

1956

MEN - Los Angeles - June 29-30

1956 was truly a vintage year in track and field; world records were set in 9 of 10 individual Olympic track events (by contrast 1996 saw 3 WRs in mens track events), while in 5 field event WRs were set (the 1996 tally was 1). If the Melbourne Olympics were the highlight of the season the FOT ran them close. In many events - the sprints (where there were WR's in all 3 events), hurdles, long jump and shot - the standard was probably better than at the Games

Times in parentheses indicate the differentials behind the winner as recorded by the Longines timer. Times shown in parentheses with the prefix "O" are official - but incorrect - times

		Longines
<u>100 Meters</u> - June 29, 21.15 Hr		Timer
1.	4. Bobby Morrow (AbC)	10.3 (10.28)
2.	3. Ira Murchison (US-A)	10.4 (10.32)
3.	5. Thane Baker (USAF)	10.4 (10.36)
4.	6. Leamon King (Cal)	10.4 (10.41)
5.	1. Theo Bush (US-A)	10.4 (10.41)
6.	8. John Haines (Penn)	10.6 (10.54)
7.	3. Rod Richard (US-A)	10.6 (10.54)
8.	2. Willie Williams (US-A)	12.0 (12.04)

Heats - first 4 qualify, 20.25 Hr

- 1/ 1. Murchison 10.2 =WR, 2. Baker 10.2 =WR, 3. Haines 10.3, 4. King 10.4, 5. Ken Kave (Morg St) 10.4, 6. Dick Blair (Kansas) 10.6, 7. Ray Norton (SCVYV) 10.6, 8. Pat Coyle (USC) 10.7 (Wind: -1.3 m/s)
- 2/ 1. Morrow 10.2 =WR, 2. Richard 10.3 (+0.16), 3. Williams 10.4 (+0.18), 4. Bush 10.4 (+0.19), 5. Paul Williams (USAF) 10.4 (+0.22), 6. Willie White (Jefferson HS, LA) 10.6 (+0.37), 7. Bobby Whilden (Texas) 10.6 (+0.42), Dave Sime (Duke) - Dnf (Wind: -0.4)

Before 1956 there had been 10 marks of 10.2, all by different athletes, but in the Olympic year 6 men ran 10.2 or better on 15 occasions. Three of them took place in the FOT, though had all the top men been at the peak of their form, Los Angeles would have seen an even better series of marks.

In the first heat Murchison started quickly, as was his wont, and was a yard clear of Baker after 10 meters. Baker closed the gap to 1 foot by the end, but although he shared Murchison's time of 10.2, it was only Murchison who got credit for an official WR. Haines finished 2 ft clear of King in 3rd, but the judges officially placed them in reverse order (the unofficial but correct positions are shown above). In the second heat, Morrow the NCAA/AAU champion was pitted against Sime, who had been the sensation of the season (8 clockings of 9.4 or better for 100y after a best of 9.7 in 1955) until his injury in the NCAA 200. The question was whether Sime's injured abductor muscles would hold up. Morrow was on the inside with Sime next to him, and within 3 strides Sime was out of it, left clutching his leg and staring at the track as Morrow eased up with the third 10.2 of the night, leading speculation as to a 10.1 in the final. Morrow later noted "I got a good start in the heat..I thought 10.1 was definitely possible in the finals, but I didn't get away quite as well, and I had to catch a few of them".

Bush and Murchison got the best starts, and Morrow took all of 25 meters to catch the compact (5'4"/145) Murchison. Baker was in 4th, more than a meter behind, and locked in a battle with a tense looking King. The Californian star was always at his best when running relaxedly, and so was never in the hunt. Morrow gradually powered away from Murchison and won by half a meter, crossing the line in an explosion of camera flashbulbs, as Baker closed with a frenetic rush to take third. Bush on the inside was missed by the judges, but was no worse than =4th. King got the Olympic relay spot, and ran a super 9.1 leg on the USA's world record team in Melbourne. Morrow's time of 10.3 was considered slow after the 10.2's, but the Longines timer registered 10.28 (though it was possibly hand started), and the wind, which looked to be 2-3 mph at 45o against the runners, was likely more of a hindrance than was thought at the time. Morrow followed in Owens' footsteps by being the NCAA-AAU-FOT winner in the 100m - no other sprinter has won this treble. Like Owens, Morrow went on to Olympic gold, dominating the field to win by 0.15 seconds, with Baker 2nd and Murchison 4th, and his 1956 form led Mike Agostini, Trinidadian sprinter and writer, to call Morrow the best sprinter he ever ran against.

200 Meters - June 30, 15.20 Hr

3	1. Bobby Morrow (AbCh)	20.6 =WR
2	2. Thane Baker (USAF)	20.7 (+0.08)
7	3. Andy Stanfield (NYPC)	(20.8-O) 20.9 (+0.26)
4	4. Dick Blair (Kansas)	21.2 (+0.59)
6	5. Theo Bush (US-A)	(21.2-O) 21.3 (+0.67)
5	6. Bobby Whilden (Texas)	(21.6-O) 21.4 (+0.82)
8	7. Rod Richard (US-A)	(21.7-O) 21.5 (+0.93)
1	8. Larry McBride (US-A)	(21.8-O) 21.6 (+1.04)

Heats: - first 4 qualify, 14.10 Hr

- 1/ 1. Baker 21.1, 2. Blair 21.2 (+0.13), 3. Richard 21.2 (+0.14), 4. Whilden (O - 21.3) 21.4 (+0.32), 5. Ray Norton (SCVYV) (O -

21.4) 21.5 (+0.36), 6. Lindy Remigino (NYAC) (O - 21.4) 21.6 (+0.50)

2/ 1. Morrow 21.1, 2. Stanfield 21.2 (+0.11), 3. McBride (O - 21.3) 21.5 (+0.35), 4. Bush 21.5 (+0.36), 5. Ken Kave (Morg St) (O - 21.5) 21.6 (+0.46), 6. Edgar Brabham (Mich St) 21.8 (+0.70), 7. Willie Williams (US-A) 21.9 (+0.81), Jesse Mashburn (Okla A&M) - Dnc.

