

## TRACK NEWSLETTER

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 By Bert & Cordner Nelson, Track & Field News \$6.00 per yr.

## LATE NEWS

## EUROPE:

European marks continue to be good, with records always in danger:

100-Futterer, Germany, 10.3.

400-Haas, Germany, 47.0; Hellsten, Finland, 47.5; Back, Fin., 48.1

1500-Jungwirth, CSR, 3:43.4

10,000-Kuts, USSR, 29:21.4

400H-Eriksson, Sweden, 51.9

HJ-Bengt Nilsson equalled his European record with 6-10  $\frac{5}{8}$  at Stockholm 9/3 and did 6-10  $\frac{1}{4}$  on 8/14; 6-8  $\frac{3}{4}$  on 9/11.

PV-Pyotr Denisenko, the Russian who was fourth in the Olympics, broke the European record with 14-7  $\frac{5}{8}$  at Kiev, 9/13.

BJ-Valkama, Finland, 24-9  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Grigoryev, USSR, 24-8  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

DT-Consolini, Italy, 179-8  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Mayveyev, USSR, 179-2  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

HT-Strandli, Norway, 203-8  $\frac{1}{8}$ , Oslo, 9/2.

JT-Fredriksson, Sweden, 251-9  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Hyytinen, Finland, 247-11  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; Bengtsson, Sweden, 247-10  $\frac{3}{8}$ . All at Helsinki, 9/12.

3000mSC-Rinteenpaa, Finland, 8:51.8; Karvonen, Finland, 8:54.8; Soderberg, Sweden, 8:57.8, all Helsinki, 9/11.

TORONTO, Canada, Sept. 4 & 6: Keith Gardner, of Jamaica and Georgetown, ran 14.3 and 21.3 with wind on Saturday and 14.2 and 9.6 (semi-final) on Monday. Carl Cager of Morgan State ran 9.5 (no wind), for best ever 100 in Canada. Baltimore Olympic Club (under TN Bill Jameson, president) won relay in record 3:21.8 after driving all night and not eating for 11 hours. Kevin Gosper won handicap 440 in 48.9 and was second in 220.

## SO THEY TELL US

TN JACK MORTLAND, Bowling Green, Ohio: "I was interested in Harry Dawson's ultimates, but I feel some of them to be out of line. His 800m time will never be equalled by 1970 and probably not in my lifetime. In order to do this a man would have to run two 51s if he ran even pace. The only first quarter of 51 I know of was Whitfield's 50.5 on his 1:49.2 half in 1950. This means his second quarter was 58.7. Convert these to metric times and we have 50.2 and 58.4. If a runner of Whitfield's calibre slows down this much I don't know who can maintain a 51 pace. An even better argument is Whitfield's American record for 600m of 1:17.3. This same pace would bring a 800m time of 1:43.1. You can easily see the difficulty of hitting 1:42. The 400 time of 44.4 seems out of reach for the present also. I always thought McKenley's in the Olympic relay was astounding and that was with a running start. 48.6 for 400m hurdles will be mighty difficult, too. If some man capable of close to 46.0 can thirteen step all the way it can be done. I was glad to see Jack Davis plans to try this race. With his great speed and hurdling ability he could come close if he cares to work hard enough and it would really have to be hard. Actually Dawson has done a pretty fair job, as picking things like this is risky. He has done at least as well as Brutus Hamilton.... From the times of the 800m in the European championships I rate it third (tie) in the races I would most like to have seen. I put it behind the Coliseum 2 mile relay and the Miracle Mile and even with the Olympic 5000m.... Browning Ross seems to be hitting his peak in the distances. He's doing very well in recent road races and won the NAAU 15KM in 47:30.

## LATER NEWS

Ardalion Ignatyev of Russia moved into a tie for sixth on the all time list with a great 46.1 for 400m at Kiev Sept. 12. It was half a second better than his win at Bern, where he was reportedly out of condition.

Sandor Iharos, number three on the all-time 1500m list (3:42.4) reached the second spot at 3000m. His 7:59.3 was just short of Gaston Reiff's 7:58.7 world record and only the second race ever to better 8 minutes. Haegg's 8:01.3 is the third best, but the fourth best is Kut's 8:05.8. Budapest, September 14.

Other marks include: Stracke, Germany, 1:49.8; Laufer, Germany, 14:28.0; Boysen 3:48; Saksvik and Egge, Norway, 14:21.6; Strandli 199-7; Rjabow, USSR, 10.4; Vikton Sillon, France, 14-1 1/4; and Skobla, CSR, 57-1 7/8.

