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TRACK NEWSLETTER

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By Bert & Cordner Nelson, Track & Field News

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NEWS

EUROPE Two new world records. Audun Boysen of Norway lowered own 1000 meter record to 2:19.0 at Goteborg Aug. 30, after hitting 800m in 1:51. Jerzy Chromik of Poland ran 8:41.2 for 3000m steeplechase at Brno, Czechoslovakia, Aug. 31. (24 hours earlier Chromik had run an "easy" 3:45.0). Also three European records: Heinz Futterer 20.6 for 200m on Sept. 4; Eeles Landstrom 14-9 1/8; and Leonid Shcherbakov 53-7 3/4, but with wind. Sprints: Bartenyev 10.4 (his third) and 10.5; Konovalov 10.4; Germar beat Futterer 10.6 to 10.7; Janecek 21.1 & 21.0; Kaufmann beat Futterer 21.3 to 21.4; Hellsten 46.6 (Finnish record) from Haas 47.6; Boysen 47.4 (Norwegian rec); Degats 47.3 (equals French rec); Middle distances: Marichev 1:48.6 (USSR rec) from Ivakin 1:48.7; Liska, CSR, 1:49.0 from Jungwirth 1:49.4 & Dijan, France, 1:49.5; Hewson 2:20.6; Iharos 2:20.8; Nielsen 3:43.0 from Ericsson 3:45.8 and Aberg 3:47.0; Tabori 4:03.6 from Iharos and Nielsen, both 4:03.8; Rozsavolgyi 3:44.0 from Hewson 3:45.6, Strzinek, CSR, 3:46.0, Ericsson 3:46.2, Mugosa 3:46.2 (YUGO. rec) and six others under 3:50.0, at Budapest August 20. Distances: also at Budapest, Aug. 20, Iharos 13:57.6 ("easy" to help countrymen), from Szabo 13:59.2, Beres 14:01.0, Kovacs 14:01.4, Berta 14:01.8 (all Hungarian), & Ibbotson 14:18.6; Kuts 14:03.6 and new Russian record and second on all-time list, reported as 29:02.6 and 29:06.2; Zatopek 14:07.6; Taipale 14:07.6 (Finnish rec) from Tuomaala 14:09.4; Schade 29:41.8; Vlasenko 8:45.4 (Russian rec); Hurdles: Savel 51.7; Ilin 51.8; Bonah 51.9; Jumps: Foldessy 24-9 5/8; Dementyev 51-6 1/2; Throws: Merta 176-9 5/8; Krivonosov 208-8 3/4; Rut 197-9 5/8; Sidlo 259-4 1/2; Nikkinen 258-1 1/2; Will 252-7 1/2. (All from Roberto Quercetani, as usual.)

U.S. Hal Connolly upped his American hammer record to 206-10 at Boston Aug. 25 for third place on all-time list. (Boston paper said Hal arrived late, had few warmups, threw up hill, and his new hammer weighed 16 1/2 pounds). Harry Bright won a 1:54.8 half in New York 8/25. At Toronto, Sept. 3, Santee ran 4:11, Sowell 1:53.8, Golliday 9.6, and Richards vaulted 14-6 1/2. All-comers, Alhambra: (Reverse dates on Aug. 13 & 20 results in last TN), Aug 27: Stanley 48.7m; Shelton 6-8; Vick 165-1 and 57-0 3/4; Howard Smith 162-6 1/2; Levack and Mattos 14-3 1/2; Cook 23-2; Sept. 3: Vick 57-5, personal best and 9th on all time list (extra trial of 57-8); Shelton 6460 in decathlon, Warren Shelton 5624; Vick 156-11 1/2. Americans in Europe: Brussels, 9/3, Boysen 1:49.0 from Moens & Stanley, 1:52.2; Richard 10.7 and 22.0; Maiocco 21.7; Smith 13-7 1/8; LaPierre 3:55.0.

