

## TRACK NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 6 October 7, 1954 P. O. Box 296, Los Altos, Calif.  
 By Bert & Cordner Nelson, Track & Field News \$6.00 per year

## LATE NEWS

NEW WORLD RECORD was made in the 3000m steeplechase by Pentti Karvonen of Finland who ran 8:41.4 at Dortmund, Sept. 19. The IAAF is now recognizing records made at this event, but is considering no times before 1954. Second was Rinteenpaa (8:46) whose 8:44.4 was best on record.

NEW EUROPEAN RECORD was made by Bengt Nilsson at Goteborg, Sept. 19, when he jumped 2.11 (6-11.071) and exactly the same height which Ernie Shelton had cleared earlier this year to rank No. 2 on the all time list. It was Nilsson's fourth time better than 6-10 this year, and he tried 6-11 7/8 but never came close.

100-Futterer's 10.3 was best ever (tie) by native European.

200-Ignatyev equalled Russian record with 21.1, Sept. 15.

400-Haas, Germany, 46.7 to beat Hellsten, Finland, 47.8. Goudeau, Fr. 47.6  
 800-Boysen tried for a new record, ran his first 400 in 52, then faded to 1:47.9, Goteborg, Sept. 19.

3000m-Iharos' splits in his 7:59.6 were 2:38 for 1000m, 3:57.4 for 1500m, 5:20 for 2000m and the last 200m in 29.4.

5000m-Kuts won Russian title in 14:15. Zatopek failed in record attempt, 14:04.6 at Brno, Sept. 19. Reiff, 14:32.4, beat Laufer, 14:34.6 and Schade, 14:35.2 9/21. Two days earlier Haikkola and Julin did 14:16.2 to beat Schade, 14:20.4 and Laufer, 14:27.2. Kovacs ran 14:15 to beat Beres, 14:21.4.

10,000m-Second to Kuts Russian record 29:21.4 (fourth best ever) was I Chernyavskiy, who twice beat Anufriyev, 30:00.6 and 14:22.6. Schade did 29:40.8 at Dortmund, Sept. 19.

3000mSC-Roznyoi ran 8:53.4, beating Deheny, 8:57.4 & Jeszensky 8:59.6.

HH-Bulanchik won Russian title in 14.3 from Popov & Stolyarov, 14.5.

400mH-Lituyev, 51.0, beat Yulin 51.1, Ilin 52.2, and Zhivotyagin, 52.6 for Russian title. Kurt Bonah set new German national record with 51.5 beating Mildh, Finland, 52.7.

HJ-Thorkildsen, Norway, 6-7 1/8, Kovar, 6-6 3/4 twice.

PV-Seven men did 14-1 1/4 or better in the Russian championships. Behind Denisenko, 14-7 5/8, came Knyazev and Bulatov, 14-5 1/2, Chernobay, Albov Gladchenko and A. Petrov, all 14-1 1/4. Landstrom did 14-3 1/4, and Lundberg, 14-4, and both failed at attempts to break Denisenko's European record. Earlier Lundberg did 14-5 1/4 to beat Landstrom, 14-3 1/4 for the first time this year.

HSJ-Shcherbakov hit his season's best with 52-9 1/8, Dementyev did 51-3 3/8 and Tsigankov 50-5 7/8, all in Russian chs. Jorgely Santos Figueira of Brazil jumped 50-7 7/8 on Sept. 5.

SP-Grigalka 55-9 1/4 in championships. Sarcevic new Yugoslav record 53-3 3/4

DT-When Consolini did 179-8 3/4 on Sept. 4, Tosi was second at 170-10 3/4 after fouling two 180 foot heaves. Klics won Hungarian title with 173-3 1/8 to Szecsenyi's 171-1 1/2. Merta twice bettered his Czech record with 170-11 1/8 and 171-3 1/8.

HT-Strandli did 201-1/2 At Sarajevo, Sept. 26, and had at least six meets in a row over 60m (196-10 1/4). Krivonosov did 198-8 5/8 in title meet.

