

## TRACK NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 13, February 8, 1955 P.O. Box 296, Los Altos, Calif.  
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## NEWS

INDOOR SEASON is continuing at a record clip. Boston AA meet Jan. 29 and Millrose Games Feb. 5 both produced records.

Sprints Rod Richard beat Bragg, Stanfield, Pollard in 5.4 at Boston, won NY 60 in 6.2 from Bragg, Haines, Pollard, now has 3 wins.

600 Charlie Jenkins has been sidelined with flu so was unable to test Arnie Sowell who won an extra lap race in Boston, soundly whipping Gaffney, Pearman and Jones in 1:14.3. Whitfield ran his first race, dropped out at 540 yards. But at NY Mal led all the way, hung on for 1:10.8 win from Jones, Pearman, Gaffney. Gosper broke the MichAAU mark.

880 Audun Boysen was a fast and easy winner at NY, leading all the way to win in 1:51, beating Ron Delaney by 15 yards. Tom Courtney, Gene Maynard and Lucien Demuynck trailed, the latter having just arrived

1000 Boysen's debut, at Boston, was unsuccessful as he lost to Maynard, Courtney and Harry Bright in 2:14.

Mile Wes Santee scored in 4:03.8 and a new world indoor mark at Boston as Gunnar Nielsen stayed too far off the pace and was soundly trounced with McMillen improving to 4:11.3 and Tidwell fourth. In the Wanamaker mile Nielsen reversed tactics, hung on to Santee and Fred Dwyer until half a lap to go, then sprinted home a 10 yard winner in 4:03.6. Dwyer and Santee clocked 4:06 and 4:06.5 after engaging in a pushing match, but Dwyer was disqualified. McMillen was third, Tidwell fourth. Bill Squires ran 4:10.7 for Notre Dame vs. Purdue.

2 mile Nip Ashenfelter continued to put well founded confidence in his kick, won twice. His Boston triumph was a fast 8:55.5 victory over Wilt, Ross and Stone. A slower race in New York kept the time to 9:04 as Nip outsprinted McKenzie and Wilt.

Hurdles Dillard won another pair, doing 5.6 for 45 at Boston, ahead of Perry, Pratt and Stevens, and 7.2 for 60 at NY, soundly whipping Pratt, Perry and Jack Davis, who hit the third, balked at the fourth and did not finish.

HJ- Herm Wyatt edged over 6-10 $\frac{1}{4}$  at Boston, ahead of Hall and Reavis at 6-6. An "off night" at NY saw Wyatt tie at 6-7 $\frac{1}{2}$  with Hall, Reavis, Holding and Laverne Smith.

PV- It's still Bob Richards all the way, 15-2 in both meets. Jerry Welbourn upped his personal best to 14-10 at Boston, beating Laz (14-6). The two tied at 14-6 at NY, ahead of Lundberg, Poucher, Bragg (14-0).

SP- Parry O'Brien's first competition since his operation last summer saw him do 56-7 in the snow outdoors in NY. Thompson 51-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Relays Morgan State took over from Villanova, winning in 3:19.4 and a record breaking 3:18.3. Unbeaten Syracuse ran 7:41.2 and 7:41.8.

## ON THE INDOOR CIRCUIT (with TN Roy Silver):

Dillard and Richards scored their ninth straight Millrose wins... in the Wanamaker, Nielsen made a move at Dwyer on the ninth lap, Dwyer went after Santee on the 10th... Jenkins made up 12 yards on Josh Culbreath at NY but fell 8 yards short... Parry O'Brien said "I'll break 60 feet in the NYAC and AAU meets or know the reason why"... Parry's series was 54- $\frac{1}{2}$ , F, 53-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 56-7, 55-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 53-6... Dwyer had another fast 1320 before the Millrose, 2:57.3... the U.S. Olympic Assn. will install an Olympic village at the Chicago Sports and outdoor show. For a fee you can have a chance to broad jump, high jump, and throw the shot and javelin, as well as participate in other sports. Supposed to give one the feel of Olympic competition and raise some money, too... Santee worked four miles at NUY Tuesday, then, despite cold and snow, he and Boysen worked out in Central Park...

Santee says: "Maybe Bannister would beat me, as Nielsen says. I don't think he could. Too bad he and Landy couldn't make it last summer when I wrote them suggesting we get together in a series of races in America, England and Australia to settle who the best man was. Landy said he'd like to run me all out, though he figured I'd outkick him at the end. He thought if we got together we'd break his 3:58 record. But if they have really retired this year, they wouldn't have much chance of beating me. You know what they say: 'They never come back!'"

