



**John Brown Blasts To Tape**  
... Outstanding Half - Miler

## Mile To Highlight ACC Track Meet

By HARRY MORROW  
Observer Sports Writer

years ago, the four-minute mile has been one of the

By HARRY MORROW  
Observer Sports Writer

John Brown opened the track season as the best quarter-miler in the area. He'll finish it as the best half-miler in the area — and quite possibly in North Carolina.

Only a junior, Brown runs with all the energy of a wild stallion that doesn't slow down all day. His kick is a thing of beauty, controlled strides rolling back both distance and time in a panorama of power.

The lean 6-1, 153-pounder from Myers Park always starts in lane No. 1 now.

Independence's fleet Jerry Harris broke the sectional 880 record by a full two seconds in 1:56.1 Friday and wasn't anywhere near Brown.

He blazed to an incredible 1:53.5, which charred all challenges and sliced under the state record of 1:53.9. Then Brown led off on the Mustangs' mile relay unit which clocked an equally sensational 3:19.4. Myers Park set the state standard of 3:21.7 a year ago as he led off. However, all state records must be set at the state meet.

"When I came around (the first lap), I knew the pace was good," the softspoken Brown said Saturday. He had an unofficial first lap of 55 seconds. "With about 330 yards to go I started kicking and it was the best inside I've ever felt. I've never felt that way on a half before — I've never felt that strong."

"I've decided that's (55) what I need to come around in. At East (in the Southwestern 4-A meet) I ran a 58 and then another 58. It seems like

paid the price (in cross country last fall). We don't have anyone who can take distance workouts any better. He knows how to warm up well. I think he's starting to get the feel of the half now."

Brown, who placed fifth at state in the 400 last year opened this season with a :50.1, but Allen had wanted to try him in the half for quite some time.

"In the quarter you're going to hit boys who have :09.8 speed," Allen explained, "and we're talking about a boy who has :10.4 speed. But John did have a :21.9 split (on a relay 220) in one meet we had. The time he ran 1:55.1 he ran a half mile relay leg and then came back."

Brown knows a lot about running and Allen doesn't believe being out in front will harm the Mustang star.

"He had the very same thing last year," Allen said. "He ruled the roost until we got the end. He realizes at this stage of the game a guy can pop you off."

Brown expects every runner's time to fall with the

His name just might be Jerry Harris, too. Brown isn't

about to forget the swift Patriot or East Mecklenburg's Tim Braxton, either.

"People say, 'Why are you nervous when you go into a race?'" Brown said. "I've never been overconfident. You can't go into a race anymore and pick a winner."

"Overconfidence is not creeping up on me."

"I hadn't even heard about Harris until the Queen City Relays. When I started running (in the sprint medley I thought nobody would be with me and he was right on my tail—I had to find out who he was. Coming around on the first lap Friday, he tried to pass me." western regional coming up Friday at Brevard, followed by the state meet at N. C. State. Greenville Rose's Eric Allen, who won last year at state in 1:56.6, will defend his title.

"When you get there (state) with the tension and that crowd, the time's going to come down," Brown predicted.

One of his biggest rooters undoubtedly will be older brother Don, a freshman half-miler at South Carolina who

also ran on that record-setting mile relay team and whose best 880 is a 1:55.3.

There's no rivalry, though.

"Naw, we pull for each other," Brown said. "I don't think we're planning on running each other any time soon."

## Track Honor Roll

### 120 Yard High Hurdles

David Miller, Asheville :14.2; Fred King, West Charlotte :14.4; Dennis Griffin, Harding :14.5; Gran Hearn, South Meck. :14.6; Curtis Leake, Independence :14.9.

### 100 Yard Dash

Anthony Kirkland, Asheville :09.7; Ozzie Moore, Myers Park :09.8; Mike Diamond, East Meck. :09.8; John Edgings, Asheville :09.8; LeVon Wilson, South Meck. :09.9; Tim Bannister, South Meck. :09.9; Dan Starnes, Gastonia :09.9.

burg 3:25.5; Independence 3:26.0; Asheville 3:27.0; West Charlotte 3:29.3.

### Discus

Lee Stoffel, Myers Park 164-10½; Don Hughston, Garinger 148-10; John Snyder, East Meck. 148-8; Carl Roach, West Meck. 144-4; Robert Starnes, Gastonia Ashbrook 143-10.

