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Indoor Track Records Fall as Crimson Thinclads Roll On

EXPLOSIVE!

That's the term which most fittingly describes the Harvard track squad this year. After outstanding performances in the Greater Boston Championships and the Big Three Meet, the thinclads have established themselves as one of the top powers in the East, and possibly the country.

"The GBC's were honestly supposed to be a close meet performance. What took place, however, would have to be called an athletic happening. I could not believe the complete explosion. People who didn't get to see the meet, even if they are not track fans, really did miss something," says Coach Bill McCurdy.

Any meet where one team breaks twenty records and ties two others must be labelled as an "athletic happening." The Crimson began its assault on the record books as Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace (Nassau) tied the facility and broke the meet record with a leap of 23-6 in the broad

jump, on the first night of this two-day meet.

Helped by the surprising performances of Jay Hughes (Dover, Mass.), Steve Niemi (Pullman, Wash.) and Kevin McCafferty (Burlington, Mass.) in the weights, and Leon Sharpe (Goulds, Fla.) in the long jump, the thinclads took a 14-point lead into Saturday's events.

February 10, 1973 has been well described by McCurdy as "one of those incredible days." Co-capt. John Quirk (Dorchester, Mass.) ignited the fire by winning the mile with Jim Hughes (Willowdale, Ont.) finishing a strong third with a career best of 4:11.8.

Nick Leone (Hollywood, Florida) broke three records in the 600, as he turned in a blazing 1:09.9. Freshmen Sam Butler (New York, N.Y.) and Joel Peters also registered career best in finishing third and fourth respectively.

However, the 1000 was the race everyone

was anticipating. The two top men in the country, Co-capt. Bob Clayton (Wash. D.C.) and Boston College freshman Keith Francis were to battle this race out among themselves.

Clayton commented, "It was a lot of pressure on both of us. We talked before the race and decided it was pretty much between he and I. I had a lot of respect for him and he was favored. I had a lot of confidence because I had two good weeks of practice and knew I would be ready. I knew he was the type of runner who takes the pace out and overpowers everyone. So I wanted to get out fast and follow him because I felt I could out kick him if it got down to a one lap thing."

The race went according to Clayton's plans. With everyone in the bubble cheering, Francis and Clayton left the rest of the field with four laps to go. Clayton followed Francis by two strides until the last fifty where he made his move to nip Francis at the tape, 2:08. to 2:08.1. Clayton's time was the fastest in the world this year and earned him the meet's outstanding performer award.

Other sensational performances were registered by Ric Rojas (Los Alamos, N.M.) in the two mile, Jim Kleiger (Denver, Colo.) in the pole vault and Vanderpool-Wallace in the triple jump. Rojas took the lead on the fifth lap and won going away in a fast 8:48.5, a career best. Kleiger lifted his own New England pole vault record to 16-6, clearing the bar with about eight inches to spare.

Vanderpool-Wallace, who had already won the long jump with a record breaking effort and placed fourth in the 60, broke all Harvard indoor records in the triple jump with a leap of 48-4½.

All in all, the thinclads won an astounding 12 of 17 events, winning the team championship in a runaway.

The Big Three meet appeared to be just a primer for the Heptagonals, as the Crimson won every event with the exception of the shot put and weight throw.

