

TRACK NEWSLETTER

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By Bert & Cordiner Nelson (Track & Field News)

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NEWS

INDOORS

CLEVELAND, March 22: Murchison 5.4 (5.3 in heat), Johnson, Butler; Jenkins 1:12.0, Gaffney, Lean, Ecker; Sowell 2:12.2, Scurlock, Lockerbie; Delany 4:10.4, Beatty, Wheeler, Gregory; Tabori 8:54.6, D. Jones, Breckenridge, Dolwet; Calhoun 6.1, Jones, Campbell; Reavis 6'7", tie Stead & Furrey, O'Reilly; Richards 15'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", tie Welbourn, Bragg, Laz, Lyons 14'4".

CENTRAL AAU, Chicago, March 23: Jacobs 6.2; Smith 6'8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; McNulty 7.5; Laz 13'8"; Higdon 9:23.1; Caffey 31.6. ALSO, Murchison again ran 6.1 on March 30.

OUTDOORS

FOREIGN Merv Lincoln ran 3:58.9 (3: 42.0 for 1500m) in Australia. Walter Lemos lowered Argentina and South American 10,000m record to 29:39.8 at Buenos Aires March 17. He ran 14:29.0 the previous day. Tom Courtney had great double at Johannesburg, South Africa, March 30, running 46.5 and 1:49.8, for new South African records. A week earlier, suffering an upset stomach and a heavy track, Tom ran 1:53.2.

U.S. March 23: Morrow 9.4w; Ken Fannon, ACC, 14.0w; Roubanis 15'4"; exhibition; ElHis, UCLA, 48.2; Seaman 1:54.8; Johnston, UCLA, 14'; Torrence, UCLA, 6'6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; Fehlen, Stanford, 6'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; Mattos, Olympic Club, 14'4"; Flint, OC, 14'; Hadley, Oxy, 4:11.9 and 1:53.1; Wray, Oxy, 1:54.3; Reisbord, Oxy, 4:12.4; Schweikart, LA State, 4:13.4; Kerr, Oxy, 9:29.2; Gutowski 14'10"; and 23'9"; Oxy 3:17.1; Larabee, Striders, 21.3 & 47.7; Walters, Striders, 4:13.9 & 1:56.7; Harkness, Oxy frosh, 9:28.0; Johnson, Striders, 14.2; Treat, Oxy frosh, 14.4n; Howard, Striders, 23.5; Seymour, Striders, 217'11"; Fendler, Striders, 6'7"; for So. Cal.: Bronson 53'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Lawson 14.6, Anderson 1:54.3, Truex 9:08.5, Robertson 9:09, Babka 174'1"; Spurrier, Marana AFB, 48.6.

March 26 Morrow 9.3w & 20.0w from Woodhouse 20.1w. March 29: Agostini 9.5, 20.8.; Henderson, Arizona State, 4:10.5, 9:22.6; Robinson, Fresno, 14.1, 23.4; Rose, Arizona State, 14'6".

March 30: North Texas Relays: ACC 41.0; Stafford, ACC, 24'1 $\frac{5}{8}$ "; Burch, NTSC, 162'2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; Morrow 10.4m. Austin: for Texas--40.6, Villarreal 4:12.2, Wilson 48.0, Whilden 9.6, Southern 14.5, Whilden 21.2, 3:14.9, McGuire 24'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", for SMU, Stewart & Miller 6'7"; for Texas Frosh, Rosemond, 1:52.9; College Station for Houston, Beck 9.6 & 20.7, Bingham 23.5, Macy 4:17.4. Berkeley: for Cal--House 4:13.2 & 9:23.4, Bowden 1:50.5, Dailey 6'6"; for Olympic Club, Bitner 223'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Bugge 219'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Barnes 14', Shelton 6'7". San Jose: for San Jose--Norton 9.4w, 20.3w; Bond 9:28.4; for Stanford, Fehlen 6'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Roldan 214'5", Chesarek 1:55.2, Herrmann 24'5" w, Cobb 23.1w, Peters 170'7". Los Angeles: for Oxy-Bambauer 48.3n, Reisbord 1:54, Wray 4:10.9, Hadley 4:14, White 4:14.5, Gutowski 15'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 3:16.2, for Striders--Howard 48.3, Walters 4:08.5.. Los Angeles: for UCLA-Vick 54'6", Thompson 14.5, Luster 14.6, Torrence 6'7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", J. Seaman 1:55.7, B. Seaman 9:11.2; for Santa Barbara--Scott 21.3. San Diego for SC-Angerson 1:53.1, Cockburn 1:54.9, Wing 4:13.2, Robertson 9:25.9, 3:18.2, Voiles 212.8", Babka 166'4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", Egan 162'3", Morris 15'2". Miscellaneous: Dave Davis, SC, broke national frosh record with 56'2". Homer Robertson neared JC mark with 53'3". Poynter, Pasadena CC, 20.5w, U. of Texas trials March 23--Rosemond 1:53.1, Foerster 1:54.5, 1:25.7, Wilson 20.8, Hayman 9.6.

