

Bill Nichols entered KU in 1927 after having lettered in football, basketball and track at Larned High School for 3 years. He made a freshman numeral in football and track his first year but a back injury caused him to give up varsity competition until his junior year when he won indoor and outdoor high hurdles against Missouri and Kansas State and on February 14, 1930 he won the 50 yard high hurdles in Convention hall in Kansas City setting a KU record in that meet.

Dick lettered in track at Liberal, Kansas and made two letters at Kemper Military school. While at Kemper he set an outdoor half-mile relay record in 1928 which still stands. Dick did not compete his first year at the University but made the team his second year as a half-miler. Placed second and third in several meets but did not win any firsts.

May 24 1930

^{D. J.}
The determination to win is related in an incident at Lincoln, Neb. at the Big Six outdoor track meet in 1930. Kansas was leading Nebraska a few points up to the final race of the day, the mile relay. KU had to place third or better to win the meet. Brutus Hamilton had named his four men on the relay team but at the last minute he changed one man and substituted Dick. Until that time Dick had never run a quarter mile in competition but after the race when KU placed second and won the meet Coach Hamilton told Dick that he had run the best race of his life.

Dick and Bill's friendship started when they were fellow journalists at KU and continued through their athletic competition. (Dick married Bill's sister who graduated from KU in 1930)

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