shotput and track. He was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha, a men's music honor fraternity, and directed the Little Symphony Orchestra in a student recital. After leaving SJSC, he returned in 1939 to perform as a bass player as part of Johnny Cooper's Orchestra.



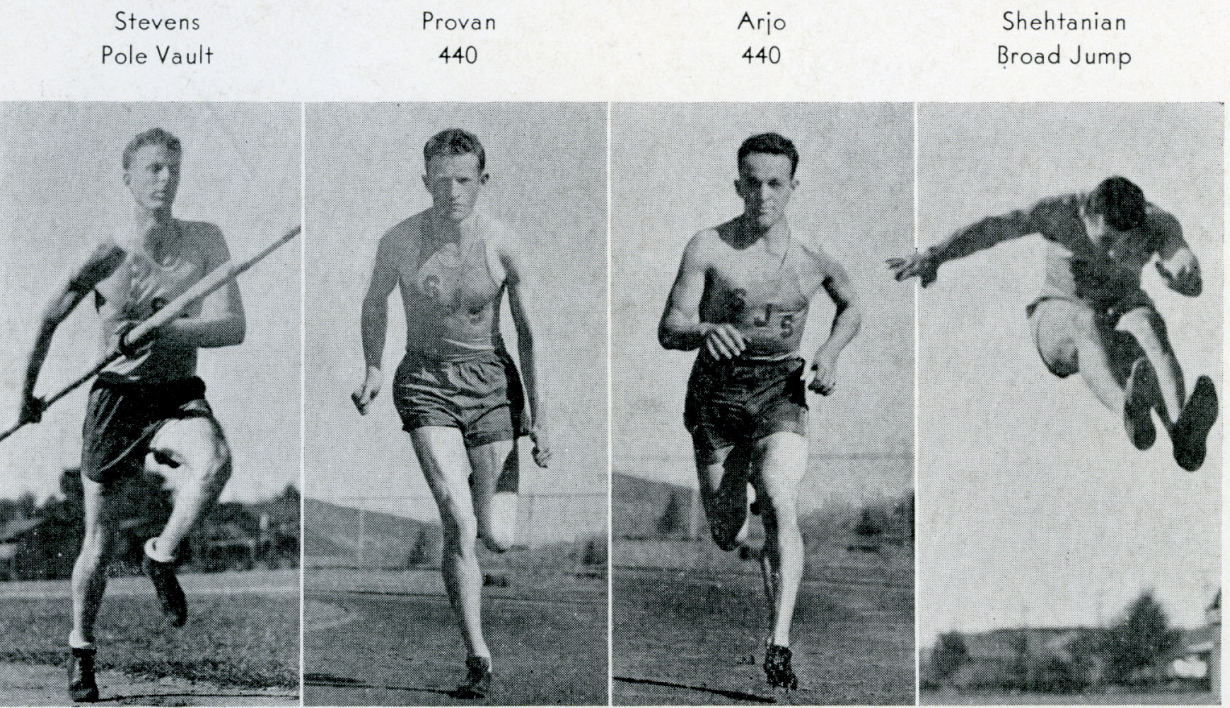
L A T O R R E 1 9 3

Far Western Conference ●



Kinnard Shot Put	Robinson Sprints	McPhetres Discus	Marquis Discus
SAN JOSE	77 2/3	CHICO	53 1/3

FAR-WESTERN CONFERENCE MEET
Fresno 74 3/4 San Jose 46 3/4 Chico 27 Nevada 12 1/2 Cal Aggies 4
Captain Salvato won both sprints and Taylor set a new broad jump mark of 23 feet 8 1/2 inches.



Stevens Pole Vault	Provan 440	Arjo 440	Shehtanian Broad Jump
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La Torre Yearbook

1934

Douglas Kinnard is pictured as a member of the San Jose State College track team.

SPARTAN TRACKSTERS IN PREPARATION FOR APPROACHING SEASON

By Steve Murdock

Faced with the loss of five of last year's most important point winners in the form of Frank Cunningham, javelin thrower; Noel Knight, hurdler; Sherman McFedries, quartermiler; Red Wool pole vaulter; and Bud Hubbard, quartermiler, Coach Erwin Blesh, who guides San Jose State's track destinies, is laboring hard to whip his squad into shape for the opening meet of the season with the University of California at Edwards Field in Berkeley on the 10th of March.