Morrow had won the NCAA in 20.6, and Baker and Stanfield duplicated that time in the AAU, won by Baker. Among the other entrants, only Theo Bush had ducked under 21.0 in 1956 (with 20.9 in the AAU). Predicting the team was not a major problem. Baker was drawn in lane 2, with Morrow in 3 and the heavily bandaged Stanfield in the more gently curved lane 7. Blair was out quickly, but Morrow caught him after 50 meters, and was a foot ahead of Baker coming off the bend. Stanfield was an isolated third, and finished a full 3 meters ahead of Blair. Morrow gradually floated away from the driving Baker, making his 20.6 look remarkably easy, and later admitted that he had eased off over the last few strides. Morrow's coach Oliver Jackson noted that he had trained Morrow not to go all out and "maybe I overdid it". Morrow was a steady sprinter - clocking 20.6 in all 3 major championships he ran in during 1956, and only ever strayed from this in 1955 when he won the NAIA 100 yards title in 9.1, a full 2/10ths under the WR. It was deemed to be wind-assisted but was less doubtful than at least a couple of ratified 9.4 records. The athletes covered 25m in the 200m before reaching the turn in both the NCAA and FOT, which made negotiating the curve more difficult than starting at the beginning of the turn, a difference worth about 0.2 seconds.

400 Meters - June 30, 15.55 Hr

8	1. Lou Jones (US-A)	45.2	WR
7	2. Jim Lea (USAF)	45.7	(+0.51)
3	3. Charlie Jenkins (Vill)	46.1	(+0.92)
5	4. "J.W." Mashburn (Okla A&M) (46.5-O)	46.4	(+1.17)
6	5. Russ Ellis (UCLA) (47.1-O)	47.2	(+2.02)
2	6. Jerry White (Corcoran HS, Ca.) 47.4	(+2.18)	
1	7. Reggie Pearman (NYPC) (47.8-O)	47.9	(+2.66)
4	8. Mike Larrabee (USC) (48.0-O)	48.4	(+3.18)

Heats: - first 4 qualify, 14.45 Hr

1/ 1. Mashburn 46.7, 2. Lea 46.8 (+0.14), 3. Ellis (O - 47.0) 47.1 (+0.43), 4. Larrabee 47.2 (+0.51), 5. Herb Washington (Morg St) 47.2 (+0.52), 6. John Haines (Penn) 47.5 (+0.81), 7. John Tucker (NYPC) 48.2 (+1.46)

2/ 1. Jenkins 47.5, 2. Jones 47.5 (+0.04), 3. Pearman (O - 47.5) 47.7 (+0.20), 4. White (O - 47.9) 47.8 (+0.31), 5. Frank Bowers (NYPC) 48.0 (+0.51), 6. Dick Maiocco (NYPC) 48.2 (+0.73)

Lou Jones had set a WR 45.4 in the Pan American Games in 1955 in Mexico City, worth around 45.9-46.2 at low altitude, and had won the Inter-Service championship with a fine 45.7, but his 45.2 from the outside lane in the FOT came as an enormous surprise. Jones went out quickly, leading through 200m in 21.3, with Lea at 21.6e. As the runners came off the final curve it looked as if the staggers on another bend were required as lanes 8 and 7 seemed too far ahead of the field. Jenkins was the fastest man in the homestretch, passing Mashburn to take the vital third spot 3 yards behind Lea, with Jones still a further 3 yards ahead of the USC graduate. Lea had run 45.8y and 45.7 within 6 days at the end of May, and the duo looked like certainties for Olympic gold and silver. The importance of third place only became clear on November 29, when Jenkins won Olympic gold, with Jones 6th. The former Manhattan star had peaked far too early stating "it's been a long tough season" after his 45.2, and was a victim of overconfidence in Melbourne. Lea, weakened by muscle injuries and sickness, was eliminated in his quarter-final, and his relay spot was filled by Tom Courtney. Jesse Mashburn finally got a gold medal in the relay, after failing to get a run in 1952, and Jones also salvaged some glory with relay gold.

800 Meters - June 30, 14.00 Hr

	1. Tom Courtney (US-A)	1:46.4	AR
	2. Arnie Sowell (Pitt)	1:46.9	
	3. Lon Spurrier (USAF)	1:47.6	
	4. Lang Stanley (SJSt)	1:47.9	
	5. Billy Tidwell (Emporia State)	1:49.3	
	6. Mal Whitfield (LA St)	1:49.3	
	7. Gene Maynard (US-A) (1:49.4-O)	1:50.0e	
	8. Dick Foerster (USN)	1:50.5	

Heats: - First 4 qualify, June 29, 20.40 Hr

1/ 1. Sowell 1:48.8, 2. Stanley 1:49.3, 3. Tidwell 1:49.3, 4. Whitfield 1:49.3, 5. Bill Weiss (SCS) 1:49.7, 6. Chuck Kirby (USC) 1:57.1, Paul Johnson (AbC) - Dnc

2/ 1. Courtney 1:50.4, 2. Spurrier 1:50.4, 3. Maynard 1:50.6, 4. Foerster 1:50.7, 5. Jim Terrill (USAF) 1:50.9, 6. Doug Brew (Dartmouth) 1:51.7, 7. Ty Hadley (Oxy) 1:51.7, Lowell Janzen (Kansas) - Dnc

Sowell, the slim 1955 and 1956 US champion, and the burly (6'2"/180) Courtney were wonderfully cast rivals. Sowell went to the lead on the first bend, and headed the field through the first lap in a quick 51.7. Whitfield slipped ahead of Tidwell just before 400m, while

Courtney was in 4th in a time of 52.8e. Whitfield moved up to Sowell's shoulder with 200m to go, and took the lead, aiming for a 3rd Olympic team. Sowell moved to the outside as Courtney and Spurrier on the outside, and Stanley boxed on the inside, closed in on Whitfield. Courtney powered by with 75 yards to go, and Sowell followed him, but was never likely to catch the former Fordham star. Courtney's reward was a US record, beating Sowell's mark set in the NCAA. Behind them Spurrier, with his stiff shouldered style, held off Stanley by 2 yards, while Whitfield gave up when he knew he would not make the team, and was passed by Tidwell - though officially given 5th place. Courtney went on to win the Olympic 800 after a stirring final stretch battle with Britain's Derek Johnson and broke the 880y WR the following year.