BULLETIN BOARD

Next Newsletters April 16, May 7 and 28. March Track & Field News mailed April 4. Still some foreign track publications available--upon request and with your comment or other contribution to the Newsletter.

WIND SPRINTS

Bobby Morrow has accepted an invitation to Compton... ACC will be at Modesto again. California relay meets are planning on Klaus Richtzenhain, hope for Herb Elliott... Dr. Andras Csaplar, former world record holder and Hungarian coach, is now getting into the track picture in Whittier, Calif... Dave Davis' folks are moving to Kansas and it is reported Dave may transfer to Kansas U... Wayne Lemons, SC frosh, ran 1:54 and 4:15.2 last week.

SO THEY TELL US

TN TOM-BRALY, Los Angeles: "San Diego Naval Training Center will have only five men this year--Milt Campbell, Jerry Prewitt, Benny Garcia, Bob Kimball and Sam Waltmire. . .the big news from SC is still being kept very quiet, but when it breaks I think it will touch off quite a stir across the U.S., . . .Dave Davis is tremendous. He should hit 58 this year... I pick Troy to beat Occidental 74-57."

TN JACK MORTLAND, Bowling Green, O.: "Too bad Ohio State is on probation or we could look forward to a titanic individual dual between Davis and Southern at the NCAA... my modest track library includes 19 annuals, 11 books, 8 years of periodicals, and programs . . .despite my second rate performances (49.5 and 1:59.5) I have managed to sneak into competition against 8 Olympians and have competed in 31 different events in sanctioned competition. 50, 75, 100, 200m, 220, 440, 600, 880, 1000, 1500m, mile, 2 miles, 3 miles, 3½ miles, 4 miles, 15,000m, 120HH, 180LH, 400mH, BJ, HJ, SP, DT, JT, 440 relay, 880 relay, mile relay, 2-mile relay, sprint medley relay, distance medley relay and 880 walk. . .I'm trying to figure out where I came up with the Olympic predictions that totaled 46 medal winners. I have a number of revisions here and the best I did on any of them was 43, so I must really have been inspired the day I sent them out to you."

TN HUGH GARDNER, Indianapolis: "Why don't any of these Warmerdam reviews bring up again the subject of amount of tries studied over a long period of time? I once read he calculated how many efforts brought out maximum performance, and planned accordingly. Another one I read was that Tolan carefully plotted his 1932 campaign, based on a careful study of all his earlier running. In his case, too, he came up with an interesting summary, which he used in 1932. His umpteenth week would be his best. Starting about mid-season, Eddie wasn't so good. Later, he commenced being runner-up. He'd sometimes barely qualify, and barely place, before the runner-up point. Metcalfe seemed to have the whole thing sewed up, but Eddie kept with it. At the Olympics Tolan ran 10.28, his best ever, to nose out Metcalfe in a race which from all photos I ever saw had the man on the far side the apparent winner.

That also gets me wound up with a personal theory that there is an optical illusion even with a camera, which makes it seem the man on the far side beats the one nearer the judge.. With the IAAF book on Records Progression, which is fine to have, I can't resist remarking about the absurdity of their ever adopting marks at metric distances which were inferior to their accepted performances at longer yardage points. But, that's the way they carried them--and will continue to do so--until something like the 30s, when they woke up to that logical conclusion that 220 yard marks which bettered the 200 meter mark, etc., should be allowed as metric marks... Did I ever make a comment about one timer I saw in Fort Wayne several years ago, who had to hold his watch at the tip of his nose to read it? How the hell could he see who broke the tape?"

NOTED WITH INTEREST

BILL NIEDER, at the start of the winter, had been working only two weeks, was never below 58 and most of the time over 59. "I haven't done as much weight lifting as I would like, but I plan to bear down in this department from now until mid-spring. If you get your form down and then increase strength on the weights you can't help but throw farther. Weights make the difference in the long run. That, and throwing every day...I got the original urge to hit 60 feet from one of my college professors. He made the casual comment one day after O'Brien hit 60 that nobody else would do it ever. That burned me a little. I made up my mind to do it. . .I heard one of the Russian athletes tell a group of Americans that he understood the Americans were competing because they wanted to. That gave me the impression some of them were doing it because they had to..."

