

1948

MEN

Evanston, Illinois - July 9-10

After the cancellation of the 1940 and 1944 Olympic Games because of the Second World War, it was a great relief for peace to break out, and the 1948 Olympics were speedily arranged. The Trials had previously produced high drama, but they were outdone at Northwestern University's Dyche Stadium. Gil Dodds in the 1500m, and world record holders Harrison Dillard in the 110h and Charles Fonville in the Shot were just three certainties for the US team who didn't make it.

While 1/100th second timing had been used in 1932 thanks to the Kirby Timer, this was the first OT meeting which saw extensive use of an electronic timing device, namely the Bulova Accutron Phototimer - an open-slit camera with the time and the runner simultaneously photographed as the athlete reached the line. Times shown are the official hand times for the winner followed by the Bulova time, and times behind the winner are hand times based on the 1/100th second differential behind the winner. There were place times taken, but with 1 or 2 watches rather than the officially required 3, so these have been ignored. The Bulova device wasn't quite perfect, however, as it was activated not by the actual firing of the gun, but by the sound of the gun, which meant that times for athletes were determined by the distance of the equipment from the gun, and are really about 2/100ths of a second slower than shown.

100 Meters - July 9

1. "Barney" Ewell (Lancaster, Pa.)	10.2/10.33
2. Mel Patton (USC)	10.3/10.45
3. Harrison Dillard (Baldwin-Wallace)	10.4/10.50
4. Ed Conwell (Unat. - Jersey City)	10.4/10.53
5. Donald Campbell (Colorado)	10.5/10.58
6. Bill Mathis (NYPC)	Did not finish

Heats - July 9, first 3 qualify

<u>1/</u>	1. Ewell 10.5/10.53, 2. Mathis 10.5/10.61, 3. Campbell 10.6/10.64, 4. Donald Anderson (Cal) 10.6/10.68, 5. Paul Cowie (Princeton) 10.7/10.74, 6. Charles Parker (Texas) 10.8/10.82
<u>2/</u>	1. Dillard 10.4/10.54, 2. Patton 10.5/10.65, 3. Conwell 10.6/10.70, 4. Paul Bienz (Tulane) 10.6/10.74, 5. Richard Houden (Ill AC) 10.8/10.86, 6. Lorenzo Wright (Wayne) 10.8/10.92

The two top sprint stars of the war years were Hal Davis and Barney Ewell. Ewell had first been noticed in 1936 as a schoolboy when he won the AAU junior 100m in 10.7, and won his first AAU title with the 200m in 1939. The next year Davis emerged to win the 100/200 AAU double, and in all won 9 NCAA or AAU titles, and led Ewell 3-1 in direct confrontations (always in AAU finals). Davis finished in 1943, making a brief comeback in 1948 managing 9.8y before realizing that the Olympics were an impossible dream. Ewell meanwhile won the 1945 AAU and took 2nd in 1947, before returning to top form in winning his 3rd AAU century title in 1948. Nevertheless, it seemed unrealistic to expect him to beat Patton, who had broken the world 100y record in becoming the first man to run 9.3 at the West Coast Relays in May.

The line-up from the inside was Campbell, Dillard, Conwell, Ewell, Mathis and Dillard. Conwell, a superb indoor sprinter was off quickest, with Ewell in tow, and Patton and Dillard lagging. Ewell caught Conwell at the halfway point, and went on to an untroubled victory. Patton moved into second place at the 70m mark and finished a meter back of Ewell with a fast finishing Dillard in third place a foot ahead of Conwell. Mathis, the 1946 NCAA champion pulled a muscle 15 meters before the finish and fell spectacularly, failing to finish. In one of the great surprises in Olympic sprints history Dillard upset the formbook in running 10.4 ahead of Ewell, with Panama and Fresno State's Lloyd LaBeach 3rd, and Patton a lowly 5th.

Not only was the victory a surprise, but also the time. Ewell had set his previous best more than 7 years earlier when beating Hal Davis to win the AAU title when both men ran 10.3. Here it took another victory over the world's top-ranked 100 man, to improve to a WR equaling 10.2

Ewell finally won gold in the relay, teaming up with Dillard, Patton and Lorenzo Wright. Wright, who substituted for Conwell after the indoor specialist suffered an asthma attack, never made an AAU or NCAA sprint final, so was a particularly fortunate US sprint gold medal winner - though life was more cruel, as at the age of 45 he was stabbed to death by his wife in a domestic argument.

200 Meters - July 10

1	1. Mel Patton (USC)	20.7 =AR
2	2. "Barney" Ewell (Lancaster, Pa.)	20.7 =AR
4	3. Cliff Bourland (LAAC)	21.0
6	4. Charles Parker (Texas)	21.5
5	5. Richard Houden (Ill AC)	21.5
3	6. Paul Bienz (Tulane)	no time

Heats: - July 9, first 3 qualify

- 1/ 1. Ewell 21.0/21.27, 2. Bienz 21.3/21.50, 3. Bourland 21.4/21.59, 4. Charles Peters (Ind) 21.5/21.67, 5. Lorenzo Wright (Wayne) 21.7/21.85, 6. William Carter (USAF) 21.8/21.97
- 2/ 1. Patton 21.3/21.40, 2. Parker 21.6/21.67, 3. Houden 21.7/21.71, 4. Don Campbell (Col) 21.9/22.00, 5. Walter Gruber (Detroit) 22.0/22.09, 6. Robert Smith (Notre Dame) 22.1/22.16

After the 100m Patton's coach, the venerable Dean Cromwell, stated after the race that his charge "ran like a plowhorse", a phrase which was meant to galvanise Patton. Although he was the NCAA champion, having run 20.7w, Patton was a highly nervous athlete who needed incentive in large doses. Coach Cromwell's words worked, as Patton led off the turn by a meter, and held on to win by 2 foot from Ewell. Unusually, this race was virtually duplicated in Wembley Stadium 4 weeks later in the Olympic final, with Patton again triumphing over Ewell. Patton admitted in an interview many years later that he learned to run the curve properly by watching Ewell. "When we were standing at the podium in the Olympics.. I thanked him for teaching me to run the turn. His comments weren't really too nice". Third in splendid isolation in Evanston 3 meters behind Ewell and 5 ahead of Parker, was Cliff Bourland who had been a 400m star at USC seven years earlier, running 46.1 that year and winning the NCAA 440y in 1942-43; but he also was 2nd to Ewell in the NCAA furlong in 1941 and 3rd in '42-43 so had good credentials for the shorter event. His choice was very personal - when asked why he was not running in the 400m, Bourland responded "I'm too young to die". Bourland went on to finish 5th in London, but won a gold medal in the long relay; in the 400m relay Ewell finally won his merited Olympic gold. An indication of how much of a veteran was Ewell is given in the story that Jesse Owens approached Ewell shortly after his 10.2 and said "may I have your autograph Mister Ewell ? I lost the one you gave in 1932". As Ewell was still in Junior HS at the time this was perhaps stretching the point on Barney's age.