Nielsen would like to run the 1000 in the NYAC and Boysen the mile, but the promoters won't let them...Nielsen says his first race was 1:58.5 for 800m...he and Boysen have met 18 times, with Nielsen holding an 11-7 edge...George Eastment of Manhattan warned about the Wanamaker mile: "if this is to be a 4:06 mile, Fred Dwyer will take a good whack at both Nielsen and Santee. He has the print to make trouble...the Grand Stree Boys have resigned from the Met AAU...London says Kuts was beaten in Moscow by an engineering student with the implausible name of Gomez, but no time was given for the 3000m...Whitfield now says he hopes to break both the 800 and 880 indoor marks in addition to 400-800 outdoors this year. "After the Olympics I'll throw my spikes into the stands. I'll have had enough of running". Mal weighs 174, wants to drop 5 pounds by spring...He wants to run 500 in the NYAC, 600 in the Nationals, then go up to the half and 1000 afterwards...Mal says Santee would take Bannister nine out of ten times. But he ducked a discussion of who would win a Whitfield-Boysen indoor meeting later this season. That's likely the highest praise tossed Boysen's way...Santee said he planned to run 57, 1:58, 2:59 in the Wanamaker, judged Nielsen and Dwyer equally dangerous rivals...Sowell ran a 47.4 relay at Boston...Ernie Shelton has entered the AAU...Mal says he quit in the Boston "700" because he became disgusted when he saw the sign read one more lap to go...Courtney and McKenzie both had the flue prior to Boston...Millrose promoter Fred Schmertz says the Games had their earliest sell-out since the Cunningham-Bonthron mile in 1935...of the Wanamaker entrants only Dwyer had run in the race before...Santee's scheduled before his Boston record had him in Pittsburgh on Monday for a dinner; in Wichita Tuesday and Wednesday, working out on a high school field; no workout Thursday because of four final exams; supposed to workout in Boston Friday, but did not arrive until 1 a.m. Saturday.

Speaking of his 4:03.8, Santee said: "Don't forget, this was my first race on an 11-lap track. I'll know a lot better next time. Before I'm through, in four years, I might run 3:58 or 3:59 indoors. Outdoors I'll run 3:55 in a few seasons. This year I'm aiming for 3:57. I wasn't tired in my 4:03.8 unless it was at the finish. I stayed loose all the way."

Dr. Ernst Jokl told the NCAA coaches that it is impossible for anyone to run a marathon unless he can break 12 seconds for the 100. Said Zatopek has done 11.3 or 11.4. He also said the best marathoners have the biggest hearts; big and normal, that is. Jokl says that after a distance man lays off training his heart will start shrinking to the size it was before he began running. He says no normal heart can be injured by exercise.

Emil VonElling says Ike Matza, a 5-7, 130 pound soph, may get to 4:10 before the winter is out...Chataway says he plans to take it easy until may...Dan Ferris forsees the time when the IAAF will act on indoor as well as outdoor marks, since indoor track is growing abroad. Paris and Brussels have requested American athletes for indoor meets...Dixon of Manhattan now taking grad work at Columbia, has done 1:12.1 in workout...Nielsen told a writer "If I can see 'em, I can beat 'em"...Ed Conwell's comeback was prompted by his doctor's recommendation that he run because of his asthma...Rod Perry is 6-2, 190 and 20.

## WIND SPRINTS

Gordon Pirie says his 1955 goals are 13:20 for three miles and 13:45 for 5000m...Germany's World Athletics Service doped a dual meet between the Scandinavian nations and Russia, with the Reds losing 212-201...of 25 Sullivan Award winners, 15 are trackmen: Barney Berlinger 1931, Jim Bausch 32, Glenn Cunningham 33, Bill Bonthron 34, Glenn Morris 36, Don Lash 38, Greg Rice 40, Les MacMitchell 41, Connie Warmerdam 42, Gil Dodds 43, Bob Mathias 48, Fred Wilt 50, Bob Richards 51, Horace Ashenfelter 52, Mal Whitfield 54. Eight ran the mile and up, four were decathlon men, only two field men, and only Whitfield a runner at less than a mile...Poland broke 18 of 25 national records in 1954...Gunnar Nielsen predicts Landy and Bannister will come out of retirement in 1956 and Bannister will win because he is smarter...on the other hand, an English expert predicts Bannister will turn pro to the extent of writing for newspapers next season...Europe's cross country season is on full blast, running from Jan. 1 to the end of March...Rome's Olympic stadium seats 100,000 spectators and has "luxurious training conditions". Most observers regard Rome as a shoo-in for the 60 Games...Bannister's retirement statement was: "I feel sure everyone will understand that I get little satisfaction now from a second rate performance when representing my country. Since the European Championships it has become increasingly difficult for me to train. Now that I am taking up a resident hospital appointment it will be impossible for me to combine competitive athletics with my work, as I have tried to do in the past."

Toivo Hyytiainen is training indoors with a brass shot. Using the same run as in the javelin he throws the shot over 65 feet. He feels this will build up strength and improve his form...it happens to the best of them: Belgian cross country ace Lucien Hanswyck found himself still in the dressing room when the 1953 Cross de Niel race began. The same thing happened in the 1954 race, but this time Hanswyck set off in pursuit and finished sixth. His face was doubly red as the race was organized by his own club...Harold Abrahams feels that Britain's two-time Olympic 800m champ would have been in at the kill in the 54 European championships...The Helms World Trophy, which each year goes to the foremost amateur athletes of each of the six continents, has been pretty well dominated by trackmen since its inception in 1948. North America has had Mathias, Patton, Attlesey, Richards Ashenfelter, Whitfield and Santee. Europe also had a clean sweep with Blankers-Koen, Zatopek, Heinrich, Consolini, Barthel, Pirie and Bannister. Asia had Duncan White in 48, Shigeki Tanaka in 51 and Keizo Yamada in 53; Africa Papa Gallo Thiam in 50, Wally Hayward in 51 and Ifeajuna in 54; Australasia had Marjorie Jackson in 52 and Landy in 53; and South America Delfo Cabrera in 48, Ademar da Silva in 51, Reinaldo Gorno in 52 and Jose Telles de Conceicao in 1954.

