

1947 MILE RELAY TEAM

FLETCHER SCOTT, FREEMAN MARR, FRANK BOSWELL, EVIN PERDUE

When World War II ended, thousands of men returned home and resumed their education with the GI Bill. Fletcher Scott, Freeman Marr, Frank Boswell and Evin Perdue chose Southwestern At Memphis to further their education and pursue their dreams as college athletes. Southwestern knew they were getting a few good men, but no one knew how fast these men could run. My, how the quartet of Scott, Marr, Boswell, Perdue could run. In 1947 they set a mile relay record which would last for 25 years.

Dr. John Osman coached the Southwestern track team in 1947. A track star in his own right, he was an Olympic trials finalist in the 440 yard dash. Dr. Osman not only coached the track team, but he was an outstanding instructor in the Man course and headed the Adult Education Department. Upon leaving Southwestern he went to the Brookings Institution.

Everyone who has watched, run or coached the mile relay knows the race is a combination of speed, strength and tactics. The 1947 team had it all. Fletcher Scott ran the lead leg. He had strength and speed. Fletcher, who played end in football, was the Tennessee Intercollegiate Champ in the 440. Hall of Famer Freeman Marr ran the second leg where he utilized his athleticism and phenomenal ability to analyze a race in progress. Frank Boswell, who ran the third leg, was the speed demon of the group. The great Evin Perdue ran anchor. Undefeated as a collegian in the 880, Evin Perdue was the school record holder in the 880. The 1947 Lynx mile relay team won championships at the Purdue, Kansas and Texas Relays. As the TIAC champs, the team posted the seventh-best time in the nation. For the national recognition they brought to their college and the inspiration they provide today, we are proud to induct the 1947 mile relay team of Fletcher Scott, Freeman Marr, Frank Boswell and Evin Perdue into the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame this 20th day of October, 2006.