400 Meters - July 10

1.	Mal Whitfield (Ohio St)	46.6/46.77
2.	Dave Bolen (Col)	47.0/47.15
3.	George Guida (Vill)	47.2/47.35
4.	Art Harnden (Texas A&M)	47.3/47.47
5.	Norman Rucks (SC)	47.6/47.73
6.	Frank Fox (SH)	No time

Heats: - July 9, first 3 qualify

- 1/ 1. Bolen 47.1/47.23, 2. Guida 47.2/47.27, 3. Rucks 47.2/47.33, 4. Ollie Matson (Washington HS, San Francisco) 47.8/47.89, 5. Harold McDonnell (NYPS) 48.9/48.99, Cliff Bourland (LAAC) - did not start
- 2/ 1. Whitfield 47.3/47.52, 2. Harnden 47.6/47.76, 3. Fox 47.7/47.90, 4. John Hammack (Army) 47.9/48.06, 5. Joe Nebolon (WSU) 48.0/48.20, Jack Christiansen (Colorado A&M) - did not finish

The principal contenders were Whitfield, runner-up in the AAU, Norman Rucks the NCAA winner, and High School sensation Ollie Matson. Whitfield was thought to be vulnerable, partly because he finished only 4th in the NCAA, and in part as he was attempting to double up with the 800m, the final of which was held earlier in the afternoon. Dave Bolen, who had finished 2nd in the 1947 AAU came into the picture in winning the first heat in 47.23 ahead of George Guida who had missed most of the season through injury. The surprise was the elimination of Matson who had run a HS record of 47.1y at the Pacific AAU behind Herb McKenley's WR of 46.0. Whitfield won the second heat in a slower time, and looked a solid bet for the team. He dominated the final, smoothly striding home ahead of the competitive Bolen, with Guida a surprising 3rd despite being bothered by his injured leg, ahead of the fast finishing Harnden and disappointing Rucks, who had been in second place entering the finishing straight. All 3 Americans went on to run in the Olympic final, with Whitfield winning the bronze medal ahead of Bolen, while Guida finished 6th.

800 Meters - July 10

1. Mal Whitfield (Ohio St)	1:50.6
2. Herb Barten (Mich)	1:50.7
3. Robert Chambers (USC)	1:51.4
4. Tarver Perkins (Ill AC)	1:51.4
5. Jack Dianetti (Mich St)	1:52.8
Reggie Pearman (NYU)	Did not finish

Heats: - July 9 (First 4 qualify)

- 1/ 1. Barten 1:52.9/1:53.00, 2. Chambers 1:53.2/27, 3. Pearman 1:54.2/30, 4. Lewis Smith (Richmond, Va.) 1:54.4/44, William Clifford (Ohio St) - Dnf, Dave Bolen (Col) - Dnc
- 2/ 1. Whitfield 1:52.8/86, 2. Dianetti 1:52.8/88, 3. Perkins 1:53.7/70, 4. Tom Dickey (LSU), 5. Charles Shepherd (Texas College), Don Gehrman (Wisc) - Dnc

Perkins led the final through the bell in 53.5, with only Pearman out of touch after being knocked offstride on the second turn when trying to cut inside Dianetti. Both Barten and Dianetti caught elbows on the first lap, as Whitfield kept out of trouble. Whitfield took the lead on the final back straight from Perkins and Chambers, and held off Barten with something to spare - no doubt contemplating the 400m final to come. Chambers and Perkins were locked in a terrific tussle for the final team place, which Chambers finally won. Times in the final were all hand timed. Whitfield went on to win the first of two identically timed Olympic 800m wins - in 1:49.2, while Barten finished 4th (1:50.1) and Chambers 6th (1:52.1).

1500 Meters - July 10

1. Don Gehrman (Wisc)	3:52.2/41
2. Clem Eischen (WSU)	3:52.5/62
3. Roland Sink (USC)	3:52.5/66
4. Gerald Karver (Penn St)	3:52.6/71
5. Bill Hulse (NYAC)	3:56.5
6. Roscoe Browne (NYPC)	3:59.8

7. Richard Paeth (WSU), 8. William Leonard (Notre Dame), 9. Carl Joyce (SH Prep), 10. William Mack (Unat.- East Lansing). Gil Dodds (Wheaton), and Herb Barten (Mich) - Dnc

Gil Dodds was considered a safe bet to make the Olympic team. The fastest miler in the world in 1948 with 4:05.3i at the Millrose Games, Dodds had emerged in 1942, winning the AAU title, which he repeated the next year and in 1948. However, he injured an achilles tendon shortly after the AAU, and did not start. Of the remaining 5, only Eischen did not have winning credentials - Hulse had taken the AAU championship in 1944, and was succeeded by Sink in 1945, while Karver won an NCAA/AAU double in 1947, and was followed as NCAA titleist in 1948 by Gehrman. Sink had finished 3rd in that race and Eischen was 6th. Eischen set the pace, passing 440y in 58.5 before slowing to 2:04.4 at 880y and 3:09.4 at 3/4 of a mile. Gehrman moved up to take the lead on the last bend and held off Eischen to win by 4 foot with Sink inches back in 3rd. Karver almost caught the leading trio, but started from 5 yards back with 100 to go, and could not quite catch Sink. Gehrman, the 20 year-old sophomore was the only American to qualify for the 1500 final at Wembley, finishing 10th just behind Barthel of Luxemburg. Sixth placer Roscoe Browne became better known after his track career as a fine character actor, eventually starring in his own TV comedy series.

