

Plain Dealing's Anderson made javelin history with 1951-52 titles

Written by Jerry Byrd

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Nine Bossier-Caddo athletes have won state championships in the javelin throw since World War II. Which one won two titles?

Many people might assume that Woodlawn's Terry Bradshaw is the answer to this question. But it is Charles Anderson of Plain Dealing, who won Class B titles with throws of 151-10 in 1951 and 156-5 in 1952.

Bradshaw shattered the state record by more than 38 feet with 244-11 in 1966, but his winning throw in the state meet was 239-11 1/2 and that was the only state championship in his high school career. Local athletes won two more javelin titles in the next four years (John Troegel of Fair Park in 1967 with 206-4, Ron Bamburg of Woodlawn in 1970 with 205-5), but no local athlete has won more than one title since Anderson.

Joe Cage of Neville (Monroe) was the first Louisiana athlete to break the 200-foot barrier in the javelin with a throw of 202-5 as a sophomore in 1958 — setting a national record for sophomores. Before that, the state record was 198-11, by Ray Rocker of Jesuit (New Orleans) in 1950. But Cage only held the record for one year. Ed Red of Lafayette had a toss of 214-4 3/4 in 1959 and Delman McNabb of Lake Charles broke it two years in a row with 217-9 3/4 in 1962 and 231-1 1/2 in 1963.

Bradshaw's 1966 record fell in 1980 when Tioga's Steve Stockton got off a throw of 254-0 that is still No. 1 on the state's all-time list. Stockton later set a Northwestern State record that still stands with a throw of 271-10 in 1983. Since then, the javelin has been changed to one that doesn't travel as far, and Benton's Frederick holds the Demons' record for the "new" javelin with 261-3 in 2001.

The 244-11 throw by Bradshaw in 1966 was also the national record, but that was broken a couple of years later.

Stockton's high school record isn't likely to fall this year, but another state record is even safer: the shot put record of 74-10 1/2 set by Airline's Arnold Campbell in 1984. Nobody has ever come close to that one.

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Bossier High's Joe Reding was the first Louisiana shot-putter to break the 60-foot barrier in the shot put in 1963, but he only held the state record for a few weeks. At the end of the 1963 season, Terry Estay of LaGrange broke Reding's record by more than a foot with a toss of 61-4 1/2 in the New Orleans Recreation Department Meet of Champions. Reding won the state championship in Class 3A (top class at that time) with 59-0 1/4.

The records in running events have been totally rewritten since the Louisiana High School Athletic Association switched to metric distances in 1980. Before 1980, the 100-yard dash record was 9.3 seconds, by Harold Porter of East Jefferson in 1970. Fair Park's Rod Richardson set a state and national record of 10.20 in the 100-meter dash in 1980. Michael Taylor of Green Oaks had a wind-aided 9.8 in 1983, with Bossier High's Jeff Bailey second in that race at 10 seconds flat. But Richardson still has the best wind-legal performance.

Jonathan Wade of Evangel lowered the 200-meter state record to 20.58 seconds in 2002. The previous record was 20.93 by Vincent Coleman of Homer in the 1983 Class 2A state meet.

In the long jump, once called the broad jump, Don Troutman of Class C Roanoke set a record of 24-11 3/4 in 1957 that was broken by Donald Robins of Destrehan with 25-2 1/4 in 1972. Troy Twilley of Slidell broke the 26-foot barrier by a half-inch in 1994 and is still Louisiana's only member of the 26-foot club.

Jerry Byrd is the former sports editor of the Bossier Press-Tribune and an award-winning columnist. Check out a few hundred of his columns on www.jerrybyrd.com. You can contact him by E-mail at jbsportswriter@comcast.net