## SO THEY TELL US (cont.)

MARK MCGUIRE, Maroubra, Australia: "My club two weeks ago brought Percy Cerutti (Landy's coach) up for the week-end to give lectures to some 70 boys. What a success. Everybody felt that they could listen to the old maestro for a year without losing any interest whatsoever. I'll bet he can still beat most of the distance boys over there over 50 yards even at the young age of 60 in January. What a man. It's a pity there are too many petty jealousies amongst officials towards him in this country, otherwise we would hold more world records. Even when the AAA put on a similar week-end show to ours only some 15 boys attended. Boys had to be refused admission to our camp. Every boy benefitted greatly and the keenness of the boys to learn so much in such little time was unheard of. We had to drag away the over enthusiastic at 1 a.m. and even before 5 a.m. they were at him wanting to know more. Every Christmas I go to Portsea, 60 miles out of Melbourne, to attend Percy's camp. This year a boy wants to come from New Zealand and two others from Perth--that's about like New York to L.A.... Good luck. I want to see the stars and stripes flying in Melbourne and not the hammer and sickle.... I am 18 and would like to get a pen pal about my age. 805 Anzac Pde., Maroubra, N.S.W., Australia."

TN JOE GALLI, Australia: "We might have some big improvements this coming season, by those too few who follow Cerutti. At least 15 potential sub 4:10 milers. Cerutti wants Less Perry to concentrate on mile for a year. Says he will do 4:04 and push MacMillan (home in October) to 4:00. All being well, Perry will run in Europe next year."

WALTER MACK, East Lansing, Mich: "Mal Whitfield used to be a great favorite of mine, but his uncalled for egotism which he displayed this season--climaxed by his 'schoolboy' statement--'I can run 3:56.5'--has indeed cost him a great deal of track support. Even though statistics placed him second to Harbig he was a very weak second. Some contrast between his mile statement and that of Landy after Bannister's record mile--'Santee will be next, but not I'. Landy of course has not run Whitfield's 3:56.5 but he has run 3:58.0."

TN ERNEST UPSHAW, Piedmont, Cal: "It's better for your son to be a low hurdler and broad jumper. High hurdlers are too frisky. Monte's mother could tell for 30 days before he was born that Monte was going to be a high hurdler."

BUD HELD, javelinist: "In addition to the javelin with which I broke the world record in 1953 I have two others I am experimenting with. They are both hollow. One is of Japanese Ash, with the tail a little larger and a bulge forward. The second is of gum, and is 1 3/4 inches in diameter, as compared with the usual 1". I believe these javelins should go farther than the orthodox javelin, but I can't prove my theories because so far I haven't thrown them as far."

MAJOR S. A. HAMID, coach, Pakistan track team: "British officials who saw our Mohammad Iqbal throw 193-3 were very impressed and one wrote that he fully expects Iqbal to break the world's record one day. In another open meeting at London our sprinter, A. Khaliq, won the 100 in 10.0, beating Shenton and other good men, and was the only athlete to be presented a watch."

TN HUGH GARDNER, Indianapolis: "No kid ever earned a record like little Max Truex, the interscholastic mile record holder. I was hoping he'd get it down to 4:18 where it might rest until he had kids of his own trying for it. Didn't quite do it, and it won't last long. He knows it, too, so his brother is going to try to keep it in the Truex family. Those Truex boys are the kind which make coaches retire, knowing they will never again have boys of that caliber. Max's brother Don is a quiet kid, unlike the fiery Max, but he is a bundle of determination and is liable to plod himself into a helluva good mile, and may get the record."

TN LOUIS SEFICK, Illinois: "How about publishing something about professional runners. I'm thinking of DeKelso of Canada, who in 1867 ran three miles in 13:11, covering the first two miles in 8:40.3, under Gaston Reiff's amateur record. This is astounding if it was correct, although there was no accurate measurement or timing" (Ed- Anybody have the low down on these fast professional times?)

TN BILL JIMESON, Baltimore: "George Becking, who broke a poor Santee record, did it with a 30 yard handicap...Charles Capozzoli, who used to run between 125 and 130 now is up to 160 and it looks good on him. He is going into the Army soon. Joe LaPierre is going to run for our club this cross country season. He ran some for us before he went into the Army. He is now at Fort Lee, Va., and wants to be one of the invited two-milers this winter on the indoor circuit..." Lots of the Canadian boys are going to U.S. colleges this fall. The Toronto meet is a great place to recruit talent...Van Zimmerman is at Camp Gordon, Ga. He plans to get in the indoor meets. He did only 11 pullups on his physical fitness test, but did the 300 in 44. This is good time since you have to run 100 three times, up and back and back again, and in combat boots."