3000 Meters Steeplechase - July 10

1. Bob McMillen (LAAC)	9:18.7
2. Browning Ross (Vill)	9:21.0
3. William Overton (Alabama Poly)	9:28.4
4. Forest Efav (Unat. - Stillwater, Okla.)	9:34.4
5. Joe McCluskey (NYAC)	9:42.0
6. James Kittell (Notre Dame)	

7. Roy Good (Minn). William Berger (Columbia), George DeGeorge (NYAC), Walter Karkow (Ill), James Miller (NC) and Phil Thigpen (SH) all failed to finish

Bob McMillen had been unheard of until a month before the trials when he ran a respectable 9:16 for 2 miles. He then finished second to Efav in the AAU steeplechase, and was a clear winner by 15 yards in the OT race, despite falling into the final water-jump. Initially his time was announced as 8:48.1 - the fastest ever run, but this was quickly corrected. Ross, who graduated to coaching after his running career, was an isolated second, but the battle for third was closer than the times would suggest. Overton, was safe in 3rd approaching the last hurdle, but hit it solidly and fell. Efav, a veteran with a fine record in the AAU championships (4 wins and 3 second places in the 1938-48 era) had all but given up when he thought he could not make the team, was granted a new lease of life, but had given himself too much to do. McCluskey, who finished 5th, had won the Olympic bronze medal in 1932, and could claim to be the most durable steeplechaser in US track history.

5000 Meters - July 9

1. Curtis Stone (Unat. - Philadelphia)	14:40.7
2. Jerry Thompson (Texas)	14:41.2
3. Clarence Robison (BYU)	14:44.2
4. Fred Wilt (Unat. - Pullman, Wa.)	14:59.8
5. Horace Ashenfelter (Penn St)	
6. Quentin Brelsford (OhW)	

7. Robert Karnes (Kansas), 8. Francis Martin (NYAC), 9. James Newcomb (Unat.- Portland, Or.), 10. John Johnson (NYPC), 11. Tom Quinn (NYAC), 12. Leslie MacMitchell (NYAC), 13. Paul Vaughn (Colorado A&M), 14. Klaus Timmerhaus (Ill), 15. Walter Karkow (Ill). John Twomey (LAAC) and Bob Black (Rhode Island State) - Dnf

Curtis Stone and Jerry Thompson had finished 1-2 in both the 1947 and 1948 AAU meets, so it was no surprise when they duplicated this feat at the OT. Stone went on to surprise quite a few people in finishing 6th in the Olympic final. Both Robison and Wilt later became respected coaches, with Wilt publishing a number of text books on training for distance running. Ashenfelter, 5th placer, was to win fame 4 years later, while MacMitchell, who finished 12th, was one of those athletes whose best chances were probably lost in the war, having emerged in 1940 as a top mile prospect - he won the 1941 NCAA and AAU while aged 20.

10000 Meters - July 3, Milwaukee

1. Eddie O'Toole (NYAC)	32:29.7
2. Fred Wilt (Unat. - Pullman, Wa.)	32:31.0
3. Herman Goffberg (Shanahan Catholic Club)	33:10.0
4. Victor Dyrvall (MiAA)	No time
5. Robert Karnes (Kansas)	No time
6. Walt Dieke (Wisc)	No time

O'Toole outkicked Wilt for the AAU/OT title at the end of a race which guaranteed them selection well before the end, as Dyrvall, who was to win the AAU 15km title just 2 days later (!), was dropped shortly after halfway. O'Toole and Wilt finished in the same order in the Olympics - but in 10th and 11th places. Third placer Goffberg later recalled that the temperature for the race was over 95oF. , and that "I looked down the line at the other runners and I counted 12 other guys who could beat me". Goffberg was in 4th by the 16th lap, and passed Dyrvall with 2 laps remaining, as less than half the starters were able to finish.

Marathon

a) Boston, 19 April 1947

1. Yun Bok Suh (KOR)	2:25:39
2. Mikko Hietanen (FIN)	2:29:39
3. Ted Vogel	2:30:10
4. Gerard Coté (CAN)	2:32:11
5. Albert Morton (CAN)	2:33:08
6. Athan. Ragazos (GRE)	2:35:34

b) Yonkers (AAU), 26 Oct 1947

1. Ted Vogel	2:40:11
2. Tom Crane	2:42:11
3. William Steiner	2:43:49
4. Gerard Coté (CAN)	2:44:31
5. Louis White	2:45:11
6. Joseph Smith	2:46:25

c) Boston, 19 April 1948

1. Gerard Coté (CAN)	2:32:02
2. Ted Vogel	2:32:46
3. Jesse van Zant	2:36:53

4. John Kelley	2:37:52
5. Ollie Manninen	2:41:05
6. Lloyd Evans (CAN)	2:41:05

The selection for the 1948 Games was based on 3 races in 1947-48, Boston for both years and the 1947 AAU race. The Boston winner in 1948 received automatic selection, while the next two were selected on their overall performance. Vogel, winner of the Boston race was the #1 American in all three races, while Kelley (3+5+2) and Manninen (4+7+3) filled the next two spots ahead of David Mazzeo (2+10+4).

10,000 Meters Walk - Van Cortland Park Stadium, New York - June 6

1. Henry Laskau (Maccabi AC)	49:29
2. Fred Sharaga (92nd St YMHA)	
3. Ernest Weber (GAAC)	
4. James Wilson (Staten Island Harriers AC)	
5. Frank LaMorte (Staten Island Harriers AC)	
6. William Mihalo (Thompson Products, Detroit)	

Laskau won his first AAU title at the age of 30 in 1947, and ended up with 42 AAU titles. Laskau had been a promising middle distance runner in Germany in the 1930's, but as a Jew, found his athletic career hindered, and then his life threatened by imprisonment in a concentration camp. He moved to the USA after the war and became the most prolific winner of US titles in history, winning every indoor/outdoor short walks title between 1948 and 1957.