For the first two meets of the season, those with California and San Francisco State, Blesh will depend on a squad built up around the men who garnered 37 of the 49.5 points which brought San Jose second place in the Conference meet last year.

With the opening of the spring quarter in March he expects to induce some of his missing stars to return to school as well as some promising junior college transfers and thus bolster up the squad for the yearly battle to wrest Conference honors from Fresno's mighty Bulldogs who are rumored to be more powerful than ever this season.

The 37 returning points are concentrated in some nine men, six of whom were among the first ten in all-season scoring for last year.

They are Captain Lou Salvato, sprinter; Doug Taylor, sprinter and broad jumper; Harry Murphy, hurdler and high jumper; Jordan McPhetres, discus thrower; "Dee" Shehtanian, broad jumper; Jack Prouty and "Lee" Stevens, pole vaulters; and Bob Clemo and Fred Orem, half milers. A tenth, Glenn Harper, who ranked fifth in the season's scoring, took second in the Conference mile, but was disqualified.

Adding strength to this nucleus will be four exceptional members of last year's frosh team, three transfers, five lettermen who went unplaced in the Conference met, and several promising non-lettermen.

The ex-frosh who are expected to go places on the varsity this year are Ken Provan, quartermiler; Anson Hayes, hurdler; Ralph Raymond, weight man; and Bert Watson, pole vaulter and broad jumper.

Transfers include Ed Lynch, two miler from Sacramento J.C.; Harold Stephenson, weight man from Salinas J. C.; and Tate, also a weight tosser from Cal Poly.

Letermen include Louis Marquis, discus; Tom Marshall, shot; Everett Lyda, two mile; Elmer Sunquist, javelin; and Pete Dragon, a veteran javelin man of the '31 and '32 teams who was not in school last year.

Among the more promising non-lettermen are Jack Chapelle, two miler; Ray Arjo, quartermiler; Clark Glasson, javelin thrower; Karl Robinson, sprinter; and Douglas Kinnard, dusky shot-putter.

Blesh has been putting the squad through strenuous "building-up" sessions which will continue for about two more weeks. Following this the

boys will really get down to work with time trials scheduled for the end of February and the interclass meet for the first Friday in March.

Spartan Daily

January 17, 1934

Douglas Kinnard is listed among the "more promising non-letterman" as the track team prepares for its season.

San Jose Cinder Blesh, Focuses M On Prospects

By STEVE MURDOCK

“Now, about the shot put”. It was Erwin Blesh, youthful mentor of Spartan track teams, talking. We were conversing with him in regards to prospects for the current thin-clad season, the opening meet of which is but little more than a month away, and for some reason or other he couldn't seem to stop coming back to the subject of shot-putters.

We were not particularly enthusiastic about conversing on shot-putters because when one wishes to wax enthusiastic about San Jose track teams one doesn't talk about the shot put. No indeed. In fact, the shot put is just about the last thing one refers to under those circumstances. It is something like those family skeletons that hide in closets.

You see, Mr. Blesh came out here from Springfield College in Massachusetts or somewhere two years ago to become head track coach, and a very creditable job he has done with the two teams he has developed, but that wasn't the fault of the shot putters. Oh, my, no!

Yes, the locals have had some very remarkable runners, jumpers, hurdlers, and vaulters during the past two seasons and they have even won the discuss in the last couple of conference meets, but the shot put! Ah, that is where the rub comes.

Consequently, when someone mentions shot-put prospects, your true Spartan supporter coughs politely and starts to talk about Doug Taylor's broad jumping or Louis Salvato's sprinting.

And do not think that Mr. Blesh has not been affected by all of this. It has positively played upon his mind. He has read books and books on the subject of heaving the iron pellet. He has looked longingly and searchingly at every husky tackle reporting for his freshman football team. He has tried to persuade various members of Mr. DeGroot's weighty grid machine to become interested in donning the the bright purple and gold outfits of the men who fight for Sparta in the Spring. But all to no avail. There was nary a Spartan in the money when the Conference results of the shot put were announced last year.

