

# Leigh Miller, Nova Scotia Speed Demon

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Leigh Miller once held the world record for the 100 yard dash. His time of 9 3/5 seconds over the distance has long been forgotten. perhaps because it was run in a rural Nova Scotia track meet. Political circumstances of the time prevented his inclusion in 1928 when he should have joined Percy Williams on Canada's Olympic relay team. The ramifications of "Upper Canada - Rural Canada" adversities were examined using Nova Scotia and Leigh Miller as examples. The study concluded that there were indeed grounds for perceived mistreatment of the Maritime Provinces by the empowered "Upper-Canadians." Miller really had no choice when he moved to Hamilton, Ontario, to continue his career. His athletic career did reach greater heights because of the move, which points out the necessity of dealing with leaving home if a Canadian athlete lives in an area where training and competing needs cannot be met. His story was typical of the hurdles faces by locals trying to vie with "Upper Canadian" power and politics in the late twenties even in a sport where the clock removed subjective bias. Miller was important as one of Canada's relatively few world record athletes but also because his fight with Ontario dominance and eventual move to Hamilton are both common among Canadian rural athletes and have important social and psychological ramifications for young athletes who are forced to deal with the same problems.



Sessions such as this offered something for everybody