1500 Meters - June 30, 15.40 Hr

1. Jerome Walters (SCS)	3:47.6
2. Ted Wheeler (Iowa)	3:48.0
3. Don Bowden (Cal)	3:48.6
4. Fred Dwyer (NYAC)	3:48.6
5. Bob Seaman (UCLA)	3:50.5
6. Len Simpson (US-A)	3:51.3
7. Ed Murphey (Tenn)	3:52.6
8. Paul Johnson (AbC)	3:56.9

9. Lowell Zellers (US-A) 4:02.8, 10. Art Dalzell (US-A) 4:02.9, 11. Jim Doulin (NYAC) (O - 10. 4:02.8) 4:02.9, 12. Burr Grim (Maryland) 4:18.8. Sid Wing (USC), Joe Villareal (Texas AC) and Joe Deady (Unat.) - Dnf

Walters had won the AAU from Dwyer, while Wing was the 1st American in the NCAA (in 3rd place), and these 3 seemed to be the men in form. Villareal led the field through laps in 59.9 and 2:02.4, and was succeeded by Dwyer with a lap to go. Dwyer, the '55 Pan American bronze medalist, dragged Walters with him as he broke 10 yards clear of the field with half a lap to go. Walters went by Dwyer, and Wheeler broke clear of Bob Seaman and raced past Dwyer. Bowden meanwhile looked out of things, until he began a desperate kick, passing Seaman with 60 yards to go. He was still 5 yards behind Dwyer with 30 to go, and caught the tiring Villanova grad in the 1500th meter. None of the Americans made any impact in Melbourne, all being eliminated in their heats, but all had contributed to a pulsating 1500 race in the FOT.

3000 Meters Steeplechase - June 30, 14.30 Hr

1. Phil Coleman (UCTC)	9:00.3
2. Charles Jones (Iowa)	9:00.6
3. Horace Ashenfelter (NYAC)	9:02.4
4. Ken Reiser (US-A)	9:15.1
5. Jerry Smartt (USAF)	9:21.4
6. Bill Collins (Santa Barbara AC)	9:22.0e
7. Don Hubbard (SCVYV)	9:43.7
8. Dave Peterson (South Dakota State)	9:45.9

9. George King (NYAC) 9:53.5, 10. Sam Waltmire (USN) 9:55.2, 11. Jack Marden (Pacific) 9:55.7, 12. Bill Ashenfelter (NYAC) 10:04.7, 13. Ike Mazza (NYU) 10:26.1

Reigning Olympic champion "Nip" Ashenfelter had won at Compton on June 1, Stockton the next night, and the AAU, and looked a safe bet to repeat his membership of the US team, but the other 2 places were not so sure - the contenders were Bill Ashenfelter, '52 Olympian and 2nd at the AAU, Phil Coleman - 3rd at the AAU, Charles Jones - 9:12.5 in the Iowa AAU, and Inter-services champion Ken Reiser. Coleman set the pace for 4 laps, and was succeeded by Ashenfelter, who increased the pace. With 2 laps to go the order was Ashenfelter with Jones and Coleman in tow, and Reiser 20 yards back. Jones took the lead on the last lap, but Coleman zipped by with 50 yards to go, while Ashenfelter jogged in, content to make the team. In 5th was ironman Jerry Smartt, who had placed in the top-7 in the 5000 the previous evening, and the 10000 the week before.

5000 Meters - June 29, 20.55 Hr

1. Bill Dellinger (Oregon)	14:26.0	AR
2. Curtis Stone (NYAC)	14:29.0	
3. Max Truex (USC)	14:30.8	
4. Dick Hart (CTFC)	14:38.5	
5. Mal Robertson (SCS)	14:49.8	
6. Bob Sbarra (Man)	14:56.2	
7. Jerry Smart (USAF)	14:57.0e	
8. Gordon McKenzie (NYPC)	14:57.8	

9. John Kopil (NYAC) 15:10.5, 10. Jim Beatty (NC) 15:36.4, 11. Walt Boehm (USAF) 15:44.3, 12. Joe Tyler (USN) 15:45.0, 13. Bob Soth (US-A). George King (NYU) and Walt McNew (Tex) - Dnc

Bill Dellinger had won the NCAA Mile in 1954 as a sophomore, and graduated to the 5000 in 1956, winning the NCAA by 20 yards over Jim Beatty. After Beatty had led the FOT race for 1 lap, McKenzie took over taking the field through miles of 4:32.8 and 4:44.7, with

Hart, Stone, Dellinger and Truex in tow. Stone took the lead at 2 1/2 miles, and his lap of 70.9 dropped Hart and McKenzie. Dellinger took the lead after the bell and was never troubled, covering his last lap in 62.3 to break Fred Wilt's US record of 14:26.8 set in 1950. Stone set a record of his own in qualifying for a 3rd consecutive Olympic 5000m team. Dellinger's mile splits were 4:38.7 - 9:22.4 - 13:59.5

10000 Meters - June 23, Bakersfield

1. Max Truex (USC)	30:52.0
2. Dick Hart (CTFC)	31:06.3
3. Gordon McKenzie (NYPC)	31:06.8
4. Jerry Smartt (USAF)	31:14.0
5. Fred Wilt (NYAC)	32:07.7
6. Jack Blackburn (Unat.)	32:24.2
7. Luther Burdell (Penn AC)	32:36.5
8. Hal Higdon (US-A)	33:12.6
9. John Hughes	33:13.6

35 other athletes started

The remarkably large field of 45 runners set sail on a boiling hot Saturday evening towards Olympic selection in the 10000m. Dick Hart took the pace from 2 miles after ex-Pole Jan Miecznowski ran 9:53 and then dropped out. By 4 miles there were 4 men in contention, with Wilt 150y back. Smart fell off the pace at 8 km, and Truex took over with 2 laps to go, and gained over 9 seconds on McKenzie who was caught by Hart's closing rush (which took 50 yards out of McKenzie on the last lap). The diminutive (5'6/130) Truex had suffered during the season after a dose of flu, and had dropped out of the NCAA race. In Melbourne he dropped out with a back injury, while McKenzie finished 18th, 3 places ahead of Hart.

