



from the editor

E. Garry Hill

ALLOW ME TO REPEAT the lead from last month's column, which began, "You might be a hardcore track & field fan if..." and I went on to say that you and I, dear reader, look at the world differently from most people. And I cited things you do in your everyday life that mark you as part of a breed apart. That led to some commentary from readers of the column.

You might be a hardcore track fan, if... part 2

John Boyle of Florida wrote, "I have been under the impression that Wilt [Chamberlain] had done a 49-something quarter; 55ft with the 12lb shot and a high-14 or -15 high hurdles at Overbrook HS. Have I been wrong for about 55 yrs?"

My questioning of the Stilt Myth wasn't high-school oriented. Rather, it was/is the oft-repeated claims that as a collegian he high jumped 7-feet and threw the big shot 60-feet, which he most certainly never did. And I have my doubts about the 49-second quarter at any level.

Penn Relays director Dave Johnson reminded me of a game we used to play on road trips: "...if you watch the freeway overpass heights and recite the WR holders at each." He and I used to play another road game, whereby whenever you drove by a city on the highway (no matter what state you were in), you had to name a high school and a track athlete who went there.

From our message board, *kuha* suggested "...if you own 2 or more biographies, in languages you can't read, of athletes who never won Olympic gold medals."

Mighty Favog chipped in with "...if 'Hanson Brothers' doesn't make you think of fictional minor league hockey players."

We're not sure why he doesn't just subscribe, but from *aaronk* came "...if you continually hound the gracious knowledgeable friendly crew at your local running shop for a full week—from the earliest possible date the new issue might arrive—until it actually does arrive—and you pay the \$4.34 (\$3.99 plus \$0.35 sales tax)...and walk out a truly happy camper!"

tuariki suggested "...if you waste hours upon hours trolling this web site."

unclezadok offered "...if you remember when the AAU National Junior T&F Championships had nothing to do with age."

berkeley's choice was "...if you can convert instantaneously between metric and imperial. OK, exact accuracy on the throws scale is a tall order, but I think I have the jumps nailed."

William Rowan of Medford, Oregon mailed a long list of suggestions, including "...if you have ever had trouble mowing your yard because of the holes indented into the ground after the neighborhood kids' shot put contest the day before."

Tough to top *DrJay*, who noted "if, during the year your marriage was really foundering, your wife/soon-to-be-ex snarls, 'You care more about Alan Webb than you do about ME!!' True story."

Ah yes, marital bliss. I can only imagine how many romances have foundered when the day came that one of the mates finally got around to announcing, "Oh, by the way, dear, don't ever plan on seeing me the last weekend of April for the rest of your life. I'll be at the Penn Relays."

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