

Hovick - First Iowa Prep to Clear 14-0

By MO KELLEY
Sports Editor

I love to tell this story.

As a young sports journalist at a small town paper, the Boone News Republican, I was told it would be necessary for me to add some photography to my skills. My mentor, Rollie Petersen, was an excellent news/profes-

sional photographer and was era. After receiving a lesson or two in the camera mechanics, I was on my way to Goepfinger tal Field to cover the annual Toreador Relays track and field meet.

The first event I witnessed was the pole vault and I decided this was as good a time as any to try my new photography talent. The awkward box camera was pretty heavy to lift skyward but that was the only way I get a shot of an athlete soaring over the vault bar.

I aimed and fired without realizing until later that I was shooting an Iowa High School pole vaulter going higher, on that



That performance alone made it a legend in Boone always the State Indoor Meet held in Iowa City.

Clyde's vaulting career began when he was in seventh grade and using bamboo poles obtained at a local furniture store. A defining moment may have occurred in the final meet of his eighth grade season. With a steel pole, Hovick cleared 10-4 which, at the time, was believed to be the best mark ever for an

in those days, newspapers were using those big box cameras that appear so often in prep movies of the 1940's and 50's soared before. This was long before the arrival of digital cameras so it was several hours after returning to the BNR darkroom that I discovered what I really had. It was the beautiful shot, Iowa athlete that young. In his freshman year, Clyde Hovick advanced to 11 foot and, as a sophomore, he cleared 12 feet. As he entered varsity competition, the earliest event was held in Iowa City. "That was always a challenge because the weather was still not conducive to outdoor work. I knew the Ames vaulters always had an advantage because they could work indoors at the Iowa State indoor facility all winter," Hovick explained. Nevertheless, Clyde made



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Clyde Hovick continued

12-10 3/4 and placed second as a 3/4 to break the meet record, end or corner back at 130 Oskaloosa as a junior and a two-ly." After receiving his UNI degree, Hovick entered the field that year, in state outdoor competition, he cleared 13-1 1/2. Two clear 14 feet.

others also cleared 13 feet and Hovick was awarded second Meet, he set the class AA record played mostly in the outfield but senior year and Mike Harris and retirement. Steve Crandall were the top hit-

14-2 that day but missed on three early during the time star hurler, Jack Mustapha, was ill. Mustapha, after missing much of the early season, recovered in time to lead the Toreadors to the state title by pitching three no-

Howver, maybe I'll be able to hitters in succession in the state tournament. As a senior on another good baseball team, Hovick did even more pitching. "I was the slowest thrower on the team but I had about every kind of junk curve to attend the University of Northern Iowa. He set the UNI ball anyone could dream up. We were 21-3 and lost to West Des Moines Valley in the tournament. My two year pitching record was also competed at UNI in gymnas-

A few weeks later, he and a ties until he was injured and vaulter from Villisca both cleared given instruction by the track 13-9 at the Drake Relays but coach to give up that sport. Hovick was awarded second Despite the fact he wasn't place due to his requirement of very big, Clyde was a fine all-more attempts to make that around athlete at Boone High height. It was the only time in his School. He was one of only six senior season that he didn't win juniors to letter on one of the Toreadors greatest football his event.

The Toreador Relays fol- teams, the famous undefeated, lowed and Hovick cleared 14-0 top-ranked 1964 squad. He start-




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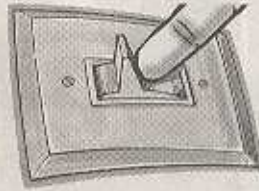
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