Marathon

a) Boston - 19 April (40,456m)

1. Antti Viskari (FIN)	2:14:14
2. John Kelley	2:14:33
3. Eino Oskanen (FIN)	2:17:56
4. Nick Costes	2:18:01
5. Dean Thackeray	2:20:24
6. Ted Corbitt	2:28:06

b) AAU - 30 September, Yonkers

1. John Kelley	2:24:52.2
2. Dean Thackwray	2:31:14
3. Nick Costes	2:31:52
4. Rudy Mendez	2:32:30
5. John Lafferty	2:38:22
6. Ted Corbitt	2:39:30

The team was again selected on the basis of 2 races, but as the top-3 in each race were the same men, there was no problem in selection. Kelley (not to be confused with John A.Kelley, the 1936/48 Olympian) was the class of the US marathoners in 1956, but faded badly in the later stages of the Olympic race, finishing 21st, one place behind Costes.

20 Kilometer Walk Pittsburgh, 26 August

1. Alex Oakley (CAN)	1:39:06
2. Jim Hewson (St Francis Xavier AC)	1:39:16
3. Henry Laskau (92nd St YMHA)	1:39:45
4. Bruce MacDonald (NYPC)	1:39:56
5. John Allen (Unat.)	1:40:19
6. Don Heinicke (Baltimore Cross Center)	1:42:19

Adolf Weinacker, 50k Olympian in 1948 and 1952, finished second, but was disqualified for "breaking stride".

50 Kilometer Walk Baltimore, September 16

1. Adolf Weinacker (USAF)	4:38:58
2. Leo Sjogren (FAAC)	4:44:18
3. Jim Hewson (St Francis Xavier AC)	4:51:03
4. Elliott Denman (NYU)	5:03:21
5. John Deni (Metropolitan Club, NY)	5:10:14
6. David Lakritz (92nd St YMHA)	No time

Sjogren and Weinacker repeated their 1952 selections, and in the case of the Air Force walker, it was 3 times in a row as an Olympian. All 3 selections finished in Melbourne, with Weinacker 7th (5:00:16), Denman, who replaced the injured Hewson, 11th (5:12:14), one place ahead of Sjogren (5:12:34)

110 Meters Hurdles - June 30, 15.45 Hr

1. 4. Jack Davis (USN)	13.8
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1. 5. Lee Calhoun (NCC)	13.8	
3. 3. Joel Shankle (Duke)	14.1	(+0.28)
4. 2. Milt Campbell (USN) (14.2-O)	14.1	(+0.29)
5. 6. Charley Pratt (US-A)	14.2	(+0.36)
6. 8. Willard Thomson (US-A)	14.4	(+0.62)
7. 1. Harrison Dillard (Unat. Cleveland)	14.5	(+0.66)
7. Elias Gilbert (W-S)	Dnf	

Heats: - first 4 qualify, 13.45 Hr

- 1/ 1. Calhoun 13.9, 2. Pratt 14.0 (+0.08), 3. Campbell (O - 14.0) 14.1 (+0.19), 4. Dillard 14.3 (+0.40), 5. Dean Benson (Williamette) 14.4 (+0.52), 6. Van Bruner (USAF) 14.5 (+0.64), 7. Dick Lindsay (Mt) (O - 14.6) 14.7 (+0.83), 8. Lee Loewen (Mank St) (O - 14.9) 15.0 (+1.08)
- 2/ 1. Davis 13.9, 2. Shankle (O - 14.0) 14.1 (+0.21), 3. Gilbert 14.4 (+0.51), 4. Thomson 14.4 (+0.52), 5. Rafer Johnson (UCLA) 14.4 (+0.54), 6. Bill Curtis (TCU) (O - 14.5) 14.6 (+0.70), 7. Ancel Robinson (Fresno St) (O - 14.7) 14.8 (+0.93)

Although Jack Davis had run a WR 13.4 in his AAU heat, he finished only 3rd in the final in Bakersfield. The winner at the AAU was Calhoun, virtually unheard of in 1955, but the most improved hurdler of 1956, having also won the NCAA title. Calhoun, who had run a best of 14.5 in 1955, ran 13.9 or better 15 times in 1956. There was an "edge" in their battles. At Quantico in April, Davis had won by a clear 5 feet and said of Calhoun "he lacks strength. I think Milt Campbell is tougher". Calhoun responded "I just wasn't ready for a fast race this early. I think I'll do 13.6 before I'm through, and then Davis will have a race". Rafer Johnson, world decathlon record-holder and NCAA runner-up, smacked 3 hurdles hard, and missed the final by 6 inches. Calhoun and Davis had a titanic battle in the final, with both men leaning so far forward at the finish that they both hit the tape headfirst, with the judges unable to split them, though photos appearing in "LIFE" magazine appeared to show Davis slightly ahead of Calhoun. The battle for third was between Shankle and Charley Pratt, but both were threatened by big Milt Campbell, who finished fastest of all the finalists, barely missing catching Shankle on the line. Harrison Dillard finished 7th, still a great competitor, but lost for speed. Davis went on to run 13.3 over 120 yards in Australia just before the Olympics to regain the rôle of Olympic favorite. In the Games the two again produced a magnificent duel, this time with both running hand timed 13.5s into a 2.0 m/s wind, with Calhoun again triumphing over the vastly experienced Davis - this time by 3/100ths of a second (13.70 to 13.73). In all, the two met 13 times in 1956, Davis leading 7-5 with one tie.

