

John McLean – Menominee 1897



The first track & field Olympian from Michigan hailed from the Upper Peninsula town of Menominee. John Frederick McLean was perhaps better known as a football player, being an All-American in 1899 for the University of Michigan. In his final game for the Wolverines, he scored on a 40-yard run against Wisconsin.

On the track that spring he had set UM records in the 120-yard hurdles and the long jump.

In the 1900 Olympics in Paris, McLean competed in four events: the 110 hurdles (silver medal in 15.5), the long jump (6th place at 21-1.25), the triple jump and standing triple jump.

McLean was born in Canada on January 10, 1878. After the Olympics he became a football coach, leading the programs at Knox College and the University of Missouri. However, he was fired from Missouri in 1906 for his part in a scandal involving payments to an athlete. He died on June 4, 1955, and is buried in Menominee.