A. W. HADDLETON, Haverford College, Pa.: "When I read of Ken Wood's 4:04.8 mile--a runner most of us had never heard of--I think back to Norman Taber's amateur mile record. I have fixed in my memory his first winning races as a school boy representing Hope St. High School of Providence, for he was a bonny looking boy, very quiet and modest. He won the mile title in the old R.I. interscholastic league. Later he went to Brown and as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford. Information I had gave a great deal of the credit of his record of 4:12.6 at the Harvard Stadium to Eddie O'Connor, his coach. The race was a paced one to break the amateur record as well as the professional record of 4:12 3/4 held by the great English runner, W. G. George which had been on the books for 40 years. Coach O'Connor's confidence in Taber's ability was the main factor in Taber making the record. He told me personally that it was his urging that Taber trained for the event. O'Connor paid all his own expenses to and from Worcester to Providence for training purposes. As I knew something of track the Providence Journal sent me on to Boston to cover the event, for which I received \$5.00. After the meet I still remember returning to Boston from Cambridge on the same car as Norman who had as his companion the young lady who became his wife. I dashed across the car and exuberantly congratulated him on his performances, which embarrassed him exceedingly. He shrank from such an exhibition. Within the past few years Norman died as the result of a brain tumor operation. He was a fine gentleman, always"

## WIND SPRINTS

Norris McWhirter, writing in Athletic Review three years ago, proved a point that is important in considering British track and field performances, namely, that British weather has an almost uniformly adverse affect on performances. At the time, of 14 top marks ever achieved by British trackmen, 13 were made outside the islands. 12 of 13 Oxford-Cambridge vs. Princeton-Cornell meet records were made in the U.S. Only a handful of foreign athletes have ever registered personal bests in Britain. Britain's all time 400-440 list showed that the six best all had better times abroad than at home, the average difference being an amazing .7. In the 800/880 list, Wooderson never had a time abroad. The second through sixth all time best Britons, however, were all faster abroad, the average difference being 1.2 s. "What an indictment of our climate such figures represent" wrote McWhirter. "Those of us who witnessed the 1948 Olympic 400m final saw for themselves what happened when a superlative athlete pitted himself against the humid, suffocating mantle that, on a still day, hangs over London. Forgetting he was not on his beloved Berkeley track, where chimneys do not pour out corroding smoke, McKenley blazed off round the track as was his custom. Just when he was becoming poisoned by his lactic secretions and was needing more oxygen, London's atmosphere caught him and choked him as he had never been choked before. ...We must not paint the picture black, however, for both in 1949 and again in 1950 we had, at least in the south, a good Saturday. It would be ridiculous to expect another good Saturday in 1951 because that would make three years in succession. As a general rule our results might be better if only the climax to the competitive season came earlier, before the humidity rises." (Note Bannister's early season 3:59.4).

Ken Wood, the latest British mile sensation with 4:04.8, is 23, 5-10, 148 pounds, likes 1,2,3 miles and cross country, trains six days a week in summer, seven in winter, with all training of the Swedish Fartlek type on grass and country.

One of the great runners of all time was Alfred Shrubbs, the Englishman who could run almost any distance over a sprint. Born in 1878, Shrubbs early discovered he could run when he beat a fire engine to a fire some three or four miles away. Some of his records are: world's amateur 2000 yards, 5:07.2; 4000 yards 10:56.6; worlds amateur and professional, 2 miles 9:09.7; 3 miles 14:17.6; 4 miles 19:23.4; 5 miles 24:33.4. In setting a record of 11 miles, 1,137 yards in one hour, Shrubbs broke many records along the way, his mile times being: 4:41.2; 9:44.2; 14:45.2; 19:50.6; 24:55.8; 29:59.4; 35:04.6; 40:16; 45:27.6; 50:40.6 and 56:23.6. And this was in 1904! Shrubbs was said by some to have an ugly style, but others maintain he was merely hyper efficient, skimming over the ground like a bird. At any rate he ran his own pace, cutting loose whenever he felt the urge, and doing poorly when attempting to stick to a pre-planned pace. Once when going after the 4 mile mark he ran the first mile in 4:32. In a five mile race he covered the first half in 2:02, and the last 100 in 11.0. Declared a professional, Shrubbs made a career of it. He lost by 15 yards to a horse in a 10 mile race. And he attracted great attention in America when he raced against the famous Indian, Tom Longboat, losing at 20 and then 15 miles, and then finding that Longboat withdrew from the scheduled 10 miler. Two years ago, Shrubbs, having lived in Canada for the past 23 years, took recognition of the upcoming British distance runners, and advised them. "Take advantage of modern techniques, diet intelligently, train with gruelling diligence, compete with unflagging determination, and on the home stretch make the final winning effort with the thought 'this is for Britain!'"