Quantico	4.7	1. <u>Davis 13.8y</u>	2. Calhoun 14.1y
Compton	6.1	1. <u>Davis 13.6</u>	2. Calhoun 13.7
Stockton	6.2	1. <u>Davis 13.8y</u>	3. Calhoun 14.6y (2. Shankle 13.9y)
Bakersfield	6.22	3. Davis 13.9	1. <u>Calhoun 13.6</u> (2. Shankle 13.8)
Los Angeles	6.30	=1. Davis 13.8	=1. Calhoun 13.8
Berkeley	10.13	-. Davis - Dnf	1. <u>Calhoun 13.8</u>
Ontario, Ca.	10.20	2. Davis 13.8	1. <u>Calhoun 13.7</u>
Santa Ana	10.27	2. Davis 14.0	1. <u>Calhoun 13.8</u>
Los Angeles	11.1	1. <u>Davis 13.9</u>	2. Calhoun 14.1
Geelong	11.14	1. <u>Davis 13.9y</u>	3. Calhoun 14.1y (Campbell 14.0y)
Bendigo	11.17	1. <u>Davis 13.3y</u>	2. Calhoun 13.5y
Melbourne	11.28	2. Davis 13.5/73	1. <u>Calhoun 13.5/70</u>
Sydney	12.5	1. <u>Davis 13.9y</u>	2. Calhoun 14.2y

400 Meters Hurdles - June 29, 21.30 Hr

1. 6. Glenn Davis (Ohio St)	49.5 WR
2. 5. Eddie Southern (Texas)	49.7 (+0.20)
3. 7. Josh Culbreath (USMC)	50.6 (+1.10)
4. 2. Willie Atterberry (Compton JC) (51.0-O)	51.2 (+1.49)
5. 1. Bob Rittenberg (US-A) (51.8-O)	51.9 (+1.36)
6. 3. Roy Thompson (Rice) (53.1-O)	53.2 (+3.68)
7. 4. Lee Yoder (US-A)	53.9 (+4.35)

Heats: - first 2 plus 1 fastest loser qualify, 20.00 Hr

- 1/ 1. Davis 51.8, 2. Culbreath (O - 52.0) 52.1 (+0.26), 3. Harry Bright (NYPC) 52.6 (+0.82), 4. Cordell Brown (USMC) 52.7 (+0.88), 5. Gene O'Connor (KS) (O - 53.0) 52.9 (+1.08)
- 2/ 1. Rittenburg 51.8, 2. Thompson (O - 52.0) 52.1 (+0.28), 3. Paul Thrash (Pitt) (O - 52.7) 52.6 (+0.78), 4. Cecil Allen (Mt Sac JC) (O - 53.2) 53.0 (+1.16), Aubrey Lewis (Notre Dame) - Dnf
- 3/ 1. Atterberry 51.4, 2. Southern (O - 51.4) 51.5 (+0.07), 3. Yoder 52.5 (+1.05), 4. Bruce Sweeney (USAF) 52.9 (+1.50), Charles Batch (Missouri) - Dnf

In 1955 a total of 6 Americans ran under 53.0, but in the FOT 12 of the 13 finishers ran that fast. The qualification was the toughest of the FOT, with only 2 in each heat certain to qualify. Both Harry Bright and Paul Thrash ran 52.6 and lost out by 1/10th of a second. The shock of the heats though was Lewis, who had beaten Davis for the NCAA title; heading for victory in his heat he chopped stride too much at the last hurdle, hit it and fell.

Southern went out quickly and caught Davis, immediately outside him in lane 6, by the 3rd hurdle. They then ran stride for stride, 13 between hurdles till the 7th, and 15 to the 9th. Davis had to cut his stride from the 8th to keep even with Southern, and despite chopping to 17 strides was just ahead of the Texan at the last hurdle. He extended his lead to 5 ft on the run-in. The crowd went wild at the announcement of 49.6, the first sub-50 clocking, which was rounded down later to 49.5. Davis afterwards said that fear was the motivating factor - "Southern was in the lane inside me, and when he came up to me right after the start I knew I had to open up or get beat. I was really fagged at about 300 yards, but around the curve Eddie cut stride and when I pulled away I felt loose again". Asked about the record he noted "it felt something like 50.1, but 49.5, that really shocks me". As no-one had run better than 50.4 before, it was a little difficult to understand how 50.1 might have felt - but only Davis and Southern could say. Southern, asked about the hot pace added "I just wanted to get so far ahead of Davis that he couldn't catch me. I was trying to reach all the hurdles with 13 strides in between, but around the turn I had to chop up, and that's when he caught me". Both were in their first full season of intermediate hurdles - Southern had dabbled in the event in 1955, and their progressions to sub-50 were as follows:

Davis				Southern			
52.3	1	Philadelphia	27 Apr	53.4y	2h2	Boulder	24 Jun 55
50.8	1	Milwaukee	9 Jun	53.8y	5	Boulder	24 Jun 55
52.0	1h1	Berkeley	15 Jun	51.6	1	Corpus Christi	2 Jun 56
51.5	2	Berkeley	16 Jun	51.5y	1	Houston	8 Jun
51.8	1h1	Bakersfield	22 Jun	52.2	1h2	Bakersfield	22 Jun
50.9	1	Bakersfield	22 Jun	51.5	2	Bakersfield	22 Jun
51.8	1h1	Los Angeles	29 Jun	51.8	2h3	Los Angeles	29 Jun
49.5	1	Los Angeles	29 Jun	49.7	2	Los Angeles	29 Jun

High Jump - June 29, 19.30 Hr

1. Charles Dumas (Compton JC) 7'0 5/8" (2.15) WR
2. Vern Wilson (SCVYC) 6'9 1/2" (2.07)
3. Phil Reavis (Vill) 6'9 1/2" (2.07)
4. Bernie Allard (Notre Dame) 6'8 1/2" (2.04)
5. Ernie Shelton (LAAC) 6'8 1/2" (2.04)
6. Mark Booth (Mich) 6'6 1/2" (1.99)
7. Bob Lang (Missouri) 6'6 1/2" (1.99)
8. Charles McCullough (NCC) 6'4 1/2" (1.94)
8. Phil Fehlen (SFOC) 6'4 1/2" (1.94)

