

Bill Swisshelm

Track & Field

Class of 1954

The late Bill Swisshelm graduated from Santa Ana High School in 1954 where he excelled in track and field. At the 1953 California State Championships he took 4th place in the 220 yards, and in 1954 he finished 3rd in the 220 and 3rd in the 100. In 1954 Bill set a National Record in the 180 yard low hurdles. The Helms Athletic Foundation All-Southern California Board of Athletics selected him as the 1954 Track and Field Athlete of the Year from the Southern California CIF high schools. He went on to compete at Santa Ana College where he helped lead the team to the 1955 State Track and Field Title. That year he set another National Record, this time in the 220 yard low hurdles, and he was part of the relay team that tied the National Record in the 480 yard shuttle hurdles. He then transferred to USC where he continued to compete. He is widely considered the best hurdler of his time.