50 Kilometer Walk - Cincinnati, May 16

1. Ernest Crosbie (White Horse Social Club Baltimore)	5:04:30
2. Adolf Weinacker (Mich St)	5:05:46
3. John Deni (Pittsburgh Boys Club)	5:05:48
4. John Abbate (Green and Gold AC)	5:29:34
5. John Dick (Green and Gold AC)	No time
6. William Ross (Green and Gold AC)	No time

Crosbie won his 3rd OT race in a row, with a 16 year time lag between the first and third races, a record of sorts, while Deni, who had been edged out by a second 12 years earlier, made it this time after a tense battle with Weinacker and William Mihalo. The last-named was disqualified for running after tying for third with Deni.

110 Meters Hurdles - July 10

1. Bill Porter (Nwn)	13.9/13.90
2. Craig Dixon (UCLA)	14.1/14.11
3. Clyde Scott (Ark)	14.2/14.18
4. Edward Dugger (Dayton AC)	14.3/14.33
5. Edward Taylor (WnM)	14.4/14.47
6. Harrison Dillard (Baldwin-Wallace)	Dnf

Heats: - first 3 qualify

- 1/ 1. Dillard 14.0, 2. Dixon 14.1, 3. Scott 14.2, 4. Richard Maxwell (Ohio St) 14.4, 5. George Walker (Ill) 14.4, 6. Medill Gartiser (Missouri) 14.5
- 2/ 1. Porter 14.0, 2. Dugger 14.2, 3. Taylor 14.4, 4. Tom Mitchell (Ind) 14.5, 5. Augie Erfurth (Rice) 14.6, 6. Jim Gehrdes (Penn St) 14.6

Harrison Dillard had won 82 consecutive races when he reached the AAU, and was surprisingly beaten by Porter 14.1 to 14.3. At the OT he wanted to exact revenge; after 14.0 heats by both athletes, the finalists lined up from the inside with their personal bests as follows: Taylor (14.3), Scott (14.0), Dugger (13.9 - dating from his NCAA win over Fred Wolcott in 1940), Dillard (13.6 WR), Porter (13.9) and Dixon (14.0). Dillard started well, but clipped the second, and then began to press too hard. He hit the 4th barrier solidly, got over the 5th safely and hit the next two hurdles firmly before coming to a halt at the eighth hurdle. By that time Porter was 2 meters clear of Dixon with Dillard a further yard back. The winning time of 13.90 was the first auto time under 13 seconds (though *none* of the other sub-14 clockings had been auto-timed), and at least on a par with the best efforts of Dillard, Forrest Towns and Fred Wolcott. Dugger appeared to have third place locked up; he had hit the fifth badly, but recovered to lead Scott by almost a meter at the last hurdle which he hit hard, allowing Scott to scoot past. Scott rode his success to a silver medal ahead of Dixon, and behind Porter in the first clean sweep in the 110h for the USA since 1912.

400 Meters Hurdles - July 10

1. Roy Cochran (LAAC)	51.7/51.83
2. Dick Ault (Missouri)	51.8/51.96
3. Jeff Kirk (Penn)	51.9/52.00
4. George Walker (Ill)	51.9/52.01
5. Ennis Gray (NYAC)	No time
6. Jerry Morrow (USAF)	No time

Heats: - July 9, first 3 qualify

- 1/ 1. Gray 52.4, 2. Walker 52.7, 3. Morrow 53.1, 4. Arthur Bigley (USN) 53.7, 5. Landon Westbrook (Okla) 53.7, 6. Ron Frazier (USC) 53.8 (Bulova times: 52.32/52.66/53.04/53.67/53.70/53.80)
- 2/ 1. Cochran 52.2, 2. Kirk 52.3, 3. Ault 52.4, 4. Clarence Doak (Pitt) 52.4, 5. Lee Hofacre (Minn) 52.6, 6. Donald Shuman (Unat.-Champaign, Ill.) 55.0 (Bulova times: 51.92/52.00/52.24/52.26/ 52.44)

Cochran had been the world's best before the War, winning the 1939 AAU, and in a closely run race, he triumphed over Ault, Kirk and Walker. Curiously, the top-3 had been drawn in the same heat. Cochran afterwards said "I knew I could run 50 seconds flat, if necessary, to win". That pleasure would have to wait 8 years for OT devotees. Walker had beaten Kirk in the NCAA, but was edged out by 1/100th here. Kirk rose to the occasion brilliantly, having finished 4th in the AAU behind Cochran, Gray and Doak. Cochran went on to win the Olympic title by more than 5 meters (and added a 4 x 400 relay gold), with Ault 4th. Kirk finished 5th in his semi-final.

High Jump - July 9

	Failures	
1. Vern McGrew (Rice)	2	6'8 1/4" (2.038)
2. George Stanich (LAAC)	4	6'8 1/4" (2.038)
3. Dwight Eddleman (Ill)	0	6'7 1/4" (2.013)
4. Bill Vessie (NYAC)	4	6'7 1/4" (2.013)
5. Tom Scofield (Kansas)	0	6'6 1/4" (1.988)
6. Dick Phillips (Brown)	1	6'6 1/4" (1.988)

=7. Henry Coffman (Unat.- Houston), Charles Hanger (Cal), Irving "Moon" Monschein (NYU), John Vislocky (NYAC) 6'4 1/2" (1.943), 11. Lou Irons (Ill) 6'2 1/2" (1.892). Robert Lewis (Buffalo YMCA) Dnc

For the first time countback rules were used to break ties, rather than relying on jump-offs. The total number of failures determined places where athletes jumped the same height. Missing from the event was injured Dave Albritton, who had followed his 1936 Olympic silver with AAU wins in 1945-47. AAU co-champions Vessie and Scofield were favoured to make the team, but Vessie missed out when Stanich jumped 2 inches higher than ever before to make the team, surprising everyone - including himself. All competitors in the OT were given passport forms to fill out, but Stanich ripped his up saying "I'm the last guy in the world to make the Olympic team". All 3 of the Olympic team were 6'3" tall, and ranged in age from 18 (McGrew) to 25 (Eddleman). McGrew was overawed in the Olympic final, finishing =14th with 1.87m, but 19 year-old Stanich won bronze ahead of Eddleman on the countback, both clearing 1.95m.

