

TRACK NEWSLETTER

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By Bert & Cordner Nelson, Track & Field News \$6 per year (24 issues)

NEWS

UNITED STATES Wes Santee won the first annual military cross country run at Fort Meade, Dec. 2, run 3 miles in 14:56.7, winning from Joe La Pierre, 15:09. On Dec. 7 Santee ran 3/4 mile in practice in 2:56.2, two seconds better than his American record of 1952. Gordon Dickson won the 30,000m (18.6 miles) Pearl Harbor memorial road race at Queens, Dec. 7, in 1:56:00.1, from Rodolfo Mendez. AAU approved Golliday's record at 9.3, after a rhubarb over a possible 9.2. AAU and Olympic Committee set Olympic trial dates at June 28-29, Los Angeles. Bobby Morrow, Parry O'Brien, Lon Spurrier left Dec. 11 for meets in New Zealand and Australia.

EUROPE Amazing, ageless Adolfo Consolini, 39 next month, regained his European discus record with 186-11 3/4 on Dec. 11 at Bellinzona, Switzerland; it is the best throw in the world this year, and puts Consolini third on all time list, behind Gordien and Iness. Kresimir Racic broke Yugoslavia hammer record with 197-9 1/4 Nov. 11, and Milos Maca equalled his Czech record with 200-10 1/2 Nov. 14. Oxford beat Cambridge in cross country, 37 to 41, with Ian Boyd and A. D. Gordon tying.

SOUTH AFRICA. Middelburg, Nov. 11--DuPreeze 9.9, 21.7; Schade 9:18.5; Oberbecck 24-2 1/2. Queenstown, Nov. 19--Phillips 9.7, Germar suffering muscle injury; Van Zyl 47.7y, Spence 47.7; Riley 14.5, Steines 14.5. Krugersdorp, Nov. 19--Nel 9.8, Van Heerden 21.7, Van Der Merwe 14.5; Price 24-3; Short 50-10; Duplessis 166-5 1/2. Trompsburg, Nov. 23--Van Heerden 21.7; Steines 14.6; Malan 154-5 1/2. Johannesburg (6000 ft. altitude), Nov. 26, Nel 9.8; Soine 4:19.1, Lueg fourth; Schade 14:34.5; Van Der Merwe 14.3 (equals So. African record), Burger 14.4, Steines 14.5; Price 25-3 3/4 (S.A. and Empire record) (also 24-5, 24-7 1/2, 24-10 1/2); Oberbeck 24-5; Bloemfontain, Dec. 3--Van Der Merwe 14.3; Schade 14:29.2; Lueg 4:13.2; Stracke 1:53.3; Price 25-10 (S.A. and Empire record), Oberbeck, 25-0;

NEW ZEALAND Rae 9.7, NZ resident record; Halberg 4:15.0; Jeffries 6-6 3/8, 6-6, and 6-6 5/8; HSJ, Norris (age 15) 47-1 1/2;

AUSTRALIA Iharos, Tabori, Rozsavolgyi to run in Melbourne Dec. 14, 17 and 21, at new cinder track at Olympic Park. Lincoln 4:12; Stephens 4:17.6 from Warren 4:18.6; Power 14:49.0 5000m; Gipson 48.5; Clohessy 4:11.3; Hogan 9.8; Macmillan 1:54.5; Blackney 14:03.6.

JAPAN Vikko Karvonen, Finland, won 9th Asahi International Marathon in 2:33:16 at Fukuoka, Dec. 11.

WIND SPRINTS

A total of 120 broadcasters from 40 countries will describe the 1956 Olympics from 50 studios in the main stadium...meanwhile a hassle has arisen over plans to give exclusive television rights to a British firm. Opponents say it would mean less newsreel and TV coverage in US...Gordon Pirie, out with an injured achilles tendon, has had to cancel participation in the Sao Paulo, Brazil, New Year's Eve race, in which Ken Norris will run...England is having a series of monthly indoor track meets at the RAF station, Cosford, Shropshire. First results include 6.7 for 60y; 4:27.6 for one mile; 40-0 for shot... Bob Rodenkirchen, 20.8 in 1937, is the new president of the New York Athletic Club's Spiked Shoe Club, succeeding Henry Dreyer...13 of 22 Russian national records were set in 1955. The oldest is the 10.3 100 of 1951, with two in 52, two in 53, and 4 in 54...Norris McWhirter of Athletics World will be in New York until Jan. 4, and back in time for meets in March and April...Notre Dame, Adelphi, Iona have joined IC4A.

