

JOHNNY PARSONS FOLLOWING IN HIS BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

BY PAUL LOWRY

Twenty years ago Johnny Parsons, one of Dean Cromwell's squad of crack sprinters out at U.S.C., was chewing milk-bottle nipples for a dally diversion.

His brother Charley, one of the greatest cinder churners ever developed on the Pacific Coast, was then the kingpin sprinter of the West in a day when, athletically speaking this section wore swaddling clothes.

He raced to many a victory wearing the Cardinal and Gold spangles of U.S.C.

Little Johnny never saw his big brother run.

And yet those of us who watched Charley leave his rivals behind two decades ago can see much of the big brother's form in youthful Johnny.

Charley was a tremendous strapping six-footer with a wonderful pair of legs, deep chest and leonine head. He had an ideal build for a sprinter of his height. Johnny is shorter and lighter.

But Johnny's quick lunging start reminds one of big Charley in the old days. Because of his smaller stature Johnny does not dominate a race like Charley did, but Johnny's finish is a dead ringer for Charley's.

The flying leap as introduced by Sir Charles Paddock had not come into vogue in Charley Parsons's day, and as far as Johnny Parsons is concerned there is no such animal. He has Charley's finish to the last detail. Up go his hands in the air spreading out in a huge V and his chest comes out like a pouter pigeon's at the tape.

Johnny does not measure up to Charley's record in the 100, the big fellow having been credited with one 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ s. race in this city, a record which did not go into the books because the officials felt the incredulous East would never believe a westerner could run that fast.

Perhaps the reason Johnny does not get over the track so fast in the century is because he lacks the terrific stride of Charley. But in the 220 Johnny has run in even time, which is as fast as Charley dashed the distance in the old days.

After leaving U.S.C. Charley went East to Wisconsin at the solicitation of Harvey Holmes, then coach at U.S.C. and an alumnus of the Badger university. There he broke into world-wide prominence when he defeated Archie Hahn, the great Michigan star, in 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ s.