Pole Vault - July 10

1. Richmond "Boo" Morcom (Unat.- Durham, N.H.)	14'8 1/8" (4.47)
2. Guinn Smith (SFOC)	14'8 1/8" (4.47)
3. Bob Richards (Ill)	14'6 1/8" (4.42)
4. John Montgomery (USC)	14'4 1/8" (4.37)
5. Harry Cooper (Minn)	14'0 1/8" (4.27)

=6. George Appel (NYAC), Warren Bateman (Col), Robert Hart (USC), Earle Meadows (Unat.- Brownsville, Tx.), George Rasmussen (Oregon) 13'6 1/8" (4.12), =11. Arthur Sherman (Rhode Isl St), Bob Smith (LAAC) 13'0 1/8" (3.96). Roy Potochnik (Marquette) - Dnc

Morcom edged Smith on the basis of 3 failures up to and including 4.47m, as opposed to 4 for the Californian. Smith and Morcom had met each other in a championship for the first time in 1941 (AAU - Smith 14'0"=2nd, Morcom 13'6"/4th). Morcom had won 3 AAU titles plus a share of the NCAA title in 1947, and so was considered a good bet to make team, along with Richards and Smith - the trio had taken the top 3 places in the AAU the week before with Morcom and Richards tying with 14'6" ahead of Smith's 14'3". Meadows' performance in =6th was a fine effort for the reigning Olympic champion. Smith had vaulted at the Trials with a knee injury which had been sufficiently painful early in the season that doctors told him that he would never jump again. Smith eventually won the Olympic final after an epic battle in a downpour with Richards and silver medalist Erkki Kataja of Finland. Morcom, hindered by an old knee injury finished 6th.

Long Jump - July 9 (* = Achieved in preliminary rounds.)

1. Willie Steele (SDS)	26'2"	(7.97) *
2. Herb Douglas (Pitt)	25'3"	(7.69)
3. Lorenzo Wright (Wayne)	25'0 1/4"	(7.62) *
4. James Holland (Nwn)	24'7 1/4"	(7.50)
5. Eural Davis (San Antonio AC)	24'1 1/2"	(7.35) *
6. John Robertson (Texas)	23'11 3/4"	(7.31)

7. Robert Teel (Missouri) 23'6 3/4" (7.18) *, 8. Garion Campbell (Mi N) 23'5" (7.13) *, 9. Claude McWilliams (SFOC) 21'6 1/2" (6.56) *, Fred Johnson (Mich St) 3 Fouls. Lloyd Lamois (Minnesota) and Gaylord Bryan (Stanford) - Dnc

One of the Long Jump judges was Jesse Owens, and he was witness to one of the closest shaves his world record was to have in its 25 year life. Willie Steele, who had jumped 26'6 in the altitude assisted NCAA in Provo in 1947, as well as 25'7 1/2" as an 18 year-old back in 1942, won with a world class leap of 26'2", but Owens measured a foul by Steele of 26'10" which the San Diego star fouled by a scant 1/4". Steele took 2 jumps in the Olympic final before being struck down with an ankle injury. Nevertheless, he won the Olympic title by almost a foot, as had been the case at the OT.

Fred Johnson, the AAU winner with 25'4 1/2" was a top contender who suffered the long jumper's horror with 3 fouls. All the athletes took 3 jumps, and the top-6 were granted 3 more; Douglas, who jumped 24'4 3/4" in the qualifying, and Holland who leapt 24'6 3/8", were the only ones to improve in the final.

Triple Jump - July 10

1. Bill Albans (Unat. - Elizabeth, N.J.)	48'11 1/2"	(14.92)
1. Erkki Koutonen (Unat.- Fitchburg, Mass.)	48'11 1/2"	(14.92)
3. Bob Beckus (LAAC)	48'1 3/4"	(14.67)
4. John Robertson (Texas)	47'7"	(14.50)
5. Gay Bryan (Stan)	47'3 1/2"	(14.41)
6. Richard Lyster (Unat.- Philadelphia)	46'9"	(14.26)

7. Lou Evans (LACC) 46'8 1/4" (14.24), 8. Earl Engman (Santa Barbara College) 45'7 1/2" (13.92), 9. Jim Gerhardt (San Antonio AC) 45'7" (13.91), 10. Gerald Shean (Carleton) 44'5 1/2" (13.55), 11. Howard Manifold (Butler) 44'1 1/4" (13.44). Lloyd Lamois (Minn) Dnc

The TJ did not take off in US track and field until it became a full-time NCAA event in the 1960's. The OT in 1948 was shared by Koutonen and Albans, both of whom achieved lifetime bests. Albans was an all-rounder who was to place in the top 4 in the AAU decathlon between 1949 and 1952, and in '48 was the only American to make the Olympic final, where he was 10th. Both Robertson and Bryan were good college long jumpers who could well have been excellent TJers if the event had been encouraged in college.

Shot Put - July 10 (* = Achieved in qualifying round on July 9.)

1. Frank Delaney (SFOC)	55'1 3/4"	(16.81)
2. Wilbur Thompson (LAAC)	54'11 7/8"	(16.76)
3. Jim Fuchs (Yale)	54'8 3/8"	(16.67)
4. Charles Fonville (Mich)	54'1 3/8"	(16.49)
5. Bill Bayless (USC)	53'2 3/4"	(16.22)
6. Rollin Prather (KS)	53'1 3/4"	(16.20) *
7. Otis Chandler (Stan) 51'4 1/2" (15.66) *, 8. Stan Lampert (GSB) 51'0 7/8" (15.57) *, 9. Norm Wasser (Ill) 50'1 3/8" (15.28) *, 10. Irv Kintisch (NYPC) 49'11" (15.21) *, 11. Fortune Gordien (Minn) 49'3 1/2" (15.03) *. Bernie Mayer (NYPC) - Dnc		

As in the long jump the top-6 took 6 throws, while the rest had 3, and only Prather of the qualifiers failed to improve in the final. Fonville was a 99.9% certainty, a superbly proportioned athlete, who at 6'2"/195 relied on quickness rather than power, had been the only man beyond 17 meters (55'9 1/4") all season, and he'd done so in 12 competitions. Not only did he have an off day, but Delaney (Previous best 54'3 1/4" - 1948), Thompson (54'9 5/8" - '47) and Fuchs (53'6 1/2" - '48) all achieved personal bests in the OT. Thompson went one better in London, winning the Olympic title with 56'2" ahead of Delaney (54'8 3/4") and Fuchs (53'10 1/2").

