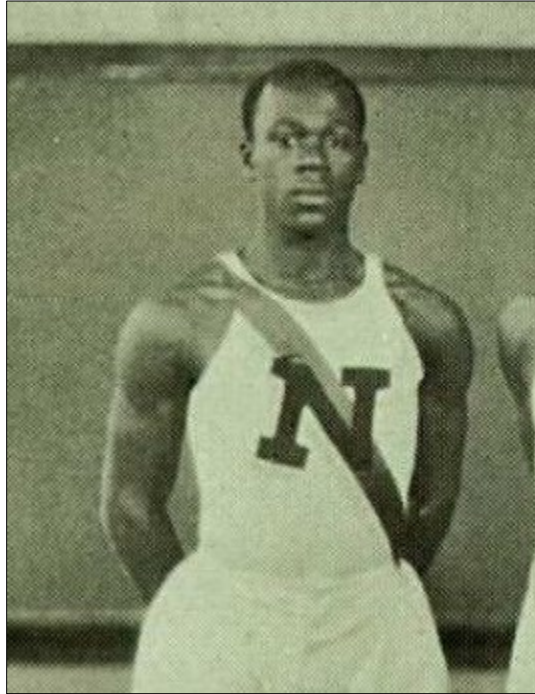


Eugene Beatty – Detroit Northeastern 1929



Best known as a hurdler, Beatty had incredible strength and range. As a prep sophomore, after he failed to make the finals of the 50-yard hurdles at indoor nationals, he jumped into the half-mile and won the race by 15 yards. Outdoors he won national titles in the high and low hurdles, and was a key leg on Northeastern's 4x2 champions. At the MHSAA level, he won two titles each in the highs, the lows, the long jump, and the 4 x 200. Collegiately, he ran for what is now known as Eastern Michigan, winning the 1932 NCAA title in the 400 hurdles after setting an American Record at the Penn Relays. The heavy favorite to win the 1932 Olympic Trials, he fell while leading at the final hurdle and finished 4th. The winner was disqualified for a lane violation but given the team spot that would otherwise have gone to Beatty, and so he missed competing in the Olympics. Later in life, he accomplished far more than he did on the track. In 39 years working in the Ypsilanti public schools, he founded the nation's first pre-school, the forerunner of Head Start programs that have improved the lives of millions.