

# HARVEY GLANCE

by Jon Hendershott

**H**arvey Glance's rise to stardom in the sprint world has been almost as fast as the look his last name implies.

A 9.4 legal/9.3 windy sprinter last year as a senior from Phenix City, on Alabama's eastern border with Georgia, Glance headed to nearby Auburn University. In January, while still 18-years-old (born 3/28/57), Glance started his dash to sprint fame. He lost his only race to another collegian in his first indoor meet in Mobile. But he swept all before him in the collegiate ranks after that, winning the Southeastern Conference and NCAA Indoor crowns. He lost only to dashmen the quality of Steve Williams and Houston McTear.

Outdoors, he has been even more spectacular. Up to and including the SEC meet, Glance had not lost to anyone, he had twice tied the world 100-meter standard of 9.9 and he ran a 9-flat 100 yards which was aided by a wind not that much over the allowable. He won the Florida Relays University division, Drake Relays Invitational (ahead of Mike Goodrich and Ivory Crockett) and an SEC double (the 100 ahead of two-time NCAA champion Reggie Jones). Glance has run a hand-timed 20.1 200—and the big meets still to come.

Through it all, though, Glance has stayed calm, casual and collected, also as his name implies. He is frankly a bit surprised by his sudden emergence, but only because it has come so early. But now that he knows what he can do, he sees his accomplishments as just a beginning.

**T&FN:** What were your thoughts going into the SEC meet [see p. 18] considering all you have accomplished this spring? Did you feel you have a reputation to live up to?

**Glance:** Well, it seems like everywhere I go now people are looking for me. It seems they build up the meet by saying I'll be there. A lot of people even turn out the first day for the prelims. There was a good crowd for the second day of the conference meet and they said I didn't let them down. I guess I didn't.

**T&FN:** Do you feel a responsibility to the people, or do you just try to run your best regardless?

**Glance:** I just try to run my best in every race. I know if I run good, the times will follow anyway. I hope people realize that. I just try to do my best.

**T&FN:** What were your feelings about facing Reggie Jones? He has a considerable reputation himself.

**Glance:** I figured it would be the big matchup, but he kinda let me down because I thought he would press me harder than he did. I won the 100 by two or three strides and I didn't even push down to the tape. In the 220, he didn't even make the finals and that really

disappointed me. With him being knocked out, I was all by myself.

**T&FN:** Which race do you consider your best?

**Glance:** It's rather close. I get started after about 60 yards of the 100, but I tend to loaf in the middle of the 220. But the 100 is my best race because it's over with quicker and I'm stronger than a lot of bigger, taller sprinters. I can beat bigger guys with the finish I have.

**T&FN:** It's been about a month and a half since you first tied the world record and that isn't much time to digest what it all means, but what would you say the world record has meant to you so far?

**Glance:** It's a nice feeling because I always dreamed of being a record holder. I want to be one on my own, but I don't regret sharing it at all. I know I can do it again. I don't point for a record every time I run, but I feel I can run that fast every time. The records I've tied so far are just a starting point, I feel.

**T&FN:** A year ago you were a good high school sprinter, but you were being beaten by McTear, a world record holder himself. What did the term "world record holder" mean to you at this time last year?

**Glance:** McTear was world record holder almost all of the time I ran against him and I respected him for that. It was a thrill to even run against him and I enjoyed it. I thought that if I lost to him people wouldn't think that much of it because I would have lost to a record holder. If I beat him, it would be in my favor.

But now that I've tied the world record I believe the record puts pressure on you, to perform for the people, for your team and also for yourself so that you know you're for real and what you did just wasn't a once-in-a-lifetime thing.

**T&FN:** So how have you tried to keep your head straight about that?

**Glance:** It hasn't changed my lifestyle. People I know look at me now as something called a world record holder but once they are around me and see that I'm still like I have always been, they realize that I'm just Harvey. People who don't know me probably look at me as world record holder, big man in the world. But people who know me know that what I've done really hasn't changed me.

**T&FN:** Last year as a prep, what did you consider as you 100 potential?

**Glance:** Last year I was slow out of the blocks. I was beaten out of the blocks by miles, but I had the same strong finish I have now. I knew I could run pretty well

when I ran 9.3 against McTear last year in Atlanta. My high school coach told me that whenever I got my start down, I would be a truly great sprinter, a consistent sprinter.

**T&FN:** So improving your start has been one of the keys to your improvement?

**Glance:** Definitely. If you could have seen my start in high school you would wonder how I did anything. I used to react to the sound of the blocks, the guys pushing off. But now I react to nothing but the sound of the gun. Once that starter says "Set," that's all I wait for.

My high school coach saw me run indoors this winter and he said I was reacting well to the gun and getting out real well. He told me I had really got it down and that when I got outdoors people would be hearing about me.

