Rose set new conference records in the shot put (47-½) and discus (125-3¼), and placed second in the hammer throw (151-3).114

It is safe to say that the season of 1904 was the greatest track season that Michigan ever had. We won everything; not only did we come out ahead in the Western Conference and all of our dual meets, but Michigan clearly showed her superiority over the Eastern colleges by winning more firsts at the Penn Relay Carnival than any big school in the country. . . At the beginning of the second semester, Ralph Rose came to us from California. He is probably the greatest weight man in the country ever produced and helped Michigan win more than one meet by his splendid work.115

According to the Detroit Free Press, Ralph Rose "quit" the University of Michigan in an "unprofessional" manner after just one semester with the epitaph that "no more unpopular athlete ever left Ann Arbor."116 It is more likely that University of Michigan authorities "kicked him from their midst because of his unruliness."117 Although there was discussion of readmitting him, Rose did not return to the services of the blue and maize.118 In August-September 1904, Rose won four medals at the Olympic Games in St. Louis, and in 1905 he represented the Chicago Athletic Association at the AAU Championships held at the Portland Exposition.119

Much to the delight of Michigan men, Wesley Coe, a new University of Michigan recruit, defeated Ralph Rose in the 1905 AAU. According to W.W. Coe:

I was feeling fine when I made the performance and was satisfied before leaving here [Portland] that I could do more than I had ever done. I owe much to Keene Fitzpatrick of the U. of M. who improved me at least a foot in my practice before I went west. By changing my style just a little under his coaching I was enabled to gain distance in my throws.120

In the Pink with "Pinky"

High jumper John Neil "Pat" ["Pinky"] Patterson was one of a half-dozen, world-class athletes who attended Detroit University High School during the first fifteen years of the twentieth century.

Detroit University School was a private, independent college preparatory school organized by Henry Gray Sherrard and Frederick Leroy Bliss, the head of the Classical Department and Principal, respectively, at Detroit Central High School. The school was formed because of overcrowding at Central High School and fear of political interference in the curriculum. The initial location of the school was the Michigan Athletic Association Building, where Keene Fitzpatrick had been employed in 1892-4. Located on Elwood between Larmed and Congress Streets, the building had ample classroom space, a well-equipped gymnasium, and a good cinder track. The school opened with 18 faculty members on September 25, 1899. From the outset the school had a strong athletic program.121

The school was later located on Parkview Avenue near the Detroit River. Today the Nubian mansion, where recent Mayors of Detroit have resided, is located near the spot where this school was once housed. In February 1916 the school's new gym and dining room burned in a fire and the school nearly closed altogether. It was reorganized under the leadership of headmaster Daniel H. Fletcher, from Loomis School, Windsor, Connecticut, and in 1918 moved to the property of the Parkview Athletic Club, which now functions as a bed and breakfast.122 Throughout its history, the school was open to young men from wealthy families of all religious denominations, although, at times, Jewish students felt uncomfortable at the school.123 Among the young men who attended University School in those days were Edsel Ford, Archibald Trowbridge (later a charter member of Alcoholic Anonymous), Henry C. Buhl (son of the President of the Chambers Motor Car Company), Ralph Keeler, Frank Nelson, and Joseph E. Malcolmson.124 University School is now incorporated into Liggett School, which is located in Grosse Pointe.

Track was considered a major sport at Detroit University School. In 1902 the school won the fifth Michigan Interscholastic meet and placed second in that meet the following year.125 On May 17, 1902 "Pat" Patterson was second in the 120-yard high hurdles and the high jump at the University of Michigan Interscholastic Meet.126 On May 28, 1904 Patterson, who was captain of the Detroit University School track team, won the high-jump (5-8) and placed second in the 120-yard high-hurdles at the University of Michigan Interscholastic Outdoor Meet.127 On August 7, 1905, while representing the Chicago Athletic Association, Patterson was third in the high jump (5-11) at the National AAU Championship at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon. It was reported that "Pat" was somewhat handicapped in Portland by the smoke that filled the air because of forest fires in the region.128

On September 7, 1906 "Pat" represented the Chicago Athletic Association at the Junior AAU Championships on Travers Island in New York City. He placed third in the running high jump (5-6½) at the Junior Championships and came back to win the running high jump
he apparently joined the United States Navy. According to the Polk's Detroit City Directory, 1927–28, Malcomson & Higginbotham Architects were still in business, and Joseph E. "Vonnie" Malcomson was listed as a doctor in the United States Navy.

Limiting the Influence of A. A. Stagg in the Western Conference

In 1905 "Fitz" and Charles Baird staged another skirmish with Amos Alonzo Stagg, "the would-be dictator of western athletics." On April 22, Charles Baird was in Chicago for a meeting of the athletic directors of the Western Conference. During the course of that meeting, he told the representatives of the conference colleges that Ferry Field in Ann Arbor was "at their disposal whenever they deemed it advantageous to change the place of meeting [for the Western Intercollegiate Track and Field Championship]." The report stated, "this was a diplomatic way of putting it up to Chicago to see if Stagg would be willing to make the meet on a circuit plan." The move was obviously designed to reduce the athletic power of the University of Chicago. As the Detroit Free Press correspondent put it, "The dehorning of Stagg may be the consequence." But all Baird would say was "There is considerable sentiment among the several representatives of the conference colleges favorable to holding the championship meets at different universities each year."

The President of the University Is Unable to Control the Athletic Department

In 1905–6 University of Michigan President James B. Angell attempted to limit the University of Michigan football program and control Fielding Yost and his supporters by calling a meeting of faculty leaders from around the Western Conference to institute changes in the rules governing the conference. Angell was a highly regarded academician, who had been President of the University of Michigan since 1871. He held honorary degrees from nine prestigious universities and took his academic responsibilities seriously.

Yost had won a reputation for his recruiting talents, and he liked experienced players. The star of his undefeated Kansas team of 1899, for example, had played five years at the University of West Virginia and one year as a professional before joining the Jayhawks. A Kansas "purity" campaign resulted in Yost's ouster after the 1899 season. Then Yost went to Stanford, where he recruited a "student-athlete" who failed in his studies and was dropped. Yost carried this man with him to the University of Michigan, where he played some fifteen games, despite his lack of academic success.

Just What the Doctor Ordered

Joseph was son of William G. Malcomson and Jennie McKinlay Malcomson. He had three younger sisters and a younger brother. William G. Malcomson was an architect and President of Malcomson and Higginbotham Architects. He also was President of the Detroit Steam Engine Company. Joseph E. Malcomson attended Detroit University School. On September 7, 1906 Joe represented the Chicago Athletic Association in the Junior AAU Championships in New York City. He placed third in the 220-yard low-hurdles (26.8), then came back the next day to place second in the 220-yard low-hurdles (26.4) at the Senior AAU Championships. In 1907 he wore the red and blue colors of Detroit University School as a member of their 880-yard relay team. His greatest accomplishment in track and field came on August 14, 1909 when he won the National AAU Senior 220-yard low-hurdles championship (25.0) in Seattle as a member of the Seattle Athletic Club.

In 1915 Joseph Malcomson was an assistant coach and trainer for the Detroit Heralds Professional Football team. During World War I...