=10. Hal Miller (UCLA) and Ed Jackson (Unat.) 6'4 1/2" (1.94), 12. George Dennis (Morg St) 6'4 1/2" (1.94), 13. Barney Dyer (USN) 6'4 1/2" (1.94), 14. Charles Fields (US-A) 6'4 1/2" (1.94), =15. Nick Dyer (UCLA), Don Stewart (SMU) 6'2 1/2" (1.89), 17. Mark Smith (USN) 6'2 1/2" (1.89), 18. Dick Haddon (Oxy) 6'2 1/2" (1.89)

The top contenders for the Olympic team were Shelton, the world's #1 in 1954-55, Charles Dumas the AAU winner, Don Stewart, Bernie Allard and Vern Wilson who had all shared 2nd place with Shelton at the AAU. Missing was Bill Russell the 6'10" tall western roller who gave the FOT a miss as he had already made the Olympics on the basketball team. Stewart had missed at 6'4 1/2", but the other contenders were still there at 6'9 1/2", along with NCAA co-winner Phil Reavis. The small (5'9 1/2") straddler was the first to clear 6'9 1/2", and was followed by Wilson, who took second place as Reavis had missed once at 6'8 1/2". Dumas cleared on his second attempt, but no-one else made it, and the distressed Shelton left the arena at a run, followed insensitively by two magazine photographers. Dumas cleared 6'10 1/2, while the other 2 missed, though Reavis was close. Dumas had the bar placed at 7'0 5/8". He failed once, and 5 minutes later at 10.17pm he took 6 slow strides, followed by 4 very quick ones and launched upwards, pouring himself over the bar to record history's first ever official 7 ft jump. The crowd of people surrounding the high jump apron went wild hugging and cheering the 19 year-old. "I wasn't thinking about 7 feet" said Dumas afterwards, "I was only thinking about making the team". By the time of the record attempt Dumas "knew I had made the plane. I've had lots of other tries at seven feet. Maybe I was so relaxed that I did everything right".

	6'8 1/2"	6'9 1/2"	6'10 1/2"	7'0 5/8"
Dumas	o	xo	o	xo
Wilson	o	o	xxx	
Reavis	xo	o	xxx	
Allard	o	xxx		
Shelton	xo	xxx		

Pole Vault - June 30, 14.00 Hr

1. Bob Richards (LAAC) 15'1" (4.60)
2. George Mattos (USAF) 14'10 1/2" (4.53)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 3. Jim Graham (Okla A&M) | 14'8 1/2" (4.48) |
| 4. Bob Gutowski (Oxy) | 14'8 1/2" (4.48) |
| 5. Ron Morris (USC) | 14'8 1/2" (4.48) |
| 6. Fred Barnes (SFOC) | 14'8 1/2" (4.48) |
| 7. Don Laz (Unat.- Urbana, Ill.) | 14'8 1/2" (4.48) |
| 8. Don Bragg (Vill) | 14'4" (4.37) |
9. Bobby Smith (LAAC) 14'4" (4.37), 10. Chuck Hightower (SCVYC) 14'4" (4.37), 11. Walt Levack (USC) 14'0" (4.27), 12. Jerry Welbourn (USAF) 14'0" (4.27), 13. Owen Rhodes (SJS) 14'0" (4.27), 14. Van Zimmerman (US-A) 13'6" (4.11). Jon Mitchell (UCLA) - No height

In any other country Don Laz would have been guaranteed a spot on the Olympic team - only 2 non-American athletes jumped higher than him in 1956, and his 14'8 1/2" put him at =9 on the world list for that year - but remarkably it placed him only 7th in the FOT. After 10 had cleared 14'4", a record in itself, seven went on to make 14'8 1/2". Of those who missed out, Don Bragg was the unluckiest. He cleared the bar, but his pole fell on to the upright and dislodged the bar. The same thing happened to Ron Morris at 14'10 1/2". Only Richards and Mattos were able to clear that height, and Richards went on to make 15'1". Of the rest, through the vital height of 14'8 1/2", only Graham had had no misses, and so he qualified for the team. The unfortunate Graham injured an ankle in September, and when Gutowski cleared 15'5" in late October Graham graciously gave up his Olympic spot. Gutowski went on to a silver medal behind Richards, with Mattos 4th behind US-trained Giorgios Roubanis of Greece.

Long Jump - June 29, 19.30 Hr

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. John Bennett (US-A) | 25'8 1/2" (7.83) |
| 1. Greg Bell (Ind) | 25'8 1/2" (7.83) |
| 3. Rafer Johnson (UCLA) | 25'3 1/4" (7.70) |
| 4. Mal Andrews (SCS) | 25'1 1/2" (7.66) |
| 5. Ernie Shelby (Pierce JC) | 24'11 3/4" (7.61) |
| 6. Kent Floerke (Kansas) | 24'4 1/4" (7.43) |
| 7. Don Trautman (Roanoke HS, La.) | 24'3 1/4" (7.39) |
| 8. Blaine Hollinger (Kansas) | 24'0 1/4" (7.32) |
9. Walt Taylor (USMC) 23'10 3/4" (7.28), 10. Frank Hermann (Stan) 23'10 1/4" (7.26), 11. Rosslyn Range (SCS) 23'10" (7.26), 12. Carroll Hamilton (Hanover) 23'9 1/4" (7.24), 13. George Brown (SCS) 23'8 1/4" (7.21), 14. Paul Williams (USAF) 23'2 3/4" (7.08), 15. Dick Knaub (UCLA) 23'1 3/4" (7.05)

There was no clear favorite, though Greg Bell, the NCAA winner, seemed to be the most consistent. Early on Bell jumped 24'11", taking off a foot behind the front of the board, but was outshone by John Bennett, who jumped 25'6 1/4" - 25'7 1/4" - 25'1 1/2" in the prelims, and then followed a foul with 25'8 1/2" before closing with 24'7". Bell actually took the lead in round 4 with 25'8 1/2" and supported it with 25'6" in the last round. They shared first place because the FOT inexplicably did not apply international rules (deciding places on the basis of second best jumps). Had they done so, Bennett would have won. Third went to Rafer Johnson, NCAA runner-up, who twice jumped beyond 4th placer Mal Andrews' best of 25'1 1/2" with 25'1 3/4" and 25'3 1/4". Teenager Ernie Shelby, who had won the AAU with a fine 26'1 1/4" placed 5th with 24'11 3/4", while George Brown, who had made a fine comeback with 25'5 1/4" for 2nd in the AAU - his best since the '53 AAU, never got on track and finished down in 13th place. Bell went on to win Olympic gold from Bennett, and was the first jumper to consistently threaten Jesse Owens' WR of 26'8 1/4", jumping 26'7" (+ 26'5") to win the '57 NCAA, and 26'7" again (+ 26'4 3/4") to win the '59 USA-USSR dual meet.

