



# from the editor

*E. Garry Hill*

**BACK IN JANUARY OF 2014** this space was dedicated to the concept “The IAAF & USATF Halls Of Fame Need More Members.”

What was true then has become even truer today, but in this column I’ll just talk about the more important of the two Halls, the IAAF’s, which hasn’t been well handled from the get-go, and almost 5 years after its inaugural class was inducted still numbers a mere 48 (31 men, 17 women).

**The IAAF’s Hall Of Fame Still Doesn’t Have Nearly Enough Members**

How we got to those 48 still gripes me. When the IAAF did its inaugural class of 24 in November of ’12, it ensured that all geographical areas and all event groups were represented. That’s wonderfully PC and even

makes some decent marketing sense, but it offends my sense of what a HOF is all about. And what the first class named is all about, which is the honor of being super-special.

The criteria for the first class selected also mandated that the athletes must have at least 2 gold medals from the Olympics and/or World Championships. So if you were an athlete in an event that didn’t allow doubling, or your career was before the WC were invented, or you were boycotted out of a Games or were from an era where there were no Olympics at all, or were from an era where many/most Olympic gold medalists promptly retired, you need not apply.

Two more sets of 12 were added in ’13 & ’14. “But what about the classes of ’15 & ’16,” you might well ask? Big ball-drop by Monaco on those. Instead of using the Hall as a spectacular tool to create good memories at a time when the federation has been mired in the muck of first the Diack scandal and then the Russian doping melodrama, it choose simply to ignore the Hall.

One hopes the IAAF will get back on track this year, but even if it does I have to ask, “Why hasn’t there been any publicity about it?” Other sports manage to make hay with their Halls for many months of the year. Why not a list of say 100 candidates at the start of each year, cutting that to 50 quarterfinalists at mid-year when the Diamond League goes on its inevitable hiatus and then to 25 semifinalists a month or two before the class proper is introduced?

Speaking of the invisibility of the Hall, should you want to know who is currently in, the word “fame” appears nowhere on the IAAF’s home page. Instead, you need to go to a row of links at the top and figure out that the Hall is listed under the pull-down menu titles “Athletes.”

Color me selfish, but before I shuffle off this mortal coil I’d like to see a truly representative international HOF with all the names that “belong” there.

Simple made-up-on-the-spot-math: let’s *conservatively* say that each of the 22 standard men’s events should average 5 HOF members each. And—through no fault of their own, but a shorter history is a shorter history—let’s say the 21 women’s events should average 3. That makes for a “proper” total of 173 members. Subtract the 48 already in and that means at least 125 are missing.

At a dozen a year it’s going to take 11 years before the HOF even gets current with those athletes who are eligible now (retired in ’06 or earlier). And 11 years from now there will have been another 20 years of newly eligible people (can you say Usain Bolt, class of ’27?). The Hall:

Men—Abebe Bikila, Valeriy Brumel, Sergey Bubka, Seb Coe, Adhemar da Silva, Glenn Davis, Harrison Dillard, Hicham El Guerrouj, Vladimir Golubnichiy, Michael Johnson, Alberto Juantorena, Kip Keino, Hannes Kolehmainen, Robert Korzeniowski, Carl Lewis, Janis Lusia, Bob Mathias, Noureddine Morceli, Edwin Moses, Paavo Nurmi, Dan O’Brien, Parry O’Brien, Al Oerter, Jesse Owens, Viktor Saneyev, Yuriy Syedikh, Peter Snell, Daley Thompson, Lasse Viren, Dutch Warmerdam & Emil Zátopek.

Women—Iolanda Balas, Fanny Blankers-Koen, Betty Cuthbert, Babe Didrikson, Heike Drechsler, Marjorie Jackson, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Marita Koch, Stefka Kostadinova, Natalya Lisovskaya, Svetlana Masterkova, Marie-José Pérec, Wilma Rudolph, Shirley Strickland-De La Hunty, Irena Szewińska, Grete Waitz & Junxia Wang.

*Track & Field News*  
*The Bible Of The Sport Since 1948*  
*Founded by Bert & Cordner Nelson*

**E. GARRY HILL — Editor**

**ED FOX — Publisher**

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Sieg Lindstrom ..... Managing Editor

Jeff Hollobaugh..... Associate Editor

**BUSINESS STAFF**

Janet Vitu ..... Executive Publisher

Wallace Dere.....Office Manager

Teresa Tam ..... Art Director

**WORLD RANKINGS COMPILERS**

Jonathan Berenbom, Richard Hymans, Dave Johnson, Nejat Kök, R.L. Quercetani (Emeritus)

**SENIOR EDITORS**

Bob Bowman (Walking), Roy Conrad (Special Projects), Jon Hendershott (Emeritus), Bob Hersh (Eastern), Mike Kennedy (HS Girls), Glen McMicken (Lists), Walt Murphy (Relays), Jim Rorick (Stats), Jack Shepard (HS Boys)

**U.S. CORRESPONDENTS**

John Auka, Bob Bettwy, Bret Bloomquist, Bill Buchalter, Tom Casacky, Pete Cava, Gene Cherry, Keith Conning, Cheryl Davis, Elliott Denman, Peter Diamond, Charles Fleishman,

John Gillespie, Becca Gillespy-Peter, Rich Gonzalez, Ed Gordon, Ed Grant, George Grenier, Ben Hall, Sean Hartnett, Mike Hubbard,

Dave Hunter, Tom Jennings, Roger Jennings, Tom Jordan, Kim Koffman, Don Kopriva, Dan Lilot, Charlie Mahler, Paul Merca, Larry Newman, Lee Nichols, Jack Pfeifer, Shawn Price,

Harv Rentschler, Kirk Reynolds, Brian Russell, Rich Sands, Kevin Saylor, Charles Shaffer, Jim Spier, Jesse Squire,

Don Steffens, Larry Story, Paul Swangard, Carol R. Swenson, Gary Trigueiro, Jules Trigueiro, Steve Vaitones, Howard Willman, David Woods

**INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS**

Steven Downes, Matti Hannus, Ian Hodge, Jonas Hedman, Atsushi Hoshino, Mike Hurst, Mirko Jalava, Paul Jenes, Alfons Juck,

A. Lennart Julin, Duncan Mackay, Peter Matthews, Phil Minshull, K. Ken Nakamura, Bob Ramsak, Sergey Tikhonov, Chris Turner, Mel Watman

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Claus Andersen, Errol Anderson, Greg Armstrong, John Burke, Gladys Chai, Rich Clarkson, Giancarlo Colombo, Tony Duffy, Don Gosney, Jeff Jacobsen, Anthony R. Jones,

Kirby Lee, Bill Leung, Andrew McClanahan, Jiro Mochizuki, Kevin Morris, David Peterson, Victor Sailer, Mike Scott, Mark Shearman, Kim Spir, Cheryl Treworgy