### Shot Put

Bill Sanders, Myers Park 51-4; Tom Stichman, East Meck. 50-4¾; Marvin Odum, Hickory 49-8; Randall Tesh, Harding 48-3; Stan Alexander, West



the prospect is the most tantalizing aspect of the meet scheduled Friday and Saturday at Columbia, S.C.

"The mile could be a great race, as unbelievable race," University of South Carolina coach John West predicts. Maryland's Doha Baker holds the record of 4:04.2.

And the coaches still fan their hopes that somehow Maryland will be stopped from notching only its 16th straight outdoor championship.

The challengers are the Gamecocks, Duke—with high hurdle record holder Jeff Howser and a stable of distance runners—and North Carolina.

Trials will begin Friday and will be followed by the 3,000 meter steeplechase final.

Maryland again has a number of outstanding athletes, including Baker and 16-foot pole vaulter Vince Struble of Raleigh.

However, Baker must battle a couple of brilliant freshmen. Duke's Bob Wheeler has run 4:04.1 while N. C. State's Jim Wilkins' best is 4:05.6.

Brown outdid everyone in county history the first time he tried the 880 this spring, clocking an eye-opening 1:55'1. The next time out he slashed his best to 1:54.7. Last week he set a Southwestern 4-A Conference mark of 1:56.4.

"Undoubtedly, he's one of the strongest runners I've ever seen," Myers Park coach Stuart Allen said. "I wanted to give him every advantage there was. I think he spent himself real well on that track last night.

"If he can go out in 55, there are a lot of advantages is that. You run like you feel you want to run. You don't have to chase.

"We've never talked about toing that fast. We've talked about 57, then 56. I think the reason he's healthy is he's

#### 880 Yard Relay

Myers Park 1:28.9; South Mecklenburg 1:28.9; Asheville 1:29.3; West Mecklenburg 1:31.0; West Charlotte 1:31.5; East Mecklenburg 1:31.5.

#### 440 Yard Dash

Jerry Ezell, Garinger 49.9; John Brown, Myers Park 50.1; Gosnell White, West Charlotte 50.3; Tom Caton, Olympic 50.5; Lee Henderson, East Meck. 50.6.

#### 180 Yard Low Hurdles

Fred King, West Charlotte 20.0; David Miller, Asheville 20.4; Craid Brantley, Myers Park 20.5; Gran Hearn, South Meck. 20.5; Dennis Griffin, Harding 20.6.

#### 480 Yard Run

John Brown, Myers Park 1:53.5; Jerry Harris, Independence 1:56.1; Tim Braxton, East Meck., 1:58.1; Robert Broadwater, South Meck., 9:00.6; Matt Williams, Myers Park 2:04.2.

#### 220 Yard Dash

Ozzie Moore, Myers Park 21.8; John Eddings, Asheville 22.1; LeVon Wilson, South Meck. 22.1; Anthony Kirkland, Asheville 22.2; Mike Diamond, East Meck. 22.5; Jeryl Todd, West Charlotte 22.5.

#### Two Mile Run

Jim Chapman, Myers Park 9:35.7; Danny Workson, Independence 9:45.1; Jerry Clark, Harding 9:47.6; John Chapman, Myers Park, 10:19.8; Mike Jones, South Meck. 10:24.5.

#### Mile Relay

Myers Park 3:19.4; East Mecklen-

burg 3:20.0; John Earle, Asheville 22:41/2; Danny Adkins, Hickory 22:01/2; David Miller, Asheville 21:51/2; Melvin Thompson, North Meck. 21:43/4; Tom Gray, Olym-pic 21:2/2.

#### Pole Vault

Ollie Ballard, South Meck. 13-0; Dean Stewman, South Meck. 12-9/4; Randall Tesh, Harding 12-6; Jimmy Hefner, Hickory 12-6; Eddie Mobley, Olym-pic 12-6.

**LIFETIME GUAR**  
**HEAVY DUTY**  
**DUR-ALLOY MUF**

**Now Only 49¢**  
LIMIT 8 PER CUSTOMER  
E.A.

**FOR MOST CARS!**  
**SPARK PLUGS**  
**NEW BRAND AC**



**29¢**  
Quant  
FOR  
ONLY.  
• SAE Grades 20-30-40

**9.99**  
ONLY  
F-M-AM  
Portable  
RADIO

**12.88**  
FAN  
LIGHTWEIGHT PORTABLE  
LADS GIVE BIG  
LIVING AREA!