WIND SPRINTS

Arnie Sowell turned down the current European trip because he has been in army training camp and is not in shape...Arnie says he is beginning his cross country training now...under the British National Coaching system the coaches spend 95% of their time training coaches instead of coaching athletes...Shcherbakov trains with hundreds of hops and steps and can hop a hundred in extremely fast time...Bud Held is the new father of a 7-6 boy...Chataway will run in the 5000 at Moscow Sept. 11, but business will make him miss the Czechoslovakia meet Sept. 14-15....Billy Joe Wright of San Jose, who lifts weights and uses the O'Brien form, was over 56 feet in NCAA practice...observers have noted that O'Brien was not coming straight through on his puts, but makes an arc...Athletics World points out that many hammer throwers become dizzy on three turns while ballerinas can do 20 or 30 fast spins and then stand without a tremor on the point of one foot. One did 121.

STAPS

Best 1000m marks of all time:		2:20.9	Landy, Australia	1954	
2:19.0	Boysen, Norway	1955	2:21.0n	Lawrenz, Germany	1955
2:20.2	Hewson, GB	1955	2:21.2	Jungwirth, CSR	1952
2:20.5	Nielsen, Denmark	1955	2:21.3	Aberg, Sweden	1952
2:20.8	Whitfield, US	1953	2:21.3	Spurrier, US	1955
2:20.8n	Lueg, Germany	1955	2:21.4	Gustafsson, Sweden	1946
2:20.8n	Iharos, Hungary	1955	2:21.4	Hansenne, France	1948
2:20.9n	Moens, Belgium	1953	2:21.5	Harbig, Germany	1941
			2:21.5	Salsola, Finland	1955

Best 3000m steeplechase performers of all-time:

8:41.2	Chromik, Poland	1955	8:48.0	Rozsnyoi, Hungary	1955
8:44.4	Rinteenpaa, Finland	1953	8:48.4	Larsen, Norway	1955
8:45.4	Ashenfelter, USA	1952	8:48.6	Kazantsev, USSR	1952
8:45.4	Karvonen, Finland	1955	8:49.0	Kurchavov, USSR	1954
8:45.4	Wlasenko, USSR	1955	8:49.0	Kodyaykin, USSR	1954
8:47.8	Segedin, Yugo.	1953	8:49.8	Brlica, CSR	1955

MORE WIND SPRINTS

Yuriy Lituyev is married to Valentina Bogdanova, winner of the 1950 European championships at 19-3 1/8, making a husband and wife team second to the Zatopeks...Joel Shankle of Duke scored 690 3/4 points in three years of varsity track...Don Hubbard of San Jose and Phil Conley of Caltech were student body presidents last semester...Doug Clement of Oregon, Bill Heard of Oklahoma A&M, Kevan Gosper of Michigan State, and George Hescocock and Bernard Bruce of Boston U all were honor students... Coach Francis Cretzmeyer says his Deacon Jones of Iowa "is so good he almost scares me. He is a great worker, has terrific energy and interest, is smart and coachable, and loves to run. He runs everywhere, walking is too slow, and he cannot stand still a minute...Coach Vern Wolfe thinks Jim Brewer can hit 15 feet before he leaves high school, says he works the year around on his weaknesses, has unbelievable poise and confidence, and possesses a burning desire. Has high ideals, never misses a day of training, and follows his workout schedule to the letter...the week preceding his 1:47.5, Lon Spurrier had this schedule: Saturday, Mexico City, relaxed; Sunday, long workout; Mon, Tues, Wed, at the beach at Acapulco, loafed, big workout Wednesday; flew home Wednesday night, arriving Berkeley 4 p.m. Thursday. Jogged a bit. Ran world record time Saturday...some, including Stanford coach Jack Weiershauser, have expressed the theory that Spurrier was helped by returning to sea level from the 7600 ft. altitude, where, the theory goes, his lungs became more efficient. But Spurrier doesn't think so, nor does Colorado coach Frank Potts who says it takes three months for an athlete to become acclimated to the jump from sea level to high altitudes...Leamon King, Cal's 9.4 frosh sprinter, has never had a bad muscle, or as much as an ache, but has had pneumonia three times, including his sophomore and senior years in high school. His prep coach, Dan Della, feels King's best event is the 220, though he is a possible record breaker in the 100 as well...26 states have state high school cross country championships, not including California, where cross country is expanding but has not reached the state level...oldest marks in the world's all-time best performers list, through 1954, and generally to 10 places, are: George Simpson, 9.4, 1929; Charles Paddock 10.2 1921; Roland Locke 20.5, 1926; 26-0 1/4, Sylvio Cator, 1928; 25-11 1/8, Ed Hamm, 1928; Frank Wykoff and Hubert Meier 9.4, 1930; Dan Joubert 9.4 1931; Jesse Owens, Ralph Metcalfe 9.4 1933; George Anderson 9.4, 1934; Metcalfe 10.2 1932; Owens 10.2 1936; Owens 20.3, 1935; Metcalfe 20.4 1933; Harvey Wallender 20.5, 1935; Archie Williams 46.1m, 1936.(con