Last year some of them actually got the pellet out forty feet, and then there was cause for great rejoicing. The occurrence was thought of enough importance to draw space in the paper. Imagine, a San Jose shot putter throwing the blamed thing forty feet (Editor's note: 45 feet won the Conference).

This year the good work goes on, and Mr. Blesh, as we started to say in the first place, is actually waxing enthusiastic. His hopes are up to the point where he wouldn't die of heart failure if a San Jose man took a fourth place in the Conference.

He talks of Douglas Kinnard, a husky

boys will really get down to work with time trials scheduled for the end of February and the interclass meet for the first Friday in March.

Spartan Daily

February 7, 1934

Erwin Blesh is “waxing enthusiastic” about the track team’s prospects in shot put thanks to the presence of Douglas Kinnard, among others.

Band Gives Varied
Program Tonight
In Concert; Triena
Will Be Featured

Program Will Begin At
8:30; Public Asked
To Attend

Raymond Miller, Tom
Eagan, To Conduct
Musicians

Raymond Miller, Conductor, assisted by Thomas Eagan, today was busy completing plans for the initial Band concert this quarter which will be presented at 8:30 this evening in the Morris Dailey auditorium.

The band which has been practicing diligently for the last two quarters, consists of 73 talented campus musicians. The personnel of the band consists of the following students:

First clarinets—Russel Bacher, Fred-
eric King, Bertram Whiting, Roland
Obert, Russel Goodlive, Lester Hayes,
Rudolph Cangiamila, Burton Abbott,
Edward Brown, Helen Cangiamila, and
William Thurlow.

Second Clarinets—Melvin McDonald,
Vernon Wallace, Barbara Hutchings, Al-
fred Smith, Roberta Atkinson, Harriet
Schemel, Elmer Rigdon, Barbara Per-
ren, Wesley Ortner, Robert Julien, and
Arthur VonZook.

Piccolo—Edwin Taylor; Flutes—Bet-
ty Hooker, Neil McGarvey, Edwin Tay-
lor, and Velma Johnson; Oboes—Mar-
shall Dabneke, Alfred Beer, James Fox,
and Alfred Brown.

English Horn—Glenn Matthews; E-
Flat Clarinet,—Thomas Starks; Alto
Clarinet—William Hughes; Bass Clarin-
et—Raymond Verdier; Bassoons—How-
ard Sauters, Henry Newbold, Robert
Ish.

Horns—Donald Madsen, Frank Bet-
tencourt, Evelyn Corker, Clifford Cun-
ha, Emil Miland, Bernard Watson; So-
lo Cornets—Kenneth Heighes, Raymond
Ruf; Trumpet—Morse Butler.

First Cornets—Arthur Smiley, John
Siva; Second Cornets—Edward Moldt,
Byron Warburton; Flugel Horns, Edith
Bond, Jack Charnow; Trombones, Er-
nest Graf, Lee Rees, Howard Davis,
Dean Kesler, Willard LeCroy, Robert
Jacobus.

Tubas—Robert Fisher, James Diehl,
(Continued on page two)

College Band Presents
Concert Tonight

(Continued from Page One)
Douglas Kinnard; Double Bass—Mild-
red Wells, Carmen Dragon.

Instruments of Percussion—Raymond
Seifried, Laurence Scott, Ralph Clay-
pool, Stafford Narvaez; Saxophone—
Robert Harris; Euphoniums, Paul Cope-
land, Carl Bruce, Robert Sharp; Librar-
ian, Ernest Graf.

Frank Triena, concertmaster, will be
the featured soloist for the evening. Ad-
mission is free and the public is invited.

Spartan Daily

April 11, 1934

Douglas Kinnard is listed among the tuba
players for a concert given by the San Jose
State College Band.

