



# Telford Telescope: David L. Holmes Coach of Champions

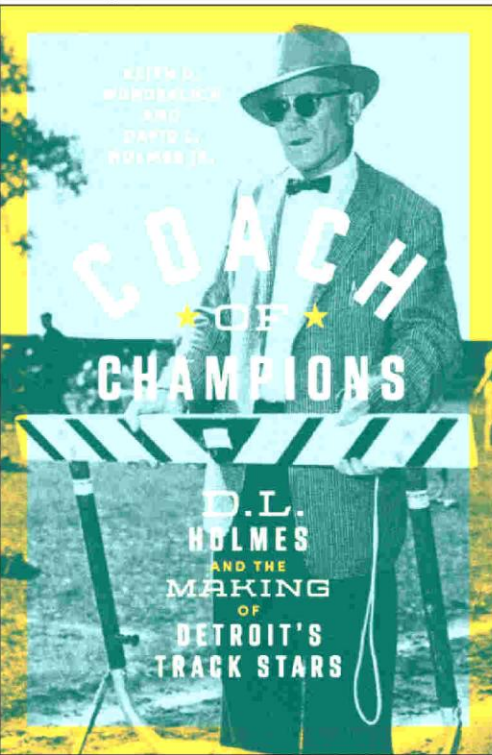
By Dr. John Telford, PhD  
SUN COLUMNIST



Dr Keith Wunderlich has written a landmark book published by Wayne State University Press about his grandfather--Michigan Sports Hall of Fame coach David L. Holmes. At Wayne between 1917 and 1958, Coach Holmes

produced three Olympians, nine All-Americans, and the holders of many world records. In the 1956 U.S. Trials, he brought me one torn hamstring muscle away from making the Olympic team. The most remarkable thing about his panoramic success was that he lacked any decent athletic facilities for indoor track meets. He actually chalked a tile-floor hallway in the Old Main building and held sprints and hurdle races there. Longer-distance events were held on an elevated circular track in the men's gymnasium. The gym was so small it took 22 laps to make a mile. Pole vaulters had to start in the hallway and run through a set of double doors before they could enter that small gymnasium for their jump. Shot putters heaved a 16-pound shot onto the floor of the little gym, which had science labs on the level below.

Over the years, I have done my best to make sure that Coach Holmes and the great athletes he coached aren't forgotten. Only a very few of us remain to tell the amazing story, of Coach Holmes' truly incredible achievements. More than a century ago, he started all the sports programs at what was then called Detroit Junior College. During those four decades, he coached track & field and was the college's athletic director.. He used the hallways of Old Main for practice and track meets because he had no other facilities. His outdoor track was as inadequate as were his indoor facilities--without enough space for a full 440-yard track--and syn-



thetic tracks weren't even a dream back then. We ran on dirt and cinders.

During Coach Holmes' years at Wayne, racism and antisemitism were common, but he welcomed everyone. When our team traveled out-of-state for track meets, he wouldn't allow us to be split up. We ate together and slept in the same hotels. If a restaurant wouldn't serve one of us, everybody left and went somewhere that would. Coach Holmes was a second father to countless young men, students and athletes alike--but he was far more than a great athletic coach--he was a truly great man.

In 1957, John Telford was unbeaten at 200 and 400 meters competing in Europe on the United States Track Team. he later followed in Holmes' footsteps to coach champions. Hear him on WCHB AM1340 Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m., and all week 24/7 on DETipTV.com. Contact him at DrJohnTelfordEdD@aol.com or at (313) 460-8272.

# 2025 GameAbove Sports Bowl



DETROIT - The GameAbove SportsTM Bowl announced today that their 2025 matchup at Ford Field will be played on Friday, December 26 at 1 PM ET and will be televised on ESPN. For more information about the annual college football bowl game in Detroit, visit [www.gameabovesportsbowl.com](http://www.gameabovesportsbowl.com).

The GameAbove SportsTM Bowl traditionally features teams from the Big Ten and the Mid-American Conference (MAC). 2025 marks the 11th year of this bowl game - which is owned, hosted and operated by the Detroit Lions - and the second year with title sponsor GameAbove Sports.

GameAbove Sports focuses on global sports business development and strategic investments. They seek to grow the global presence of the athletes, teams, leagues, youth academies and sports-related entities they partner with. In partnering with the Detroit Lions and Ford Field in their bowl game tradition, GameAbove Sports hopes to continue furthering the impact of

the event, bringing together college football fans from across the country to participate in the tradition of excellence that has made this bowl game a highlight of the postseason.

"We were thrilled with how everything went in our first year as presenting sponsor of this game," said Keith J. Stone, Chairman of CapStone Holdings Inc. "GameAbove, the Lions and Ford Field worked in concert to make the GameAbove Sports Bowl one of the most memorable post season games last year. We're incredibly honored to have been a part of this tradition in Detroit, and we're excited to see it play out again this December.

GameAbove Sports™ Bowl Social Media: Website - [gameabovesportsbowl.com](http://gameabovesportsbowl.com) Facebook - GameAbove Sports Bowl X - @GameAboveBowl Instagram - @GameAboveSportsBowl TikTok - @GameAboveSportsBowl For additional questions, please contact [bowlgamemedia@lions.nfl.net](mailto:bowlgamemedia@lions.nfl.net).



Come out and support former Hazel Park Viking Jaylen Frances as he returns home to lead his Kentucky State Thorobreds against Central State at Ford Field.

**AUG. 30, 2025 | KICKOFF: 1 PM**

Ticket Information Coming Soon!!!!

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