

1935-1939 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEETS

Victor Dunder (biography from MSHSL website below) was a visionary educator and the founding father of Minnesota State High School Ski tournaments in the early 1930s. The first four tournaments were jumping only. In 1933, cross-country skiing was added and won by John Buresh, but there were no reports of results in newspapers until 1935. In 1939, slalom events were added. Many of the early skiers competed in all three events. Results of the early races are sketchy, parsed from Duluth Central yearbooks and Duluth News Tribune articles. The 1935 to 1939 cross-country race results have been compiled into one document.

Victor C. Dunder taught high school physical education and coached football, basketball, and fly casting at Duluth Central High School.

In the winter of 1931, a high school student and ski jumper by the name of Billy Anderson approached Victor Dunder and asked him why there was no inter-scholastic competition in skiing at the high school level. Mr. Dunder took Billy's question to heart, made a few phone calls, and set up what was to be the first high school level inter-scholastic competition in the United States, the Arrowhead Ski Tournament.

Duluth Central and Greenway High School participated in this inaugural event. Under Victor C. Dunder's direction and leadership, what was a two-team meet in 1931, developed into the first Minnesota State High School Ski Tournament in 1932.

The first state tournament was held at Chester Bowl in Duluth and consisted of just ski jumping. In 1933, cross-country skiing was added to the competition and the Duluth Central Trojans coached by Mr. Dunder won their first of 19 state championship titles, four of them under the coaching of Victor C. Dunder.

Mr. Dunder was not an accomplished ski jumper or racer. His strengths in coaching skiing were that he loved all sport, he listened to students' needs, he provided avenues of opportunity, and he was willing to work hard to develop new ideas.

Victor C. Dunder Sr. was born in Sweden in 1901. When he was two years old his family immigrated to America and settled in Two Harbors, Minnesota. Victor attended high school in Two Harbors and was an outstanding athlete in basketball and football. He attended college at the University of Minnesota. He paid his way through college by working on the mining trains in Two Harbors during the summers. Victor was a star guard on the University of Minnesota basketball team. In his senior year (1925-26) Victor was chosen as captain of the team. After graduation, several colleges, and high schools actively recruited Victor to coach basketball. He decided to accept a position in Stillwater to coach and teach accounting. Between the period of 1927 and 1936 he married Jubie Ann Carlson, had three children, Victor Jr., Mary Beth, and Willa. He also taught in Willmar, Minnesota, earned an M.A. from Iowa State University and accepted a teaching position at Duluth Central High School.

By all accounts, Victor C. Dunder was a man who loved athletics, loved people, and loved children. When a new city park was proposed in Duluth, the designers left out a playground for children based on the assumption that a playground was not beautiful enough for the park. At a public hearing, Victor spoke out in favor of a playground and said, "What could be more beautiful than the sound of children playing?"

After a long career of service to students, Victor C. Dunder retired as the athletic director for all of the Duluth Public Schools in 1966. In retirement, he loved golf and was active in the Kiwanis and his community. He died in 1983. Every high school ski meet in the country owes a debt of gratitude to Victor C. Dunder for his vision and willingness to provide an opportunity to student athletes in all sports.

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Victor C. Dunder Sr.
(1901-1983)
Duluth Central
Father of High School Inter-
Scholastic and State Level Skiing
Competition

1935 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

2.5 mile (3.7 km) Classic Results*

Location:	Duluth, Minnesota	Date:	January 19th, 1935
Snow conditions:	Nearly 30 inches of snow fell in January with 2.7 inches on race day	High Temperature:	Race day high was 20 degrees F with nearly three inches of new snow.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	John Buresh	11	Duluth Central	20:45
2	Ernest Borg	12	Duluth Central	N.T.
3	Howard Differt	12	Duluth Central	N.T.
4	Erling Johnson	10	Duluth Central	N.T.
5	Rueben Sivola	11	Virginia	N.T.
6	Robert Hoene	11	Duluth Central	N.T.
7	Charles Nelson	12	Duluth Central	N.T.