BULLETIN BOARD

September issue of Track & Field News to be mailed Sept. 16. Next issue of Track Newsletter, Sept. 20.

Don't forget Sept. 13 deadline for contest announced in August, issue of T&FN. Every TNewsletter subscriber is entitled to 5 entries. TN Buzz Sawyer, 906 W. Ocean View Av., Norfolk 3, Va., needs April 1950 and August 1950 issues of T&FN to complete his files. Write him if available for sale or otherwise. Likewise for Tim Owens, 958 Sherwood Road, San Marino, Calif., who wants copy of March 1948.

NOTED WITH INTEREST

ROSS McWHIRTER, in Athletics World, surveys the 400m--440y hurdles, using 53.0 for 440y and 52.6 for 400m as the international standard. At the end of 1948 there were 39 men from 10 countries who had equalled or bettered these figures--USA 26, Sweden 3, Germany 2, France 2. After the 1952 Games there were 59 hurdlers from 13 countries--USA 35, Sweden 5, USSR 3, GB 3, Germany, Italy, France and South Africa 2. By the end of the 1954 season there were 78 men from 18 nations--USA 37, GB 6, USSR 5, Sweden 5, Germany 4, France, Hungary 3, Finland, South Africa 2, and one each for Eire, Ceylon, New Zealand, Brazil, Australia, Rumania, Columbia, Chile, and Canada. Also 2 for Italy. Average of the top ten men was 51.31 for US, 52.28 for USSR, 52.74 for GB, and 52.76 for Germany. American prominence has been achieved even though the event is not on the college schedules. Our top ten men are: Hardin, 1934, 50.6; Moore, 1952, 50.7; Cochran, 1948, 51.1, Culbreath 1953, 51.3; Yoder, 1952, 51.4, Ault, 1949, 51.4; Patterson, 1936, 51.6; McBain, 1940, 51.6; Schofield, 1936, 51.7; DeVinney, 1952, 51.7; and Blackmon, 1952, 51.7. (Note that 7 of these marks were made in Olympic years).

ARMOUR MILNE, in Athletics Weekly, writes of Emil Zatopek: "In his first of the season record bid, the Iron Man at last showed himself to be human by sinking into near mediocrity with three kilometers still to be run, to finish up with a time of 29:33.0, the ninth fastest of his career, but 38.8 seconds outside the record. The aging Olympian looked even more distressed than usual, and was struggling more than ever before in the last stages. It is possible, of course, that I had the unwelcome privilege of seeing the beginning of Zatopek on the way out, but I would not like to venture such an opinion until he runs again under better conditions. His best previous performances were: 28:54.2, 1954; 29:02.6, 1950; 29:12.0, 1950; 29:17.0, 1952; 29:21.2, 1949; 29:26.0, 1952; 29:28.2, 1949; 29:29.8, 1951. (Ed note: In 1953 Emil ran 29:01.6 and 29:25.8. In 1954 he also did 28:58.0, 29:09.8, and 29:20.8.)