**T&FN:** Did you ever set time goals for yourself or were you more concerned with just winning?

**Glance:** Each year I kept dropping my times. In the ninth grade I ran 9.9, in the 10th 9.7, in the 11th 9.5 and last year 9.3. Every year I improved by at least two-tenths of a second. This year it's been three. I've gotten better every year and that's what I want. I'm still looking for better things, but I don't limit myself to shooting for a certain time.

**T&FN:** Did you concentrate on any other things from the time you entered Auburn until this past indoor season, your first competitive season in college?

**Glance:** I worked on my form a lot. I wanted to maintain the form I had in high school, which was good. I didn't want to concentrate so much on improving my start that I lost my form for the rest of the race. I went in with an even mind, on the start, the middle and the end. That way I could become a consistent runner. I think a consistent style makes for consistent results.

**T&FN:** How did you approach the indoor season?

**Glance:** My first meet was the Senior Bowl in Mobile and I couldn't believe how nervous I was before my heat because both Clifford Outlin and Valeriy Borzov were in it. Here was Borzov, the man I saw win the sprints in the Olympic Games and I was running against him.

I got out pretty good and I just ran for my life. Ever since I beat him, I knew I could compete with the big people. That really gave me a lot of confidence. The next meet was in New York and a lot of the big names were there: Outlin, McTear,







Crawford, Riddick, Crockett. Meet after meet I was getting more confidence, more momentum.

**T&FN:** So how did you feel when you won the NCAA Indoor 60?

**Glance:** That was a great thrill, especially since I almost lost out in the semis. I knew what I had to do in the finals. You can't relax in a meet like that.

**T&FN:** What were your reactions to running 10-flat at Florida in your first major outdoor meet?

**Glance:** It was surprising because I was just trying to make the Olympic qualifying standard of 10.2. I ran 10.1 in the heats with a ragged start and so in the final I just told myself to get as good a start as possible. I was happy with the time but I was already looking forward to the next week because I knew I could run 9.9.

**T&FN:** And what were your feelings when you did?

**Glance:** The race was all-out, but felt easy and I didn't walk right back to find out what my time was. I put on my sweats and got ready to continue with the long jump. Then they announced the time and I jumped up and screamed. Then I said a prayer of thanks. But it was so exciting because I never expected to be a world record holder in such a short time.

**T&FN:** Did you expect to run the second 9.9?

**Glance:** Well I lost the 9-flat 100 yards because of too much wind before that meet. Still, going down to LSU

everybody kept telling me, "9.8, 9.8." The wind was strong when we got there but it died before the 100 and the track was fast so I was psyched to do it.

I got out of the blocks as well as I have all year and about 90 meters I pulled away from everybody. The scoreboard showed 9.8 and everybody was cheering but I didn't want to get too happy because I got all excited after the 9.0 before I was told there was too much wind. Then they announced 9.8 and I jumped up and down. I thought I had the record all by myself. But a couple of hours later, coach had to tell me they messed up the timing and it was 9.9 again. It was hard on him because he had to tell me there was too much wind in the 9-flat, too.

**T&FN:** You've seen a lot of the top US sprinters, so who do you rate as your toughest opponents?

**Glance:** I would say Steve Williams in both sprints. I saw him run both at Florida and he looked real smooth, not pushed at all. He's the toughest, then I would rate Reggie Jones, McTear, Riddick and Ed Preston all right there.

**T&FN:** Are you very serious about the long jump, where you have done 24-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ? Coach Rosen says you could be a 26-footer.

**Glance:** I do it mostly for fun. Coach says I have the ability but I'm not really a long jumper. I just do it to help out the team. I want to see Auburn track improve, not just Harvey Glance.

**T&FN:** A year ago, did you ever envision yourself being a national champion and especially a world record holder?

**Glance:** Really, no. I always wanted to be a record holder, but actually I came to college wanting to be a conference and national indoor champ and a conference and national outdoor champ. The Olympics and a record were a long way off. It shocked me when I won the conference and national indoor titles. There were two of my goals already, as a freshman. Now I have the record, and the outdoor nationals are coming up. I'll try to run my best there and if I win that one, I will have accomplished four of my five goals. And if I make the team, I'll just have to sit down and make up some new, bigger goals.

**T&FN:** Have you felt new expectations now, being a world record holder?

**Glance:** I know it would be real surprising in Phenix City if they read that I finished second. People are expecting me to win all the time. Once you get on the top, you have to fight to stay there. There are so many people coming at you, it's hard to stay there. But I just go out and run my race every time and that should put me on top.

**T&FN:** Maybe it's harder to stay on top than it is to get there.

**Glance:** That's something to think about. But I know if I just run my own race every time, I'll be hard to beat. □

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