

**SPORTS**

**Bay City blue chip living out dreams**

Associated Press

BAY CITY — Hart Lee Dykes is having the kind of year a high school athlete dreams about.

The Bay City High School senior has won mention in national publications like Sports Illustrated and USA Today and, more recently, spent time in Washington to pick up an award from the Washington Touchdown Club as the nation's premier male high school athlete.

There, he shared a table with Miami Dolphin quarterback Dan Marino and Los Angeles Ram running back Eric Dickerson.

All these mind-reeling events in one short year because:

- He has hands that can pluck a spiraling pass from the air like an eagle uses talons to snatch prey.
- He has speed and agility despite his large 6-foot-5 frame.
- He is not only an athlete but a scholar as well with a 3.6 grade point average.
- He displays a rare natural talent to excel in all sports.

His passion for playing sports is the reason why he decided to pay for his trip to receive his latest honor.

If the Armour-Dial Co. had picked up the tab for the Washington trip, Dykes would not have been eligible to play for Bay City High School for the rest of the year. But he still has basketball and baseball to play before closing the book on his high school career.

Dykes felt honored to receive the Dial trophy, but he was disappointed he would be missing his team's basketball game.

It seems he already has learned that recognition is a double-edged sword that can lay claim to his time.

He constantly has to contend with college recruiters who are anxious to place a pen in his hand. In fact, an Oklahoma recruiter headed for Dykes' home bumped into him at the airport as Dykes was heading for Washington.

Dykes says he sometimes tells his parents to tell phone inquiries that

he is not at home when the calls get nerve wracking.

"At first it was exciting," Dykes said. "Now it's kind of boring."

His mother, Rita, said her son could eliminate a lot of the pressure if he could just tell some of them he isn't interested.

Dykes explained that the recent publicity and the recruiting efforts have not made him feel differently about himself, however.

"I don't feel I'm any better than my teammates. Without them I wouldn't receive any awards," Dykes said. The statement was not false modesty, since his friends probably are one of the reasons his feet are still planted firmly on the ground.

"If I would stay by myself and read all about myself, I might start believing it," he said. "With me hanging out with them, I don't have time to think about how good I am."

But there's no denying he is good and Touchdown Club members were anxious to meet him.

The club is made up of admitted football fanatics who share a passion for the Redskins as well as other Washington-area teams. They throw a five-hour banquet each year to honor athletes from all sports.

This year, besides Dykes, others honored were Dickerson, Marino, New York Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield, Los Angeles Ram quarterback Jeff Kemp and tennis star Martina Navratilova. In addition, the club cited actor Burt Reynolds for humanitarian contributions.

Afterwards, Dykes said he had no idea he could have the opportunity to meet such celebrities. The opportunity to talk with them was a great thrill.

Looking ahead, Dykes says he hopes he can establish himself in college as he has in high school. He plans to pursue a business degree while entertaining the possibility of playing pro football.

"My dream, that I hope will come true, is to get drafted in the first or second round (by the National Football League)," he said.

Associated Press

**Official hit by shot put to get \$97,261 from UT**

AUSTIN — A volunteer track official who was struck in the head by a 16-pound shot at the 1980 NCAA Track and Field Championships in Austin has been awarded \$97,261 by a jury for injuries he suffered in the incident.

James P. Smith sued the University of Texas, Texas track coach Cleburne Price and John Drolla Jr., supervisor of the shot-put competition, for negligence in their handling of the event.

After the jury award on Wednesday, Smith said, "I was very pleased with the decision. Obviously, I thought it was the right one."

"It took 4½ years to get my case to court, and it's a pleasure to have it over with and to be vindicated."

Price said, "I think the man was negligent. He wasn't watching where he was supposed to. He could have been killed. He's very fortunate to be alive, but I really didn't think they'd give him all he asked for."

During warmups in the shot put at the NCAA meet on June 6, 1980, a shot thrown by Tim Scott of Texas A&M struck Smith in the forehead. He underwent a four-hour operation to repair a fracture in the frontal sinus area and another operation for a broken upper jaw.

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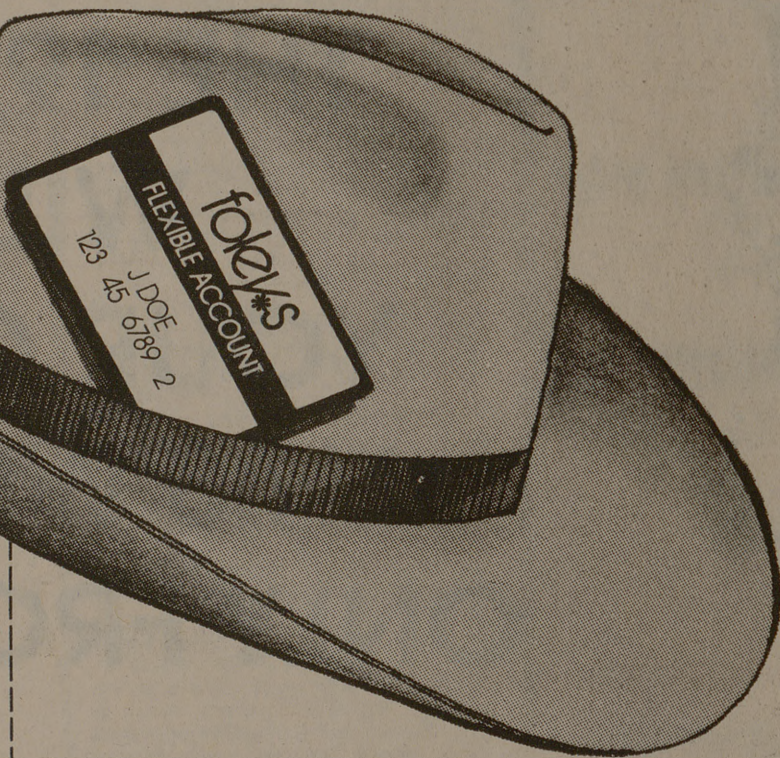
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