TOM COURTNEY, half-miler, on his return from Europe, told a news man: "Franz Stampfl told me he could get me down to 1:43.5 after a year's work. I wasn't interested, even if it were possible to work with him. Like all European coaches, Stampfl is a taskmaster. I saw what those European runners had to do to become so good. They practice four hours a day, every day. Sometimes they do as much as eight hours of running in a day. I only work out three times a week and for two hours. Of course they get results, but there is more to it than just training. The European tracks are best for the 800 and mile. There is more spring in the cinder paths. Moreover, the crowd is always big and noisy. Turku has the finest track on which I have ever run. Only the Los Angeles Coliseum in the U.S. is comparable...I'm sure one of our runners will win the next Olympics. After all, Sowell, Spurrier, Tidwell and others are younger than most Europeans and should reach their peaks about Olympic time...The Europeans and many of us here doubt that Harbig ever ran 1:46.6. After all, his second best was only 1:48.8."

SO THEY TELL US

JOHN BENNETT, broad jumper: "I learned a lot about jumping on my European tour, some points that are going to help me a lot next year. Courtney was a big attraction on the tour. His legs turned to rubber midway, but still could better 1:50 easily. Seaman and Reiser tired badly, as distance runners do on these tours. They were no match for Europe's best, but they gave it the old college try everytime. The Czechs welcomed us and you could easily see that they envy our freedom. They have some good athletes, but they rarely leave the country, only the very best. There were roughly 45,000--50,00 at our two meets."

TN AL BUEHLER, new cross country coach at Duke: "I hope to do a thesis on 'The Cardiovascular Effects of Distance Running', and I am following Stampfl's basis reasoning on lactic acid and its effect on muscular contraction (as noted in June T&FN). Franklin Henry of Cal has done considerable research in the physiology of track and field. His work is published in the research quarterly and Athletic Journal and would be of interest to any track nut."

TN ALLAN BANGS, Monterey Park, Calif: "The answer to Fred Wilt's proposed committee to assure the continuance of runners and field men is to be found in the small all-comers meets. The meets have been a success and are assured for next year, but what about 1957? When I came out of high school and was unable to go to college I could run in only 3 meets a year. Now, with the all-comers season of 8 or 10 weeks, I can get in some real competition!"

TN JOE GALLI, Australia: "Rumor has it that Landy will be running next summer. I don't what there is in it, and it would be useless to ask John. The answer would be either evasive, or a straight-out denial. He likes privacy...In my opinion, coaching is only 10% of the reason of success in the US, and some other countries. It is mass participation. With this, the facilities, big numbers taking part, the competition to get to the top is fierce, and so the standards keep going up. I don't see how coaching is responsible for Brewer vaulting 14-2 at 16, Ray Martin beating 57 feet at 19. There is more to it than that--perhaps some natural capacity your people have for it. There is food for thought in the whole matter--why Americans attain such fabulous field marks at a very early age, while others take years to get marks not as high."

TN BILL JIMESON, Baltimore: "Let me sound off about Texas. Everyone is always saying they get some pretty fast times down there--they must use fast watches. I believe their times. I was in Texas for the 1946 AAU. Everything was perfect. You could ask for no better running conditions. We don't get Texas conditions in Baltimore until July. I once told Art Bragg that if he lived in Texas he would be the world's record holder. His best in Baltimore is 9.5. In Texas that would be a 9.3 or maybe 9.2. If some of our real great sprinters were to go to Texas we would have a new world's record."

TN EMERSON CASE, Schnectady: "I have been extremely puzzled to reading of how slow the L.A. Coliseum track is. I recall reading during the 32 Olympics of how the track was so fast that its speed through the great American trio of hurdlers--Beard, Keller and Saling--off their strides and caused them to hit the hurdles badly. Has the track deteriorated in some manner? Or have other and supposedly faster tracks been developed or improved since? (Ed note: Tracks do deteriorate gradually but regularly, losing life and speed over a period of years. The Coliseum track has been redone twice in the last few years, but evidently something is lacking still)...Could Roberto Quercetani give us a list of European tracks with information on size, length of straightaways, sharpness of curves, composition, etc.? It would be very helpful in evaluating European times."