Triple Jump - June 30, 14.00 Hr

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ira Davis (LaSalle) | 51'4 3/4" (15.66) AR |
| 2. George Shaw (NYPC) | 49'11 1/2" (15.23) |
| 3. Bill Sharpe (West Chester, Pa.) | 49'9 1/4" (15.16) |
| 4. Willie Hollie (US-A) | 49'6 3/4" (15.10) |
| 5. Pat Lochiato (BAA) | 49'3 3/4" (15.03) |
| 6. John Davis (US-A) | 48'8 1/2" (14.85) |
| 7. Ron Duckett (USAF) | 48'5 3/4" (14.78) |
| 8. Don Trautman (Roanoke HS, La.) | 48'5 1/2" (14.77) |
9. Jack Findley (USC) 48'5" (14.76), 10. Blaine Hollinger (Kansas) 48'3" (14.71), 11. Glenn Beerline (Unat. - Boulder, Co.) 47'8 3/4" (14.55), 12. Martin Pedigo (Oregon) 46'2" (14.07)

Bill Sharpe headed the US list before the trials and had won the NCAA, but succumbed to Ira Davis, the quick (9.6 for 100y) 19 year-old from LaSalle in Philadelphia. Davis had jumped 50'1 3/4" behind Sharpe's 50'5" in the Penn Relays, but was 4th going into round 5, behind Shaw (49'11 1/2"), Sharpe (49'9 1/4") and AAU winner Hollie (49'6 1/4"), with 49'6". In the penultimate round he lightly strode out to 51'4 3/4" to break Billy Brown's 1941 US record of 50'11 1/2".

Shot Put - June 29, 19.30 Hr

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Parry O'Brien (USAF) | 60'10" | (18.54) |
| 2. Ken Bantum (Man) | 59'6 3/4" | (18.15) |

3. Bill Nieder (Kansas)	58'1 1/2"	(17.71)
4. Don Vick (UCLA)	57'3 1/4"	(17.45)
5. Stan Lampert (NYPC)	56'9 1/2"	(17.31)
6. Al Cheney (SFOC)	53'11"	(16.43)
7. Al Thompson (USN)	53'4 1/2"	(16.27)
8. Dave Owen (USAF)	52'11 1/2"	(16.14)
9. Billy Joe Wright (SCVYV) 52'9 3/4" (16.07), 10. Tom Henderson (US-A) 50'8 1/2" (15.45), 11. Ernie Smith (Pomona) 50'5 1/4" (15.37)		

At the year end the top 37 outdoor marks were owned by the top-3 in the FOT, with 23 of those marks by O'Brien, who had pioneered the style which carried his name, that of reversing fully across the circle and rotating into the throw. In the OT the three men produced 15 fair throws between them, all of which were superior to the best throw by 4th placer Don Vick. Bantum, the tallest of the top men (6'6/235) was also the quickest in the event, but could not repeat his shock AAU win over O'Brien, while Nieder, who suffered from June onwards with a knee injury (but still managed to win the Olympic silver behind O'Brien) was a solid third. O'Brien threw with a chipped bone in his throwing wrist, but he wanted to avenge his AAU loss, his first for 3 years and 364 days. The series for the top men was:

O'Brien 58'7 - 60'10 - 59'5 3/4 - 59'10 1/4 - 57'6 3/4 - 58'5

Bantum 58'10 3/4 - 59'6 3/4 - 58'0 1/2 - 58'11 1/4 - 59'9 1/2 - 58'10

Nieder 57'5 1/2 - foul - 58'1 1/2 - foul - 57'7 1/2 - foul

Discus Throw - June 30, 14.00 Hr

1. Fortune Gordien (SCS)	187'8 1/2"	(57.21)
2. Al Oerter (Kansas)	178'7 1/2"	(54.44)
3. Ron Drummond (UCLA)	177'4 1/2"	(54.06)
4. Des Koch (USAF)	175'0"	(53.34)
5. Parry O'Brien (USAF)	174'2 1/2"	(53.10)
6. Ken Bantum (Man)	169'6"	(51.66)
7. Stew Thomson (NYAC)	166'4"	(50.70)
8. Rink Babka (USC)	165'6 1/2"	(50.45)
9. Woody Linn (SCVYC) 162'6 1/2" (49.54), 10. Charley Butt (Cal) 162'4 1/2" (49.49), 11. Bob van Dee (Okla) 161'5 1/2" (49.21), 12. Jack Ellis (NYAC) 159'8" (48.67), 13. Al Thompson (USN) 159'4" (48.57), 14. Jack Egan (SFOC) 159'1 1/2" (48.51), 15. Don Vick (UCLA) 154'5 1/2" (47.08)		

Fortune Gordien produced the longest throw of the year in almost still conditions, and the best cast of his career in major competition. Behind him Al Oerter, a 19 year-old 6'3 1/2"/228 soph from Kansas, was a surprising second. He had finished 4th in the NCAA and 6th in the AAU. The 3rd Olympic place was won by Ron Drummond, AAU and NCAA champion, but he gave up his Melbourne place to Des Koch, as he decided to concentrate on dental school. Koch threw 175' to Drummond's 177'4 1/2, but was good enough to take bronze in the Olympics, rounding out a clean sweep headed by Oerter over Gordien.

