

Dave Gavin's reflection on his 9:25.4 2-mile time

The time of the 2M is correct, 9:25.4, it took place on 5/10/72 on our home track during the Southwest Suburban Conference Meet hosted by CSHS. You will recall that ours was a cinder track then, actually one of the better cinder tracks I ever ran on. The time established a new school record and a new conference meet record. I won the race and was thus the Conference Champ in that event. It also established a new conference record that will never be broken as the SWSC dissolved the following year. (the newly re-constituted SWSC notwithstanding) You might reasonably ask why the great Dave Merrick of Lincoln-Way (8:42 PR) did not hold the record and the answer is that Merrick never ran the event in the conference meet, LW ran Merrick in other races to score more points at Conference. Finishing 2nd behind me was my friend and rival John Bean of L-W, I do not recall his time. The race was stop watch timed as I don't think we had FAT timing then. 2 years later while a college soph at WIU, in a track meet held at Murray State (KY) I ran thru the 2M of the 3M Run in 9:22 and finished that race with a time of 14:09, establishing a new WIU school record that lasted all of 2 weeks, when it was broken by my teammate Jim Wheeler, now the Coach at McHenry HS. I mention this because when I heard my time at the 2M point I was very surprised knowing that I had bested my HS PR and still had a mile more to run. Also, we did not convert to metric distance until the 1975 track season.