JT-Nikkinen did 254-9 7/8 Sept. 18. Walczak, Poland, 242-4 5/8, Sillanpaa, 236-4 1/4 and Aho, 235-11 1/8, both Finland. Twenty-five European javelin throwers over 230 feet this year. Sweden has 12, Finland 10.

Meets-Many of the above marks were made in two very close meets, Finland beating Sweden 207-202, and Germany edging Finland 108-106. Germany is now in Japan for a meet, and Russia competes at Paris Oct. 10 and with a full team at London October 13.

Don't forget. This is YOUR newsletter. So let's hear from you, those who have remained silent so far. Or don't you talk about track?

"Gordien's record of 197-2 would be worth some 1620 points on the 1950 decathlon table, the most points of any record. 280 feet by Bud Held (he was said to have done that this year in practice) would score the most points. Held said he did 278-8 in practice a few days before his 263-10 world record toss, on a course that was eight feet downhill. This would still leave Bud with a mark of better than 270 on a level throwing area. The new world record in the hammer throw (207-9  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) would be just a little ahead of the 194-6 by Gordien on the 1950 table.

"Gordien tried hard to get the record after his 197-2. In practice the next two weeks he hit over 190 four times during a day's workout on two or three different days. In the Aug. 21 meet he took a practice toss that took off far to the right and hit the bottom of the fence at an estimated 193 feet. The next week in the final meet Gordien again took a practice toss just before his third throw that was good for 190. In the last month and a half, after coming out of his slump (175- $\frac{1}{2}$ ) in the second meet of the summer) Forch has been able to break the second best non-Gordien toss (185-5 $\frac{1}{4}$  by Iness) any time he wants to. He now has 22 of the 24 all-time marks ever made in the discus over 185 feet with two for Iness.

"Ernie Shelton has 22 marks over 6-9 now to have more than one third of the total of jumps over that height made outdoors. He also has the record of 10 jumps over 6-10 in 9 meets. His 22 over 6-9 is at the rate of one a meet. (These figures before Nilsson's latest activities). Shelton should be able to develop into a very tremendous jumper next year. He has four more inches of ability about his 6-10 level, I believe but he did not develop the full limit of high jumping technique this year. Ernie could develop in the decathlon in the future to become the greatest high-jumper decathlon track star in history, according to his potential so far. Harold Osborn won the 1924 Olympic decathlon and high jump (6-6), but Shelton already has bettered Osborn's decathlon marks in six events on his 6119 total. Shelton's decathlon performance came as no surprise to Don Winton, the Muir impressario, for it was in the All-Around competition at Muir in 1951 (when Bob Richards made the American record of 7743 points) that Ernie finished third with 4912, just 51 points back of second. His marks then were: 100y, 11.1; 19-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; 34-2  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; 6-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; 880 walk, 4:54; HH, 16.6; 56lb wt., 15- $\frac{1}{2}$  (2 points); PV, 9-6; hammer, 43-7 (0 pts); and mile, 6:21.1."

#### OUT OF THE PAST

"Olympic Flashback, Los Angeles, 1932," by Wilf Richards in Athletic Review: The 1932 Games were held at Los Angeles under conditions as near perfection as one is ever likely to get. The famed California weather was at its best, the track could scarcely have been improved upon, and the food and accommodation for competitors must have been a real delight to the athletes concerned. America certainly spared no expense to make their Games a festival to be remembered. In these circumstances it is small wonder that a new Olympic record was established in almost every event.

What a great moment it was for British supporters when tall, long striding Tom Hampson followed the middle-distance traditions of his country by winning the 800m in 1:49.8, a time which beat the existing world record. This great runner showed masterly judgment, lying fourth or fifth until a furlong from the finish, when he swept along at ever increasing speed to win a thrilling race by inches. American colored athletes came into world limelight in no uncertain fashion. Eddie Tolan, a short, stockily-built sprinter, beat Olympic records in both the 100 and 200 races which he won in 10.3 and 21.2 with Ralph Metcalf, another Negro, second in the 100 and third in the 200.