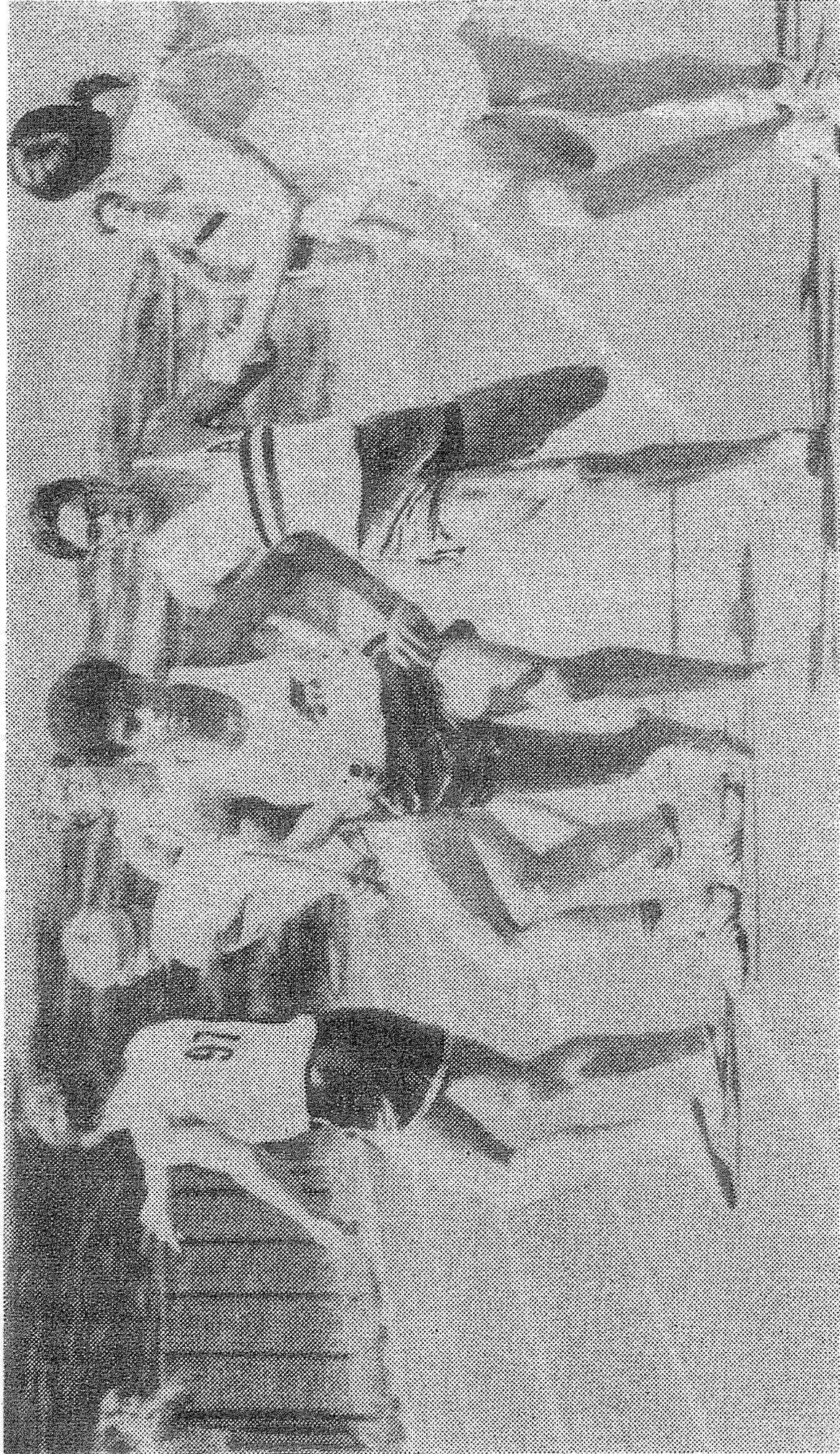
Baylee Reid (Detroit, Mich.) took the 60-yard dash in his most satisfying victory this season. Dewey Hickman (Brooklyn, N.Y.) had a close call in winning the 60-yard hurdles. After being cleated in the hand, stepping in a hole and stumbling while ahead, Hickman came from behind at the last hurdle to win the race in a respectable 7.4.

The field events had the same script as usual with the exception of one surprise. Mel Embree (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Kleiger and Vanderpool-Wallace won the high jump, pole vault, and broad jump respectively. The big surprise in the triple jump, however, was Almed Kayali (Istanbul) who set a meet record with a leap of 47-7. Coach Pappy Hunt stated, "He's a very



Capt. Bob Clayton nips BC star Keith Francis at the tape in fantastic 2:08.0 1,000-yard run.

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'News' Photo—Rowen

Calton Williams accelerates into the final lap of the mile relay to clinch second place at the IAC meet, after taking the baton from Robert Clayton.