1935 State Nordic Champions - Duluth Central



Front Row: Buresh, Johnson, Bore, Jonasen Second Row: Nelson, Swanson, DaGert, Storms

1936 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

Approx. 4 mile Classic Results*

Location:	Chester Park, Duluth, Minnesota	Date:	2/15/1936
Snow conditions:	About eleven inches of snow fell in February with five inches just before race day.	High Temperature:	The high temperature was minus eight degrees Fahrenheit

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Rueben Silvola	12	Virginia	28:35
2	John Buresh	12	Duluth Central	28:47
3	Lawrence Holmberg	12	Duluth Central	28:57
4	Erling Jonasen	11	Duluth Central	30:30
5	Carl Hillstrom	12	Duluth Central	31:40
6	Robert Hoene	12	Duluth Cathedral	32:10
7	Robert Smith	12	Duluth Central	33:15

1936 State Nordic Champions - Duluth Central



Front Row: Storm, Jonasen, Anderson, Hillstrom Second
Row: Holmgren, Smith, Anderson, Roecher, Buresh

1937 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

Distance unknown - Classic Results*

Location:	Coleraine, Minnesota	Date:	January 16th, 1937
Snow conditions:	About 15 inches of snow fell in early January for a 10 inch base.	High Temperature:	After an overnight low of -27F, the race time temperature was +12F.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Erling Jonasen	12	Duluth Central	26:26
2	Bob Nelson		Grand Rapids	28:20
3	Ed Kozan		Virginia	28:31
4	Charles Liscomb		Duluth Central	28:34
5	Albert Hermanson		Coleraine	29:46
6	George Monteith		Virginia	30:53
7	Gerald Murphy		Duluth Central	31:09
8	Harry Anderson		Duluth Central	31:49
9	Tom Bjuvold		Duluth Denfeld	32:12
10	Dean Vaneps		Grand Rapids	32:46
11	Arthur Conta		Coleraine	34:17
12	James Silvola		Virginia	34:25

1937 State Nordic Champions - Duluth Central



Front Row: Anderson, Murphy, Marvin, Hanson, Jonasen Second
Row: Anderson, Stormk Janner, Nelson, Liscomb, Feddick

1938 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

4 mile (6.4km) Classic Results*

Location:	Coleraine, Minnsot	Date:	February 26th, 1938
Snow conditions:	No snow data for Coleraine but the area had about 12 inches of base prior to the warm spell.	High Temperature:	Race day was a balmy 46F after a warm 37F day the day before.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Ray Folland	10	Duluth Central	31:27
2	Joe Branscomb		Duluth Central	32:09
3	Alloys Tallakson		Duluth Central	32:59
4	Donald Johnson		Duluth Central	37:50
5	Robert Maas		Duluth Central	38:54
6	Maynard Thoren		Ely	42:33
7	Merritt Mitchell		Grand Rapids	43:50
8	Leonard Pete		Ely	44:37
9	Kenneth Janeksela		Ely	45:32
10	Tommy Gilman		Coleraine	45:56
11	Ed Sisler		Grand Rapids	46:39
12	Clarence Carlson		Ely	48:20
13	Harold Monson		Grand Rapids	49:07
14	Merlyn Thompson		Ely	51:20
15	George Tuomala		Ely	51:49
16	Ed Janeksela		Ely	52:13
17	William Solberg		Ely	54:09

1938 State Nordic Champions - Duluth Central

First Row: Folland, Johnson, Maas, H. Johnson
 Second Row: Branscombe, Contardo, Feddick, Hillstrom, Gunderson
 Third Row: Hanson, Tallockson



Central was again represented by a fine ski team. The boys rode the jumps and skied cross-country like veterans. As a result of their long hours of practice the skiers were well rewarded. They won the district high school ski championship, and the state cross-country championship. The district ski meet was held at the Chester Park Bowl. The boys had the meet in their own hands as they placed men freely in the first ten. The slalom skiing event held in connection with this was staged on the big hill at Northland Country Club. The boys copped this with comparative ease. Folland carried off top honors in the event. The state meet was held at Coleraine this year.

In the jumping event the meet was paced by Laramie of Coleraine, four times the state champion. His superb form and expert jumping proved an almost impossible barrier. They placed third in this; behind Coleraine and Hibbing. In the cross-country race the Trojan skiers were unbeatable. They took the first six places. The boys had a kind of race of their own with Folland finally winning out. The Trojans won a fine trophy for taking the event. The skiers who are graduating this year will be greatly missed, but we are sure that many more will come to fill their places.