## SO THEY TELL US

P.N. HEIDENSTROM, New Zealand: "O'Brien, Morrow and Spurrier are being awaited with a great deal of interest. O'Brien of course will meet no opposition of any kind, but there are some (excluding me) who think Rae will test Morrow. That remains to be seen, but I think Spurrier, if he runs the mile, will not find the going very easy against Halberg, that is if Halberg is in the shape and the mood. In fact Halberg would be tough against Santee, who was originally headed here. It is strange, but New Zealand has always had the answer to any American distance or middle distance man to come here, and there have been some good ones. Randolph Rose beat Lloyd Hahn two out of three in 1926, including 4:13.6, and several men had the edge on Rufus Kiser in 1931. Harris beat Johnny Fulton in both races in 1947 (1:49.4 to 1:49.5 in one), Whitfield was not in shape to beat Wilson and Simpson at the Centennial Games, nor was Twomey a match for Marshall. I have good grounds for hoping that the record will be maintained this year. Halberg was to run Santee only at Auckland Dec. 28. Maybe Spurrier will fill in."

BOB RUBIN, Sports publicist, Univ. of Calif.: "Spurrier is in pretty good shape, but the trip was a complete surprise so he isn't in top racing form. Still, he should get under 1:50 after a couple of races. Lon says he intends to run some miles next spring, but this may be an opportunity to do it sooner." (Note: The schedule calls for meets in Dunedin Dec. 17, Christchurch Dec. 21, Napier Dec. 26, and Auckland Dec. 28. Two meets in Australia the first week in Jan., most likely after the Hungarians have gone home).

HARRY BEINART, Cape Town, South Africa: "Schade's 3 mile time of 14:34.5 at Johannesburg, 6000 feet above sea level is exceptional and is 5 seconds better than Chataway managed in the high altitude. A long study of comparative performances in high altitudes has convinced me that runners are affected by about 40-50 seconds over 3 miles."

CUNEY KORYUREK, Fresno: "I saw those Hungarians in Stockholm last September. Iharos and Tabori ran to win. Later, Iharos told the press he didn't mind being second to Tabori. As a reward Iharos got a collection of records, which he said he would play for his friends. Tabori got a suitcase... In Sweden vs. Germany meet, in late August, Hass impressed me very much. He started at least 25 meters behind in the relay. Biding his time, stride by stride he gained all the way and lost by inches. It was one of the greatest relay races I have ever seen."

PETE BROWN, Altadena, Calif: "John Muri High School, scene of the All-Comers meets in 1953 and 1954, now has a beautiful, brand new, Helsinki type track which will be ready for next season. I hope the All-comers meets can come back to Muri. Has any high school junior seen as good a series of marks as I? 9.5, 20.9, 46.5, 1:48.9, 4:00.6, 8:49.6, 13.6, 22.9, 6-11½, 15-0 9/16, 25-7 3/4, 60-5¼, 194-6, 249-4."

TN JOE GALLI, Australia: "The cost of bringing the Hungarians to Victoria is \$10,125. To me, the important feature of these meets is that the Hungarians can pull our rising men to fast times, even if they win nothing... Stephens probably won't be ready for top times until February. Still lacking in speed, but it will come. He appears to be a bit worried, but shouldn't be... I hope Golliday's 9.2 is accepted. Sprinting could do with the lift of a new record. Landy's re-appearance would give track a tremendous lift here. His is the name that carries magic, no matter what."

TN DON JACOBS, Colfax, Washington: "Did you see the AP story on the ICA cross country? Kennedy won in 24:30.3 and Delany was given 24:53, but they said the distance was 415 yards. Time of one would give the distance between runners without a bad guess to foul things up."