Discus Throw - July 10

1. Fortune Gordien (Minn)	166'2"	(50.64) *
2. Vic Frank (Yale)	165'10 3/4"	(50.56)
3. William Burton (US-A)	163'9 3/4"	(49.93) *
4. Byrl Thompson (Unat.- Minneapolis)	161'7 1/4"	(49.25)
5. George Kadera (Texas A&M)	159'4 5/8"	(48.48) *
6. Sim Iness (Tulare HS, Ca.)	156'11 1/2"	(47.84)

7. Rollin Prather (KS) 155'7 3/4" (47.44) *, 8. John Donaldson (Unat.- New Haven, Conn.) 154'8 3/8" (47.15) *, 9. Max Dodge (SFOC) 154'1 1/8" (46.97) *, 10. Taylor Lewis (LAAC) 153'6" (46.79) *, 11. Mel Sheehan (Unat., Mo.) 153'5 3/8" (46.77) *, 12. Woody Linn (SJS) 151'2 1/2" (46.09) *. * = Achieved in qualifying round on July 9.

Gordien had won the NCAA and AAU for the second year in a row, and was an obvious choice for the team, and Frank had finished second in the college championship, and 3rd in the AAU, but the 3rd placer was a big surprise. Burton had made the OT only because qualifiers in the NCAA and AAU had been duplicated, but Burton had a lifetime best throw in the qualifying and so ousted Thompson, who had been runner-up in the AAU, and Kadera, 3rd place man in the NCAA, and author of a 173'1" throw earlier in the season. In 6th place was Californian high schooler Sim Iness, who hit 156'1 1/2" in the qualifying on his 18th birthday, and another PR the following day.

Hammer Throw - July 9

1. Bob Bennett (Unat.- Apponaug, R.I.)	177'8 1/2"	(54.16)
2. Henry Dreyer (NYAC)	173'4 3/4"	(52.84)
3. Sam Felton (Harvard)	171'3 3/4"	(52.21)
4. Jim Burnham (Dartmouth)	169'0 1/2"	(51.53)
5. Robert Miller (Rhode Island State)	168'4 3/4"	(51.33)
6. Chester Cruickshank (Unat. - Holly, Col.)	161'5 3/4"	(49.22)
7. Leon Dombrowski (US-A)	145'1 1/2"	(44.25)

At the age of 20 Bennett had finished second in the 1940 AAU and threw 183'10 3/4" that year to rank #2 in the world, and would have been a good bet for an Olympic medal. He improved to win the 1947 AAU, and repeated in 1948; his OT effort was a seasonal best, and he went on to win a bronze medal in the Olympics. Dreyer made his second Olympic team, edging Sam Felton, who achieved a certain popularity by occasionally wearing his "boater" hat when throwing. The 22 year-old had been runner-up to Bennett in the '47 and '48 AAU meets, and was the only NCAA champion between 1936 and 1951 - if only because the Hammer was only held in 1948 during those years. Felton had been aged 7 when Cruickshank first placed in the (1933) AAU.

Javelin Throw - July 10

1. Martin Biles (SFOC)	225'9"	(68.81)
2. Bob Likens (SJS)	222'3 1/2"	(67.75)
3. Steve Seymour (LAAC)	218'9"	(66.68)
4. Charles Missfeldt (MuAC)	206'9 7/8	(63.04)
5. Delf Pickarts (LAAC)	202'10"	(61.83)
6. Bill Iannicelli (Franklin & Marshall)	198'11 3/4"	(60.65)

7. Frank Guess (Texas) 190'11 1/4" (58.20), 8. Bill Chyneoweth (US-A) 186'0 1/2" (56.71), 9. Dick Gelb (Yale) 180'0 1/2" (54.87), 10. Bud Held (Stan) 176'7" (53.82), Carl Schuette (Marquette) 3 Fouls. Frank Friedenbach (Cal) - Dnc

Biles came from a javelin throwing family; he won the NCAA title in 1940-41, and was succeeded in 1943 by his brother Robert. The younger brother had retired by 1948, but Martin had followed AAU wins in 1942-44 with the runner-up spot in 1947-48, and with Steve Seymour, US record holder and champion, was favored to make the team for London. Likens, who qualified for the meeting by finishing 6th in the AAU, was very much unfavored. Indeed, he had decided to retire from the sport after graduating in early June, as he had a wife and 2 children to support, but his father-in-law convinced him to try out for the team. The man thought to be the likely 3rd man was Franklin "Bud" Held, winner of the NCAA title, but Held had a miserable afternoon, finishing 10th. He would subsequently be the first American to throw 250ft, 260ft (both in 1953), and 270ft (in 1956), as well as being the first thrower to officially throw 80 meters (80.41/263'10" in 1953).

Decathlon - June 26/27, Bloomfield, N.J.

1. Bob Mathias (Tulare HS, Ca.)	7222
11.2/6.57/12.97/1.83/51.0/15.1/42.55/3.51/47.94/4:55.2	
2. Irving "Moon" Mondschein (NYPC)	7099
11.1/7.09/12.93/1.98/50.9/17.0/38.39/3.35/42.77/4:45.6	
3. Floyd Simmons (LAAC)	7053
11.2/6.73/12.40/1.93/52.1/15.5/41.19/3.35/47.77/5:03.5	
4. Al Lawrence (LAAC)	6840
11.1/6.94/11.94/1.78/51.2/14.9/32.81/3.51/42.03/4:53.5	
5. Jim Roberson (Ind)	6774
11.4/6.21/15.47/1.73/53.9/16.5/43.06/3.20/47.08/4:52.8	
6. Billy D. Weaver (Okla)	6488
11.6/6.71/11.18/1.83/53.0/16.4/33.45/3.51/42.69/4:34.8	

7. Charles Baker (Ark) 6414, 8. Connor Hollingsworth (USMC) 6088, 9. Frank Friedenbach (Cal) 6069, 10. Norman Rathbun (Unat - Charlottesville, Va) 5819, 11. Wilbur Ross (Baldwin-Wallace) 5700, 12. William Mitchell (Gtn) 5641, 13. Russell Thomas (Jeannette Harriers) 5612, 14. John Voight (Baltimore OC) 5431, 15. Roger Terwilliger (Ill AC) 5399, 16. Glenn Wisser (Jeannette Harriers) 5107, 17. Leonard Phillips (Unat - New Haven) 4934, 18. Al Kaiser (SDS) 4506, 19. Lemont McCracken (Jeannette Harriers) 4328, 20. Robert Lowther (LSU) 3416

