THEY SAY THAT TIME FLIES (when you’re having fun…but 70 years, really?! OK, so I haven’t been on the job for 70 years (only a mere 47), but as noted on p. 8, this is indeed year No. 70 of the intergalactically famous T&FN World Rankings.

I’m proud to have been part of them since ’77.

Let’s take a quick meander down memory lane and look at the No. 1 performers as the decades of Rankings have slipped by. The first year that we assigned some rational ordering of the year’s performers was in ’47. So, without further adieu, a thumbnail look at the 10-year anniversaries, with the cover pages of the issue in which they appeared (not all years had all events ranked):


We weren’t yet ranking women. We were so we hadn’t choosing any Athletes Of The Year.


You can find the 2016 honors, of course, in the following pages… Now, all in favor of hanging around to see who tops the charts when the 2026 awards come out, the line forms behind me!