Fresno Favored to Keep F.W.C. Title; Spartans Hope To Upset Dope Sheets

Doug Taylor Will Be Entered In Dashes And Broadjump

With a "do or die" spirit, Coach Blesh will leave with his track squad for Sacramento today. The chances of winning this meet are possible, but not probable. However, with the men all coming through in their respective events the probable will become a fact. In an interview with Blesh he said "I really think the Spartans have a chance in this meet. Giving the Spartans a break here and there, and with the fact that Chico and Nevada will cut in on Fresno in some of the Spartans' weak events, is what I base my conclusions upon." With a spirit like this behind a team it is quite possible that the Spartans will come through with some unexpected points.

The casualties of the team are only two in number. Douglas Kinnard, the dusky shot putter is still hampered by his sprained finger he received in the Fresno meet. He has not worked out since this accident, saving his talent until the conference where he hopes to get off one heave that will score. Anson Hayes is the other member of the

(Continued on page two)

Spartan Daily

May 4, 1934

Douglas Kinnard misses a track meet due to an injury.



By
GIL BISHOP

The illustrious San Francisco State team which pulls into the Spartan gym tomorrow night to engage Hovey McDonald's Spartan varsity are nobody's set-ups. They have won some 13 out of 14 contests, downing Fresno State's great but beatable varsity.

It must be quite a blow to Fresno State's scribes to have their mighty Bulldogs lose a basketball game to the lowly (in the Raisin City estimates) Gators. The Fresnans have built themselves such a "Tower of Bable" that they must be slightly chagrined to lose an athletic contest.

It's quite laughable to listen to the Walker-Portal-Hubbard physical education combination rake each other over the coals for trying to coerce athletes into their particular sport. Owen Collins, one of Portal's freshmen football stars, is now a member of Walker's swimming team and is also a track man of some fame. Hubbard says Walker has taken away one of his best stars while Walker replies with the fact that Collins is a far better swimmer than he is a track man—Hubbard denies this most vehemently.

Item number two finds Joe Blacow somewhat embroiled in the conversation. It seems that Burt Watson is the topic this time, and Burt is quite in demand. Hubbard needs Watson in the pole vaulting and broad jumping lines, Blacow is figuring on Watson to help chuck the varsity baseball team through another successful season, while Portal would like to have Watson in a southpaw stance during the boxing season. And when spring football practice rolls around, Dud DeGroot will stick his oar in.

Collins, by the way, is pushing Bil Ambrose, Walker's prize swim sprinter for first honors in practice. All of Walker's veterans have bettered their 1934 times in one length splashing contests in the pool all of which cause the pool coach to shed no tears.

A new pair of swimmers in the personages of DeSmet of San Jose High and Hoffman of Palo Alto will do much to strengthen the Frosh swimming team this year. Both boys have fine records and should improve tremendously under close supervision.

Bill Hubbard has more worries. Ralph Raymond, who last year was one of the bulwarks in the discus and shot events, is transferring to Stanford in March. Louis Marquis, the second of the weight artists, has not returned to school. Jordan McPhetres, who completed the trio, is busily engaged in a job, and while in school, may not be able to spare the time to coach out.

Doug Kinnard, the colored boy who showed so much promise last year, is yearning for a try at the wrestling game and combining this with his "umpah-ing" on one of Dr. Otterstein's bass horns will leave little time for pushing sixteen pounds of lead and iron around. This leaves Les Carpenter, who played considerable up man for DeGroot, about the only weight man left. Indeed, Hubbard has

Spartan Daily

January 11, 1935

Journalist Gil Bishop expresses concern that Douglas Kinnard's musical interests will take time away from preparing to compete in track.

Rootie Toot! Blow Your Own Horn, Be Phi Mu Pledge

Well, they made it.

Of course, they pulled a lot of strings, and they blew their own horns pretty hard, but—

They struck the right note with Phi Mu Alpha, men's music honor fraternity, which decided it might be able to get along harmoniously if it pledged—

Alvin Cromwell, William Clark, Douglas Kinnard, and John Wing. It did so at a meeting held at the home of Mr. Adolph Otterstein last Thursday night, and decided—

The pledges will be formally initiated later in the quarter, provided, of course, that they score a hit by scaling the initial barriers.

La Torre Yearbook

April 17, 1935

Douglas Kinnard pledges into the men's music honor fraternity Phi Mu Apha.