"Young athletes who want to become good shot putters would do well to keep in mind:

1. Set a goal of what you someday want to have. Don't be discouraged if you don't reach it soon.
2. Workout every day all year. You don't necessarily have to throw every day, but should work at form and conditioning.
3. Put for distance every day even if it is just the last three throws of a workout.
4. Learn one thing at a time. It is impossible to correct everything at once. Learn various techniques of good form until you don't have to think about them every time you throw. Then move on to eliminate the next flaw."

THE NEGRO IN TRACK by George Meade was printed at the end of the 1952 season. "Olympic medals in the 100, 200, 400 and 800 in the 1932 through 1952 Games were divided 32 to members of the Negro race and only 16 to all the white competitors of the world, including the U.S. In the last six Olympic broad jumps Negroes have taken 9 medals of 18. Negro broad jumpers won the AAU 25 out of 32 years. In the 23 years since Tolan first won the national AAU 100 this event has been won 17 times by Negroes. They won the AAU indoor 60 for 16 successive years. Between 1932 and 1948 Negroes won or tied in 12 AAU high jumps. Exactly half the "standard" events in AAU competition have had Negro world record holders at one time or another.

The question naturally arises as to why such a small segment of our population has provided such a large proportion of extremely high class performers. Some anthropologists have indicated a racial difference in the comparative lengths of the leg bones and in the foot structure, but it is difficult to believe that anatomical differences are the principal reason. With such widely differing types among a group of champions as the short and stocky Tolan, the large and rangy Metcalfe, and the streamlined Owens, minor differences in bone structure would hardly seem to be the determining factor. Possibly the explanation is sociologic rather than ethnologic. Track meets were among the earliest athletic contests in which Negroes were free to compete with white athletes, and when a few champions developed this attracted others, and the trend of the twenties became the avalanche of the thirties. Of special interest is the experience in the high jump. Why did Negro stars dominate this event for about 15 years and then cease to do so? This might bear out the contention of some students of sport that Negro prominence is a passing phase rather than a permanent one. Lending reinforcement to such a theory is the predominance of Irish-American athletes in the list of record holders of 40 years ago, whereas today they are not especially prominent.

One fact stands out in this study--Negro athletes stay in competition much longer than their white colleagues in the same events. Eulace Peacock, Ed Gordon, Dave Albritton, Barney Ewell and many others have been in the forefront and have won championships for spans of 12 to 15 years, most unusual in events such as sprints and jumping, which require intense training and accurate coordination. Most white athletes in these events drop competitive track work soon after leaving college, but the majority of the Negro champions not only compete but continue to win well into their thirties. This persistence may possibly be due to lack of other opportunities for self-expression. From the facts presented here the evidence is clear that members of a sharply delineated group comprising about 8 per cent of our population have excelled, far beyond the proportion to be expected, in a highly competitive activity that has great popular importance. Track work is unique in the major sports in that it is not a preparation for a professional career, as are baseball, football, basketball and boxing, and therefore no monetary attraction is involved. A further limitation is that track and field athletes are almost entirely developed in the colleges and universities."

OLYMPIC AGE ANALYSIS, by Dr. Bob Quercetani, in Athletics World. Dumas was the youngest champion at 19 years, 9 months. Southern was the youngest place-getter at 18'10. Only three others under 20 placed among the first six--Mal Spence, Lauer, Potgieter. Oldest winner was Richards at 30-9; oldest medalist was Gordien 34-2; oldest place-getter was Consolini, 39-10. Only 8 others in the 30-plus bracket placed: Koschel 35, Lundberg 32, Olowu 32, Laufer 31, Lituyev 31, Grigalka 31, Kovacs 30, Larsen 30. Over 50% of the 108 men considered were in the 23-26 bracket, the grand average for the entire lot being slightly over 25 years.

Considering the medium age of the first six men in each event, the high jump was the youngest event at 21.8, followed by 400 hurdles with 22.9 and the 100 with 23.0. Oldest event was the discus at 29.1, followed by steeplechase 27.8 and 10,000 27.3. In the discus three of the placers were well over 30 but the bright exception was the 20-2 winner. The hammer throw, once the cosy corner of whales recalcitrant to the old age pension, is undergoing a remarkable rejuvenation process. The six place getters averaged 24.6 with Krivonosov the oldest at 27-6 and Hall the youngest at 22-3. Nation-wise, the 32 U.S. place-getters average 24.1. Not surprisingly, Europe had an older group, her 64 place-getters averaging 26.2. However there are indications that in Europe too an ever growing number of young performers is coming to the fore, sooner than their forefathers used to do. Among other continents, Australia had a remarkably young team of place getters: her six men averaged 23.6 years, with John Landy the dean at 26-7."