Bob Mathias began his decathlon career at the Southern Pacific AAU event on June 10, 1948. He was 17 years, 6 months and 10 days old at the time. He went on to win the first of his 11 decathlons (he was never defeated) with a score of 7094. It was a score that only 3 other men beat in 1948, and was a good augur for the OT/AAU meet. There, he trailed 3 time AAU champion Irv Mondschein, who jumped a fine 6'6" in his speciality event, and led the field with 4187 points to 3885 for Simmons and 3833 for Mathias, but after Mathias ran 15.1 to Mondschein's 17.0 the deficit was reduced to 94 points, and with a 139'7 3/16" throw (to Mondschein's 125'11 3/8") the score was 5534 to 5503...in favour of Mathias. He lost ground only in the 1500, but by then the win was salted away. Mathias went on to become the youngest ever Olympic champion in the absence of Estonia's Heino Lipp - the world's best in 1948. Simmons, third placer in Bloomfield went on to repeat that placing in London, but Mondschein, who had a miserable high jump, was not in form in Wembley Stadium, and finished down in 8th place. Billy Weaver, 6th in Bloomfield, became better known as Dennis Weaver, initially in "Gunsmoke", and then in Stephen Spielberg's hit TV-film "Duel" and as Marshall "McCloud".

WOMEN - Providence, Rhode Island - July 12

Planning may be everything in a military campaign, but it was not the case with the womens' 1948 OT. Athletes hoping to double in the 100/200 were expected to race 5 times in one day, and if an Owens' type multiple events triple with a field event included was attempted, the athlete was liable to be completely exhausted by the end of the Trials. Of the 12 athletes selected to compete in London, only 3 were Caucasian. Standards for acceptance into the meet were set by the USOC's track committee after the 1947 season, with the following levels: 100 – 12.4, 200 – 26.0, 80h – 12.3, HJ – 5'0 ½", LJ – 17'10 ¼", SP – 39'1 ½", DT – 123'4", JT – 128'4"

100 Meters

1. Mabel Walker (Tus)	12.3
2. Audrey Patterson (TS)	12.4
3. Lillian Young (FPAC)	12.6
4. Mary Griggs (Tus)	12.8
5. Juanita Watson (Tus)	12.8
6. Nancy McClurken (PTAC)	13.2

Semi-finals: first 2 qualify

- 1/ 1. Patterson 12.4, 2. Griggs 12.4, 3. Janet Moreau (RDAC) 12.8, 4. Marie Taylor (NYPAL) 12.8, 5. Dolores Dwyer (GAAC), 6. Mabel Thornes (LPF)
- 2/ 1. Watson 12.5, 2. McClurken 12.8, 3. Dorothy Klein (NYPAL) 12.8, 4. Dorothy Jacobs (DHAC) 12.9, 5. Ila Hicks (Unat-Okla.), 6. Jeanette McKay (Harrisburg, Pa.)
- 3/ 1. Walker 12.5, 2. Young 12.6, 3. Mary Hardaway (TS) 13.1, 4. Jean Walraven (NO-WAC) 13.1, 5. Bessie Barfield (NYPAL), 6. June Morton (LPF)

Heats: first 2 and fastest 4 losers qualify

- 1/ 1. Griggs 12.8, 2. Thornes 13.2, 3. Betty Aurelio (PTAC) 13.5, 4. Mary Oprea (NO-WAC), 5. Alice Gorman (GAAC), Jean Lane (Unat. Detroit) - Dnc
- 2/ 1. Patterson 12.5, 2. Barfield 13.0, 3. Barbara Hood (LPF), 4. Anita Shriver (Fairmont, W.Va.), Isabelle Reynolds (Unat.NY) and Doris Sutter (Unat. -LA) - Dnc
- 3/ 1. Moreau 12.6, 2. Young 12.8, 3. Dwyer, 4. Sara Jones (NYPAL), 5. Maymo Hoskins (Amvets, Brookhaven, Mass.), 6. Lila O'Connell (Unat.- Boston)
- 4/ 1. Watson 12.6, 2. Taylor 13.0, 3. Geraldine Gross (LPF) 13.5, 4. Irene Leach (Little Rody AC), Betty Lawrence (Unat. LA) and Evelyn Tullis (St Louis WAC) - Dnc
- 5/ 1. Walker 12.6, 2. McClurken 12.8, 3. Hicks 13.4, 4. Mercedes Moore (LPF), 5. Martha Suomi (RDAC), Mae Faggs (NYPAL) - Dnc
- 6/ 1. Hardaway 12.7, 2. Klein 12.9, 3. Morton 13.3, 4. Barbara Mooney (Unat. Shenectady, NY), 5. Elaine Burgess (TC), Wally Taib (SGC) - Dnc
- 7/ 1. Hardaway 12.9, 2. Walraven 12.9, 3. McKay 13.0, 4. Marguerite Meadows (NAA), 5. Marilyn Moran (YMCA, Fall River, Mass.), 6. Isabel Ramos (Brockton, Mass)

The fastest woman did not race in the 100m, and only took part in her speciality field event - Alice Coachman, AAU champion in 1942, 1945-46 - the second fastest in the world in 1945 with 12.0. None of the girls present were quite at that level, and indeed none of the 3 selected was able to make it past the first round heats in London.