State Cinder Men Chalk Up Initial Win

STOCKDALE PILES UP 11¼ POINTS FOR HIGH MAN

By GIL BISHOP

A determined Spartan track team fought its way into Kezar Stadium through a northwest wind yesterday and rode out on the wings of the same zephyr two hours later with a 78-53 victory over the San Francisco Gators attached to the tags on the suit bags. Surprising the scattered handful of spectators which dotted San Francisco's largest athletic amphitheater, the San Joseans ran up a lead which they never relinquished.

STOCKDALE STARS

Led by Jim Stockdale, who garnered 11¼ points during the afternoon's proceedings, the State dash men swept all 18 points in the sprints for just about what decided the meet. Trained by Hanley and True in that order, the San Luis Obispo boy romped through the century in 10.2 seconds, coming back a little later to take the furlong in 22 flat.

SWEEP 880

The third sweep of the day came in the 880, when Everett, Woods, and Harper finished in that order, the final time reading 2:02.8. After a slow first lap, Woods went out to set the pace and was barely nipped at the tape by Everett, with Harper coming up fast.

Harper started off the meeting by winning the mile in the slow time of 4:38.2, making a rousing finish to close in ahead of the Gator distance ace, Kuder.

SHOT SURPRISE

A surprise prevailed in the shot, when San Jose's "dark horse", Doug Kinnard copped the initial spot. Taylor made off with another first by winning the 440, while Frank Cunningham won the javelin toss.

QUEER RELAY

Carl Cammack came through with his usual low hurdle victory, while the relay found the Franciscans completely outclassed. From the opening lap, when Captain Carl Robinson led off with a fast circle around the cinders, until Stockdale closed in with the victory, the race was a farce. The first lap found the Gators throwing the baton twenty yards. The second lap found a longer and slightly more inaccurate toss. The third Gator simply cut the first corner, and then finding himself still a lap behind, cut across the infield, still trailing five precious three-footers. Not to be deterred, Stockdale ran off and left the anchor man far behind, the 3:31 being Spartan Loafing Time.

Results:

Mile: Won by Harper (SJ); Kuder (SF); Driscoll (SF). 4:38.2.

Shot: Won by Kinnard (SJ); Ebert (SF); Jones (SF). 41' 6".

100: (Won by Stockdale (SJ); Hanley (SJ); True (SJ). 10.2.

440: Won by Taylor (SJ); Robinson (SF); Pimentel (SJ). 51.9.

880: Won by Everett (SJ); Woods (SJ); Harper (SJ). 2:02.8.

220: Won by Stockdale (SJ); Hanley (SJ); True (SJ). 22 flat.

2 Mile: Won by Shreve (SF); Gates (SJ); Driscoll (SF). 10:37.8.

B. J.: Won by Stone (SF);

April 18, 1935

Douglas Kinnard competes in shot put in a meet between San Jose State College and the San Francisco Gators.

Chest Jamboree Acclaimed As Bigger Hit Than The Revelries

By IRENE MELTON

"Better than the Revelries" was the opinion of many concerning the Community Chest Jamboree given in the Morris Dailey auditorium Tuesday night.

With a flashing, coordinated program introducing new talent and many familiar performers, the show proved a smashing success both from a financial and entertainment viewpoint, judging from the proceeds of approximately \$148 received from the production.

To state it briefly, music, music, and more music dominated the show, keeping the rafters of the Morris Dailey ringing and the members of the audience busy tapping and swaying to the tuneful

treats of Gene Goudron's musicians, Al Davina's orchestra, Johnny Cooper's "ride" rhythms, and many others.

Surprise hit of the show was the syncopated harmony of the men's quartet singing with Cooper's group. The four melody maestros, Tommy Coleman, Jack Johansen, Teddy Noga, and "Bags" Peele, members of Howard Fredericks' band, gave forth with such tantalizers as "Love's Old Sweet Song", "South of the Border", and "Shiek of Araby".

Another audience favorite was found with the wicked bass beating of Doug Kinnard, also with Cooper's orchestra.

Spartan Daily

November 9, 1939

Douglas Kinnard performs on bass with Johnny Cooper's Orchestra at the Community Chest Jamboree.