BRITISH POSITION in world track is reviewed by chief national coach G. H. Q. Dyson: "What of our technical knowledge? Are we beaten by the Americans and Russians because they know and we don't? To this my answer must be an unequivocal "no". From my talks with foreign distance coaches, for instance, I was struck with the hit or miss character of distance training even at the highest level; there is so much more to learn... The lesson is clear to me; as the popularity and status of our sport continues to rise so, we can hope, more and more youngsters of fine physique will be attracted to it. Certainly our progress in some events is being held up through lack of proper physical material... In Britain 75 per cent of the children leave school at 15 and very little encouragement from the country as a whole is given to these boys and girls to continue with the skills learned at school or to learn new ones. In the field of track, very few clubs possess well run, thriving junior sections and there exists little or no organized competition to bridge the gap between school-leaving at this early age and adult competition. As a result, we lose thousands of promising young athletes every year. Alas, those who go on to university find little to encourage them, for Oxford, Cambridge and London excepted, the universities of Britain play an exceedingly low part in the Athletic life of the country. Had we but 20 universities in Britian with the athletic interest and tradition of these three, the benefit to athletics would be enormous... Here, then, our whole social structure stands in marked contrast to that of the U.S.A., certain European and Scandinavian countries, and, for that matter, the USSR and other communist countries. All, by various means, give their youth more encouragement than we do. If we could set these matters right then we could field an Olympic team twice as strong as the one we took to Australia."

ABILENE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE track team is headed by a guy called Morrow. It also features juniors Waymond Griggs and James Segrest and soph Bill Woodhouse who with junior Morrow combined to tie the world's 440 relay record last year. In the quarter go Segrest and Jack Shropshire, NAIA 400mH champ. Ken Fannon, 14. 0w so far this year, and Charles Small are the hurdlers, and other running lettermen are Laddie Nethercutt, Truman Clark and Terry McKee. Larry Faulkner is the handyman of the field events and he is backed by sophs Wayne Stell, high jump and broad jump; John Robbins, high jump; and Jerry Holley, broad jump. The frosh are competing in their own class this year. Ten boys from other states--8 of them--are on the squad.

Coach Oliver Jackson is now in his 10th year at ACC, and all 24 school records have been set during his time. Ollie directed the first two NAIA track meets and still serves in an advisory capacity. He was honored at the 1955 meet by being named to the Helms NAIA Hall of Fame for his work in staging the NAIA meets. Jackson competed in the 220, 440, 880 and broad jump at Denison, Tex., high school, winning the state meet with 22'11" in 1938. He also lettered in football and basketball. He went to college at North Texas State, Oklahoma Baptist and ACC, where he did 49.0, ran on the mile and 2-mile relay teams and played quarterback in 1941. He served 4 years in the Air Force, making captain, and came back to graduate from ACC in 1946. Joined Wildcat coaching staff in fall of 1946, and assisted with football and track until promoted to head track coach in 1948. Received his master's degree from North Texas State in the summer of 1953. Has just resigned his football coaching duties to devote full time to track. Jackson is 35, married, and has three daughters.

BABE DIDRIKSON was quite a track gal in her day. In the 1930 women's national championships she won the javelin and baseball throw and in 1931 she took the broad jump, 80 hurdles and baseball throw, the last with a 296 foot heave that is a record today. In the 1930 meet, according to Stella Walsh, Babe broke the world's broad jump record five times and Stella had to break it six times to win. In the 1932 meet Babe entered 8 events of the 10 on the program, skipping only the 50 and 220. She was shut out in a semifinal of the 100, running third. She was 4th in the discus. She tied for first in the high jump with a world record leap of 5'3 3/16 and won five other events outright: 80mh in 12.1 (11.9 in heat), shot put 39'6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", javelin 139'3", baseball throw 272'2" and brodd jump 17'6 $\frac{5}{8}$ ". She scored 30 points and won the AAU as a one-girl team, the second place squad getting 22. At the Olympics she won the javelin with a world's record 143'4" on her first throw. In the 80 hurdles, second event, she won in 11.7, another new world and Olympic record. She and Jean Shiley again broke the world record in the high jump and tied at 5'5", except that the judges disqualified her for diving, despite the fact she had been jumping the same way all afternoon. Movies later showed she went over without diving."