## STATS

DISCUS all-time list is headed by:

Fortune Gordien, US	194-6	1953	Ferenc Klics, Hungary	183-0 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Sim Iness, US	190-0	7/8	53	Otto Grigalka, USSR	182-2
Adolfo Consolini, Italy	186-113/4	55		Jim Dillion, US	180-8
Karel Merta, Czech.	185-117/8	55		Bob Fitch, US	180-23/4
Parry O'Brien, US	184-1 $\frac{1}{2}$	54			1946

51 men over 170; 100th is Karl Owoger, Germany, 164-8 3/8, 1954;  
111 men over 50 meters (164 ft).

SCANDINAVIAN RECORDS (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland)

10.3 Lennart Strandberg, Sweden, 36	51.5	S-0	Mildh, F, 1954
21.3 Haukur Clausen, I, 1950	8:44.4		Olavi Rinteenpaa, F, 1953
Jan Carlsson, S, 1954	6-11	1/8	Bengt Nilsson, S, 1954
46.6 Voitto Hellsten, F, 1955	24-9 $\frac{3}{4}$		Jorma Valkama, F, 1954
1:45.9 Audun Boysen, N, 1955	14-9	1/8	Eeles Landstrom, F, 1955
2:19.0 Audun Boysen, N, 1955	50-11		Onni Rajasaari, F, 1939
3:40.8 Gunnar Nielsen, D, 1955	55-4 $\frac{1}{4}$		Roland Nilsson, S, 1954
5:09.6 Ingvar Eriksson, S, 1955	178-11 $\frac{1}{2}$		Roland Nilsson, S, 1954
8:01.2 Gunder Hagg, S, 1942	261-3	3/8	Soini Nikkinen, F, 1955
13:58.2 Gunder Hagg, S, 1942	204-7	1/8	Sverre Strandli, N, 1953
29:23.8 Walter Nystrom, S, 1952	6876	pts	Orn Clausen, I, 1951
14.0 Hakan Lidman, S, 1940			

HAMMER 79 men have bettered 56 meters (183-8 3/4). 7 over 200 feet, 19 over 195, 40 over 190, 66 over 185. USSR has seven in first 15, 23 of 79. US has 13 of top 79:

209-7 Hal Connolly, 1955	186-8	1/8	Cliff Blair 1952
195-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Martin Engel 1953	186-2 $\frac{3}{8}$	11	Hall 1955
192-4 $\frac{1}{4}$ Bob Backus 1955	184-7 $\frac{1}{2}$		Nathaniel Baker 1955
189-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pat Ryan 1913	184-4		John Flanagan 1909
187-7 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sam Felton 1950	184-3	3/8	Irv Folwarty 1938
187-4 Matt MacGrath 1911	183-10	3/4	Robert Bennett 1940
186-10 Don Seifert 1955			

Germany has 7 of 79, Czechoslovakia 5.

EVOLUTION OF 100 yard and 100 meter records

9.6 D. J. Kelly, USA, 1906	10.6	Don Lippincott, US, 1912
H. P. Drew, US, 1914		Jackson Scholz, US, 1920
Charles Paddock, US, 1921	10.4	Charles Paddock, US, 1921
Cyril Coaffee, Canada, 1922		Eddie Tolan, US, 1929
DeHart Hubbard, US, 1926	10.3	Percy Williams, Canada, 1930
Chester Bowman, US, 1927		Eddie Tolan, US, 1932
9.5 Eddie Tolan, US, 1929		Ralph Metcalfe, US, 1933
9.4 Frank Wykoff, US, 1930		Eulace Peacock, US, 1934
Daniel Joubert, So. Africa, 1931		Christian Berger, Holl., 1934
Jesse Owens, US, 1935		Ralph Metcalfe, US, 1934
Clyde Jeffrey, US, 1940		Ryutoku Yoshioka, Japan, 35
Mel Patton, US, 1947	10.2	Jesse Owens, US, 1936
9.3 Mel Patton, US, 1948		Harold Davis, US, 1941
Hec Hogan, Australia, 1954		Lloyd LaBeach, Panama, 1948
Jim Golliday, US, 1955		Norwood Ewell, US, 1948
		E. MacDonald-Bailey, Trin. 51
		Heinz Fütterer, Germany, 55