1939 MSHSL NORDIC SKI RACING STATE MEET

Approx. 4 miles Classic Results*

Location:	Chester Park, Duluth, Mn	Date:	February 18th, 1939
Snow conditions:	Seven inches of snow on February 13th left a 28 inch base but temperatures thawed.	High Temperature:	Race day temp was 38 degrees F after a 37 degree F day before.

Rank	Name	Grade	Team	Time
1	Ray Folland	11	Duluth Central	28:53
2	Bud Branscombe	12	Duluth Central	29:18
3	Alloys Tallackson		Duluth Central	29:43
4	Robert Maas		Duluth Central	30:05
5	Don Johnson		Duluth Central	30:36
6				
7				
8	Henry Hanson	11	Minneapolis Washburn	

According to MSHSL yearbooks, there was no Cross-country competition in 1939, despite the publication of state meet results for both Jumping and Cross-country in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, dated February 20th, 1939 (shown below right) and the 1939 Duluth Central Trojan yearbook (below). Folland would win his second straight Nordic title.

SKIING *Here's making and this*

Central may well be proud of its 1938-39 ski team as they won all of the trophies possible within our state.

Our "bird men" captured all high honors in the 26th District meet at Chester Bowl and, led by Herb Feddick, they marched to the State victory. This state meet was held at Chester Bowl on February 17 with good weather prevailing.

Feddick, Contardo, Hanson, and H. Peterson led the jumping section from our school while Feddick, Branscombe, Folland, and Tallackson were chief slalom-runners of the day.

Our cross country team consisted of Don Johnson, Robert Maas, Elmer Lake, Bud Branscombe, and Ray Folland.

This year was the most successful skiing year that Central has had for many years.

First Row: Butler, Olson, Boren, Nicolason, Boldt

Second Row: Lundquist, Winship, Jonasen, Riddell, Larson,

Missing: Folland



CLASS A SLALOM.			
Herb Feddick, Dul. Cent.	17.9	16.4	34.3
H. Hanson, Mpls. Washburn	18.9	18.6	37.5
B. Branscombe, Dul. Cent.	18.3	19.9	38.2
Ray Folland, Dul. Cent.	18.1	20.6	38.7
A. Tallackson, Dul. Cent.	18.7	20.8	39.5
CLASS B SLALOM.			
Robert Munkebye, Washburn Jr. (Duluth)	20.5	20.6	41.1
C. Bankil, Wash. Jr. (Dul.)	20.9	20.3	41.2
M. Johnson, East Jr. (Dul.)	22.6	21.5	44.1
G. Hovland, Wh. Jr. (Dul.)	23.8	23.8	47.6
B. Krause, Wn. Jr. (Dul.)	27	21.3	48.3
CROSS-COUNTRY.			
Ray Folland, Dul. Central		28:53	Sec.
Bud Branscombe, Dul. Central		29:18	
Alloys Tallackson, Dul. Central		29:43	
Robert Maas, Duluth Central		30:05	
Don Johnson, Duluth Central		30:36	

State Prep Ski Summaries

CLASS A JUMPING.

Jumps Points

Herb Feddick, Duluth Central	93-88	137.4
Geo. Wright, Dul. Cath. (x)	88-91	135.4
Bob Contardo, Duluth Cent.	88-89	135.0
H. Hanson, Washburn (Mpls.)	81-93	134.8
Dwight Hanson, Dul. Cent.	88-91	134.1

x—Not a member of the state high school athletic league; duplicate medals will be awarded.

Longest standing jump—Herb Feddick and Henry Hanson tied at 93 feet.

CLASS B JUMPING.

Jumps Points

Harold Mjolsness, Greenway	76-87	137.4
Kenneth Janeksela, Ely	78-78	127.1
William Sjoberg, Ely	72-80	121.1
Lee Wedel, Jr., Greenway	73-75	118.1
Melvin Johnson, E. Jr., Dul.	72-90	118.1

Longest standing jump—Harold Mjolsness, 87 feet.

CLASS A SLALOM.

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