200 Meters

1. Audrey Patterson (TS)	25.3
2. Nell Jackson (Tus)	25.8
3. Mae Faggs (NYPAL)	25.9
4. Janet Moreau (RDAC)	26.6
5. Dorothy Klein (NYPAL)	28.5
6. Gwen Taylor (Tus)	28.5

Heats: first 2 qualify

- 1/ 1. Jackson 26.1, 2. Klein 27.1, 3. Mabel Thornes (LPF) 27.8, 4. Anita Shriver (Unat. Fairmont, W.Va.), Isabel Ramos (Swank Soc. & AC, Brockton, Mass) - Dnc
- 2/ 1. Patterson 25.3, 2. Moreau 26.8, 3. Muriel Milheiser (GAAC) 28.0, 4. June Morton (LPF), 5. Janice Shogren (Unat. Arlington, Mass.)
- 3/ 1. Faggs 26.4, 2. Taylor 28.2, 3. Barbara Hood (LPF) 28.3, 4. Alice Gorman (GAAC), Barbara Mooney (Unat. Shenectady, NY) and Betty Aurielo (PTAC)

Patterson did better in the 200 than the shorter sprint both here and in London. In Providence she won by a clear 4 meters from Jackson, with 16 year-old Mae Faggs in third. At Wembley Patterson won a bronze medal (although years later it was determined from the photo-finish that she actually finished 4th).

80 Meters Hurdles

1. Bernice Robinson (WPAC)	12.4
2. Nancy Phillips (GAAC)	12.4
3. Theresa Manuel (Tus)	12.6
4. Eleanor Milheiser (GAAC)	12.7
5. Jean Walraven (NO-WAC)	13.3
6. Loretta Blaul (GAAC)	14.0

Heats: first 3 qualify

- 1/ 1. Phillips 12.6, 2. Walraven 13.1, 3. Blaul 13.7, 4. Lillie Purifoy (Tuskegee), Irene Leach (Little Rhody AC, Providence)
- 2/ 1. Robinson 12.2, 2. Manuel 12.2, 3. Milheiser 13.3, 4. Helen Sims (Unat. Arcadia, Ca), 5. Martha Suomi (RDAC)

Robinson, the AAU champion the previous week in Grand Rapids, Mich. with 12.1, and Manuel, the only athlete below 12.0 in 1948 were the favourites, and the 5'10" tall Robinson duly beat her principal opponent, but with Phillips sandwiched between them.

High Jump

1. Alice Coachman (Albany State)	5'4 3/4" (1.644)
2. Bernice Robinson (WPAC)	5'1 3/4" (1.568)
3. Emma Reed (TS)	5'0 3/4" (1.543)
4. Mary Oprea (NO-WAC)	4'8" (1.483)
4. Bessie Leick (NO-WAC)	4'8" (1.483)
6. Barbara Mewes (St Louis)/Edna Sims(LPF)	4'6" (1.432)

Alice Coachman had won the AAU title 10 consecutive times by the time of the 1948, and despite being only 24 had 5 championships over 50m, and 3 AAU wins in the 100 to her credit. Not surprisingly, she was an easy winner in the high jump ahead of hurdles winner Robinson, the only athlete to clear 5'2 3/4", and went on to make 5'4 3/4. Her attempts to go higher being impeded by impending darkness. In London she won gold, the only American woman to do so in 1948, clearing 1.68m/5'6 1/4" to beat Britain's veteran Dorothy Tyler (2nd also in 1936) on the countback.

Long Jump

1. Emma Reed (TS)	18'4 5/8" (5.60)
2. Lillian Young (FPAC)	17'9 3/8" (5.42)
3. Nancy Phillips (GAAC)	17'5" (5.31)
4. Jean Walraven (NO-WAC)	17'3" (5.26)
5. Lillie Purifoy (Tus)	17'2" (5.23)
6. Jeanette McKay (Harrisburg AAA, Pa.)	16'0 1/8" (4.87)
7. Mercedes Moore (LPF) 15'11 5/8" (4.86), 8. Loretta Blaul (GAAC) 15'9 7/8" (4.82),	
9. Barbara Mewes (Unat. St Louis) 15'8 1/8" (4.78), 10. Martha Suomi (RDAC) 15'5 1/2" (4.71), =11. Dolores Dwyer (GAAC) & June Morton (LPF) 15'4 3/8" (4.68), 13. Geraldine Gross (LPF) 15'2 1/4" (4.63)	

Young doubled up successfully in the 100 and LJ, but was edged by Reed, who was to become the only American to make the final. Phillips was injured by the time of the Olympics and was replaced in the hurdles and LJ by Walraven.

Shot Put

1. Frances Kaszubski (NO-WAC)	38'8 1/4" (11.79)
2. Dorothy Dodson (DHAC)	38'4 1/2" (11.70)
3. Ramona Harris (Unat. New York)	37'3 3/4" (11.38)
4. Amelia Bert (Little Rhody AC, Providence)	36'8" (11.17)
5. Doris Sutter (Unat. Los Angeles)	33'4" (10.16)
6. Torchi Blasch (DHAC)	33'2" (10.12)
7. Pauline Ruppeltdt (PTAC)	32'4 3/4" (9.87)

Kaszubski and Dodson were selected for their efforts, though neither was to make the final in London, but Harris did not achieve a good enough distance to meet the requirements of the US Olympic Committee.

Discus Throw

1. Frances Kaszubski (NO-WAC)	122'6 1/2"	(37.33)
2. Dorothy Dodson (DHAC)	113'11"	(34.31)
3. Pauline Ruppeltdt (PTAC)	104'10 3/4"	(31.96)
4. Amelia Bert (Little Rhody AC, Providence)	100'9 3/4"	(30.72)
5. Estelle Kestenbaum (GAAC)	100'9 1/4"	(30.71)
6. Torchi Blasch (DHAC)	93'4"	(28.44)
7. Audrey Sturm (Unat. Phoenix)	89'0 1/4"	(27.13)

Kaszubski and Dodson were again the only throwers selected, and had shared all but one of the AAU SP/DT titles from 1944 to 1948. In London Kaszubski placed 11th with Dodson 16th.

Javelin Throw

1. Dorothy Dodson (DHAC)	140'4"	(42.76)
2. Theresa Manuel (Tus)	115'0"	(34.64)
3. Bessie Leick (NO-WAC)	102'6"	(31.24)
4. Torchi Blasch (DHAC)	86'1"	(26.24)
5. Anita Shriver (Unat. - Fairmont, W.Va.)	76'4"	(23.26)

Dodson made a clean sweep of throwing events, at least as far as Olympic selection was concerned, this time in her prime event, in which she had been the AAU champion every year since 1939. In the Olympic final she missed a bronze medal by just 12 centimeters, throwing 41.96m (to 42.08m by Lily Carlstedt of Denmark).