EVOLUTION OF 5000m record

14:36.6 Hannes Kolehmainen, Fin, 1912	13:56.4	Vladimir Kuts, USSR, 1954
14:35.4 Paavo Nurmi, Finland, 1922	13:51.6	Chris Chataway, G.B., 1954
14:28.2 Paavo Nurmi, Finland, 1924	13:51.2	Vladimir Kuts, USSR, 1954
14:17.0 Lauri Lehtinen, Fin., 1932	13:50.8	Sandor Iharos, Hungary, 1955
14:08.8 Taisto Maki, Finland, 1939	13:46.8	Vladimir Kuts, USSR, 1955
13:58.2 Gunder Hagg, Sweden, 1942	13:40.6	Sandor Iharos, Hungary, 1955
13:57.2 Emil Zatopek, Czech., 1954		

NOTED WITH INTEREST

OLYMPIC GAMES stadium is being prepared. A 14 week operation is underway on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. A huge earthmoving job will correct a 7 foot slope from north to south. Contractors are removing 15,000 tons of soil and replacing it with mountain soil carefully selected for its porous qualities. This and underground cinders drains 20 to 30 ft. wide will make the arena almost weather-proof. Foundations for the track and field events are being laid. The whole arena will then be grassed. The turf will be stripped off the foundations in October and the final 3 inch En-tout-cas running surface (same as for the 1948 Games) will be laid.

ROGER MOENS, says Athletics Weekly, had no special preference for running until he was 19. He was developing into a very good sprint-cyclist, and also liked soccer. Because he wanted to have a go at every sport, Roger turned his attention to the track, and soon decided running was for him. He keeps a log book in which he jots down facts and figures relating to training progress, and which contains a day by day program to which he strictly adheres. Roughly, it consists of the following: Training five days a week for one hour a day. The first half hour is given to loosening up exercises, and then comes interval running with the distances varying from 100 to 1000 meters. He ran 600 meters in 1:16.9 on June 23, 1955.

SPORTS COLLEGE NEWS reports on a nine year study to determine what an athlete needs to succeed. Ratings on a 2 to 9 point system were given on the degree of basic physical factors needed to do well in the various sports. Factors rated were: strength, balance, agility, reaction time, weight, co-ordination, power, muscular endurance, speed, height, physique protection, mobility, heart-wind endurance, flexibility, muscular participation, motor intelligence, and visual acuity. Football topped the total rating with 135 points to decathlon 128, basketball 125, Hockey 122, Tennis 118, pole vault 113, baseball 112, middle distances 104, long distances 100, sprints 100, shot put 99, middle distance swimming 94, long distance swimming 90, high jump 90.

DR. STEVE SEYMOUR, former American record holder (248-10) wrote a newspaper farewell on retiring: "Farewell to the sage wisdom of Dean Cromwell, our Olympic coach, his constant encouragement..and the embittered sagacity of Dink Templeton...Farewell, Naili Moran, chief coach of Turkey...our paths crossed in Istanbul, Cairo, London, Dublin and Glasgow...only Father Time won its victory over our yearly handshake, cutting me down...farewell to the Duke of Edinburgh...remember my tips on flinging the javelin, and I'll treasure your philosophizing at the White City Stadium...remembering Warmerdam and the other sky pilots...Richards looking down on 15 feet 50 times, yet climbing Godward into his pulpit...you were a respected friend from Argentina to Long Beach...remember that midnight we raced around the track in Buenos Aires with Fuchs and Attlessey?...Jim proved his 9.7...Morcom brushing 15 feet at Brussels, and competing in winter underwear and leather gloves in that Eskimo track meet at Lapland, pole vaulting across the Arctic circle, while I flipped the spear across...so long, best friend of all, Moose Thompson...you became an Olympic champ the hard way, and what a proud heritage you left in Parry O'Brien...we finished training many evenings in the Coliseum with 103,000 seats as witnesses to two athletes...they should bury lonesome athletes there...McKenley, Wint and LaBeach...you made Norway, Sweden and Denmark an athletic-adventure, and the crowds were all yours...tiny Jamaica with its proud world record 3:03.9 1600m team...Mac and his 44.6 leg...Cunningham, Greg Rice, Wilt, Ashenfelter, Stone and Haegg..the super athletes of my memory, toppling a dozen world records among you. (to be continued).

.. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR GOOD TRACK NUT FRIENDS