Dave Stephens, the new Australian sensation, is a milk deliverer.. he is up at 2 a.m. runs a 6 mile round and is home for breakfast at 8, then 3 hours sleep, lunch, study (he aims at school teaching), 2 to 3 hours training, and in bed by 9...his wife is a sprinter...Rich Ferguson was clocked in 3:47.0 during the Empire Mile...Pentti Karvonen says he might have been helped by as much as five seconds in his 8:41.4 steeplechase that had a water jump four feet short...his success is based on excellent jumping and hurdling technique, as a comparison of marks with Olavi Rinteenpaa will show: 800m, K 1:59.7, R 1:58.4; 1500m 3:57.6 and 3:51.0; 3000m 8:22.4 and 8:14.8, 5000m 14:35.2 and 14:22; 10,000m 31:04.8 and 30:00.2....Karvonen trains in the fall and winter 3 to 4 times a week with runs of 9 to 12 miles on road and forest. In the summer and spring he rests only one day a week...Emmanuel Ifeajuna is now said to be 5'7" tall. He has a recent practice mark of 6-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

## SO THEY TELL US

TN ART HOFFMAN: "Chances of seeing some T&F meets on TV took a turn for the worse when the ABC-TV network decided to drop their winter and spring sports schedule. Thus, the Penn and Drake Relays, plus the AAU indoor championships went by the boards. Let's hope some other network will grab these events, and a letter or two might help. Track nuts should check their TV logs for the various sport film highlights during the week to catch the indoor season. General Tires Sport Time with Harry Wismer is an example."

LT. AL BUEHLER, ex-half-miler: "The Armed Forces squad at Maryland has an ideal set-up. Jim Kehoe is doing a great job of coaching, the facilities and living quarters are excellent, nothing but track to concentrate on (no books). As Lang Stanley says, 'Just so I don't have to carry that Big Stick!'"

TN SHERWIN AVANN, Seattle: "I don't care if Wes Santee ever cracks four minutes after his latest show of poor sportsmanship in remarks concerning the form of Gunnar Nielsen...how about some more dope on Charlie Jenkins?" (Ed note: Jenkins, who will soon be well known, comes from Rindge Tech in Cambridge, Mass. where he ran 48.1 in 1953. He won his heat in the 53 AAU, running 48.7 ahead of Schelereth and Lea. Placed sixth in the final, 49.2. Was brought along slowly last year.)

TN CHUCK ESSER: "Bob Smith is a cinch to be our next 15 footer. Recently he cleared 14-6 four times in practice, a height he had never made before in practice."

DINK TEMPLETON: "Ever since I saw Bill Russell clear 6-7½ with a high level combination of a broad jump and a cross block I've had the goofiest feeling that with jumping training he could make 7-6 look easy, but he's such a complete basketball nut I doubt that he'll ever iron out his style. I swear he must have cleared 25 feet on that 6-7½ high jump. Once I saw a travelog which showed the Watusi tribe of Africa. The king was the runt of the whole tribe at 6-7½, but he was still young. The rest seemed to be over 7 feet. The finest looking athlete of them all looked about 8-2, and jumped a dignified scissors over a rope that seemed close to his own height. The pictures did not show the take-off, and I took it for granted that they jumped off the usual African mound. After seeing Russell, and reading the account of the Watusi in T&F NEWS, I'm not so sure they did."

## NOTED WITH INTEREST

ATHLETIC REVIEW article by Wilf Richards, recalls that Paavo Nurmi became interested in running at 12 at a time when Finnish boys took to running as ours do to baseball or basketball. He showed ability above average, but by no means exceptional. Even at this early age there was evidence of desire to train alone. At 16 he took up running seriously. In an Army test he covered 12 miles over rough, hilly country with a heavy pack so fast that they doubted he had covered the whole distance. It turned out he had run the entire way instead of the usual run-walk method. In the Paris Olympics of 24 he intended to compete in the 1500, 5000 and 3000 team race on the track and the cross country. Since there were only 45 minutes between the finals of the 1500 and 5000m Nurmi tested his recovery rate by running the same schedule in the national championships. He also feared the likely heat wave conditions of Paris, so accustomed his body to the required overheated atmosphere with a course of steam baths. He won all four at Paris, and when the heat knocked out 24 of 39 starters in the cross country Race, Nurmi, from cool Finland, showed no signs of distress. Nurmi usually finished so well within himself that moderns wonder what he would have done if pressed to the limit. Seldom did he have to resort to a finishing burst as he usually had usually established a big lead. Nurmi always ran by the clock and knew his opponents limitations as well as his own.