In the 400 relay we were given a glimpse of the strength of the American sprint potential. The States called upon four men who had failed to qualify for the 100 and 200 teams; yet these showed such a

## SO THEY TELL US

TN M/SGT Bob GILMORE, Great Falls, Montana: "I have looked at the picture of the European Chs. 800m finish many, many times and still get a thrill each time. I rank it with the famous picture of the 400m finish of the 1941 AAU (Klemmer 46.0, etc.)...How about a membership card in the Track Nuts Association (what do you say, Ttrack Nuts?)?... For a meet of its size I thought the European Championships only allowing two men in each event from a country was not fair. I realize they kept the number down so as to conduct the meet swiftly. A lot of good men were left whome who might have picked up a medal on that particular day. Belgium had another 800 man, Leva (1:49.7); Great Britain left the 4:04.8 miler Wood behind; Russia could have taken all medals in the 400 hurdles; and there are others. My recommendation would be that prior to the meet a very stiff standard should be established for each event. If three or four athletes should better the standard in a bona-fie performance they would all be eligible to represent their country. This would in no way disqualify a country from entering two men whose performances were poorer than the standard."

TN DON JACOBS, Colfax, Wash. "I wonder if everyone is not selling Whitfield short in the 800, because it seems to me he runs to win no matter how fast the race is so these foreign speed demons won't have it all their way...Down at Pasadena this summer I saw TNs H.D. Thoreau, Dick Bank and Don Potts and we had quite a visit. I have seen two meets at Muir and each time the javelin record has gone by the boards, first Held, then Miller."

TN ROY SILVER, NYC: "TN Louis Sefick asked about pro track, and here is what Frank Menke says in his 'Encyclopedia of Sports' (new and revised edition, \$10.00 from Track & Field News): On Oct. 14, 1867, at Barrie, Canada, DeKelso, a Canadian, was credited with 13:11 for three miles (4:19.5, 4:21 $\frac{1}{4}$ , and 4:30 $\frac{1}{4}$ ). There were no details as to who was the timer, or how the timing was done. On the same day DeKelso, was credited with two miles in 8:50. (Silver: That's a heck of a double, isn't it--13:11 and 8:50?) Prizes were \$200 in each race. Then there was R. P. Williams, an American, who was said to have run 7.2 for 75 and 9.0 for 100 (1906), 10.0 for 110 yards in 1906, and 46.4 for 440 around four turns in 1895. World's records, as recognized in the British Empire, include: 75, 7.5 by Austin Robertson of Australia 1929, tied by Eddie Tolan 1935; 100, Australia's Jack Donaldson 1910, 9 3/8 (Tolan's best in Australia was 9 3/4); 130 yards in 12.0 by Donaldson 1911; mile, 4:12 3/4 by Walter George, 1886; 5 miles, 24:40 by Jack White 1863; 10 miles, 50:55 by George McCrea, 1918; 50 miles, 5:55:04.5, George Cartwright, 1887; 100 miles, 13:26:30 Charles Rowell. Six-day-go-as-you please, 623 miles, 1100 yards by George Littlewood in 1888. Menke says that of these distance races, only one possibly authentic is Rowell's. Menke also quotes a paper: 'Private Wood and Sergeant Harley, of the 17th Regiment, in Canada, ran a mile race on the Parliament Grounds, at Toronto, June 24, 1857, and Wood was the winner in 4 minutes and 2 seconds. No details as to timers, or timing methods."

TN TIM OWENS, San Marino, statistician for the Muir All-Comers meets: "Bill Miller had his first great series at Muir on August 7 with two marks over 252, from a grass runway through a patch of weeds. On August 14 the new dirt runway was ready, but Bill had to throw as the last event of the meet, doing 250-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ , in an exhibition throw after the competition. Bill was too cold when he won at 239-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The event was started sooner the next two weeks for Bill, and he did 266-8 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 257 (foul). The foul had little meaning on the 257 throw except to follow the rules. Miller showed his ability this summer with four meets of over 250 feet. (continued)

wonderful turn of speed and remarkable efficiency in baton-changing that they won in a new world record of 40.0.

