



from the editor

E. Garry Hill

YOU MIGHT BE A hardcore track & field fan if your family tree... oh, wait, I pulled up the wrong file of one-liners.

Seriously, I was musing the other day about how you and I look at the world differently from most people. We indeed belong to a small subset of society. Heck, you can even call us a cult, but one with only all the good parts.

You might be a hardcore track & field fan if...

So, you indeed might be one of the hardcore...

•if you roll over and look at the digital clock on your night stand and the numbers jump out like classic metric heights/distances instead of the time of day. Maybe you're supposed to get up at 6:00, but

instead your first thought is the classic pole vault barrier of 19-8¼...

- if you know there's probably more validity to Wilt Chamberlain's claims of sexual prowess than there is to his never-happened superstar track credentials...
- if every time you hear the word "grueling" you pair it with "decathlon"...
- if every time you hear "grueling" and "decathlon" paired you groan because you know the 10-eventer isn't really that way...
- if you think that knowing what the 10 decathlon events are and in what order they come is common knowledge, not trivia...
- if watching the Super Bowl produces at least two groans because the announcers have ascribed world-class speed/jumping ability to somebody who has no such credentials...
- if you've ever hitchhiked more than 100 miles to see a meet...
- if you're willing to share a room with a complete stranger because accommodations for a meet are hard to find...
- if you've ever paid a scalper for a track ticket...
- if you've sat through some of the worst TV productions in history because that's your only option for seeing running, jumping & throwing...
- if you've blown off your significant other's (fill in momentous occasion here) because, well, that meet just seemed more important...
- if when nobody's looking you do discus spins in your front room...
- if you look at the 8-foot ceiling in a standard American household and think, "How the heck did Javier Sotomayor ever jump that high?..."
- if the timepiece on your wrist has a stopwatch function you actually use...
- if, given the choice, you'd throw away your shoebox full of vintage baseball cards before you'd chuck your collection of back issues of *T&FN*, no matter how musty they're starting to get...
- if your closet has more track-related tee/polo shirts than it does grown-up clothing...
- if your first reaction to the word "hammer" doesn't include nails...
- if your personalized license plate has a track & field theme...

No, wait, I did pull up the right file! You *really* might be a hardcore track & field fan if your family tree includes more like you. Particularly going forwards, not backwards, because our sport needs more of you.

So, dear obsessed reader, what have I missed here? All contributions welcome.

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