One of the surprises was the defeat of the American stars in the 400 hurdles by the Irish all-around, R. M. N. Tisdall, who beat Glen Hardin by a yard in 51.8, a time which actually was a world record, though it could not be accepted as such owing to Tisdall knocking over one hurdle.

Another surprise was almost brought off by the USA distance runner, Ralph Hill, in the 5000. The two formidable Finns, Lehtinen and Virtanen, were in the field, and it would have been no surprise to see this pair race away from the opposition in Nurmi/Ritola fashion. But when Lehtinen started to pile on the pace, it was Hill who hung on, while Virtanen had to let them go. Lehtinen and the American rounded the final bend, with the Finn slightly ahead and obviously pushing himself to the limit. Down the home stretch Hill made an effort to pass, but Lehtinen swayed in front of him and staggered over the finish line for a new record time of 14:30, winning by a foot.

Much more decisive was the success of Iso-Hollo, another of the Finnish contingent, in the steeplechase, for he took an early lead and won by a comfortable margin, beating Tom Evenson of Britain and Joe McClusky of USA. Sam Ferris almost succeeded in pulling off the Marathon but the young Argentine runner, Jaun Zabala, who had gone into the lead at about 24 miles, kept his pace going well and held off the apparently much fresher Briton, to score in a new Olympic best of 2:31:36.

Despite the all-around excellence of performance (or maybe because of it) the Los Angeles Games did not seem to produce any outstanding personality; any athlete who would remain fixed in one's memory long after his actual performances had been forgotten. In the earlier Games we had the wonderful Finnish star, Paavo Nurmi, whose duels with country man Ritola will never be forgotten. So many and so great were the deeds of this remarkable distance runner, and the title "The Phantom Finn" that was sometimes given to him must indeed have seemed an apt description to his disillusioned opponents.

In the 1936 Olympics we had the beautifully proportioned, perfectly trained Jesse Owens, whose amazing success in the 100, 200 and long jump, coupled with his pleasing personality and attractive style, earned him a place among the Olympic celebrities not easily forgotten. And, again, in the 1948 festival, there was the fantastic Zatopek, with his backward glances, rolling head, constantly shifting arm action--and, it should be added, killing pace.

These men from other Olympics all come to mind readily enough, but no unforgettable personality appears to emerge from the Los Angeles scene. One sensational happening, does, however, bear the stamp "1932". This is the almost unbelievable incident that occurred in the steeplechase, when officials failed to keep an accurate check on the distance covered and sent the runners one lap too many. Which all goes to show how things can go wrong even in an Olympic Games.

#### LATER NEWS

GUNNAR NIELSEN of Denmark tied Mal Whitfield's world 880 mark of 1:48.6 when he beat Audun Boysen, 1:49.1, at Oslo last weekend.

FINLAND BEAT HUNGARY, 107.5 to 104.5, as Hellsten ran 47.1; Tabori 3:47.8, Iharos 3:48, Kakko 3:55.4, Johansson, 4:05; Kovacs 14:24.2; Karvonen 8:50.4, Rosznyoi 8:51, Rinteenpaa 8:56.6; Foldessy 24-8 1/8, Valkama 24-5 3/4; Lehto HSJ 50-4 3/4, Bolyki 50-3 1/8; Nikkinen 257-6 1/2; Szecsenyi 172-10 3/8, Klics 168-2 7/8; Hellsten 21.5, Szentgali 1:50.2; Kovacs, 29:42.2; Mildhi 52.0; Landstrom 14-3 1/2; Csermak 199-6 1/2.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEAT SWEDEN, 117-106, with Jungwirth 1:50.4; Zatopek 29:34.8; Nilsson 6-6 3/4; Skobla 55-11 1/2.

OTHER RESULTS: Futterer 21.1; Veikko Karvonen 2:26:41.6.  
(Above marks with help of FN Roy Silver, New York City).