Hammer Throw - June 29, 16.00 Hr

1. Al Hall (Corn)	197'7 1/2"	(60.24)
2. Cliff Blair (Boston)	196'11 1/2"	(60.03)
3. Hal Connolly (BAA)	196'6 1/2"	(59.91)
4. Martin Engel (US-A)	194'4"	(59.24)
5. John Morefield (MIT)	189'2 1/2"	(57.68)
6. Bob Backus (NYAC)	188'0"	(57.30)
7. Bill McWilliams (Bowdoin)	181'11 1/2"	(55.46)
8. Bob Taylor (US-A)	174'11 1/2"	(53.32)
9. Tom Henderson (US-A) 174'7 1/2" (53.22), 10. Dick Jungeman (USAF) 169'9" (51.74), 11. Stew Thomson (NYAC) 169'2" (51.57), 12. Pete Harpel (Harvard) 167'6 1/2" (51.06), 13. Sergio Betancourt (Corn) 157'11 1/2" (48.14)		

The first event of the trials was held at 4.15pm so that errant implements would be less likely to hit anyone, and with less than 1000 spectators in the Coliseum that was a good assessment. NCAA winner Bill McWilliams would have made any previous US Olympic team, but failed to make the cut - as only the top 6 took the full 6 throws. In round 1 he had a throw of 190' which was ruled a foul, though both Engel and Backus sportingly advised the officials (without success) that McWilliams' toe had not touched the ground outside the circle. Connolly led for the preliminary rounds, first with his opening throw of 193'0" and then a 196'6 1/2" in round 3. Behind him Blair on 191'4 1/2" and Engel with 191'0 1/2" led the chasing group. Engel improved to 194'4 in round 5, and then, in round 6, Hall improved from 190'0 1/2" to 197'7 1/2, while Blair, not renowned as tough competitor, became one, pitching Engel off the team with his 196'11 1/2"

Connolly, though 3rd, was happy to make the team, and registered his happiness later in the season with world records of 218'10 1/2" in Boston on October 3rd, and then in a pre-Olympic meet in Los Angeles on November 2, with 224'10 1/2". He went on to a successful Olympics, beating Mikhail Krivosov (USSR/Belarus) for the Olympic gold and met, and then married, Olga Fikotova, the Czech winner of the women's discus in Melbourne. Connolly, who ranked 45th in the world in 1954 with 181'9, then progressed as follows:

195'10 1/2"	Travers Island	21 May 1955	
197'1 3/4"	Fortv Devens	13 Jun 1955	
201'5 1/4"	Quincy, Mass.	17 Jun 1955	US record
206'10"	Boston	25 Aug 1955	US record
209'7"	Cambridge, Mass.	1 Oct 1955	US record
218'10 1/2"	Boston	3 Oct 1956	World Record
224'10 1/2"	Los Angeles	2 Nov 1956	World Record

Javelin Throw - June 30, 19.30 Hr

1. Cy Young (SFOC)	244'11"	(74.65)
2. Phil Conley (Cal Tech)	244'1"	(74.40)
3. Ben Garcia (USN)	234'5"	(71.45)
4. Franklin "Bud" Held (SFOC)	234'4"	(71.42)
5. Les Bitner (Kansas)	231'6 1/2"	(70.57)
6. Doug Maijala (USC)	227'6"	(69.34)
7. Sid Kiwitt (NYPC)	220'0"	(67.06)
8. Sam Adams (Santa Barbara AC)	217'2 1/2"	(66.20)

9. John Bugge (SFOC) 217'1 1/2" (66.18), 10. Leo Long (SFOC) 215'5 1/2" (65.67), 11. John Fromm (Pacific Lutheran) 213'1" (64.95), 12. Dick Righter (SFOC) 210'9" (64.22), 13. Bob Kimball (USN) 198'6 1/2" (60.52), 14. Kirk Nieland (Stan) 191'9 1/2" (58.46). Al Cantello (USMC) - 3 Fouls, Bill Duckworth (Ga) - Dnc

At the end of 1956 the "T&F News" world rankings showed Bud Held as #3 in the world, with only Cy Young (world ranked #9) amongst Americans ranked in the top 10, but Held was injured for the early part of the season, and while his OT 234'4" was his best of the year at that time, it was not enough for he lost out to Ben Garcia by one inch. Held went on to throw over 250' in his last 9 competitions of the year, but by then it was too late. On the day Olympic champion Young's preliminary throw of 244'11" was good enough to win. Phil Conley, the NCAA winner, produced a lifetime best of 244'1" in the finals, while Garcia edged Held with his 4th round effort of 234'5" to beat Held, who supported his 234'4" with a 234'3 1/2". Conley (10th) beat Young by one place in Melbourne, while Garcia finished 15th after 3 fouls in the final.

Decathlon - July 13/14, Crawfordsville, Ind.

1. Rafer Johnson (UCLA)		7755
10.6/7.07/15.16/1.85/47.9/14.4/45.54/3.50/55.59/5:12.4		
2. Milt Campbell (USN)		7559
10.7/6.92/14.14/1.90/49.2/14.1/43.31/3.66/51.97/5:06.8		
3. Bob Richards (LAAC)		7054
11.3/6.92/13.16/1.83/51.8/15.6/41.33/4.57/50.35/4:55.8		
4. Bob Lawson (LAAC)		6889
11.3/6.89/12.85/1.97/50.9/15.2/40.93/3.66/53.29/4:54.2		
5. Sam Adams (Santa Barbara AC)		6884
11.2/6.40/16.16/1.82/51.7/16.6/45.07/3.20/66.85/4:50.1		
6. Charles Pratt (US-A)		6808
10.8/6.62/11.81/1.87/49.8/14.2/34.39/3.20/51.50/4:44.4		
7. Phil Mulkey (Wyoming)		6513
11.3/6.80/14.22/1.82/53.3/15.5/38.13/3.89/53.64/5:06.6		
8. Aubrey Lewis (Notre Dame)		6425
10.7/6.50/12.91/1.67/47.9/15.5/34.45/2.89/51.48/4:39.6		
9. Kenneth Kelley (US-A)		6226
11.8/6.75/10.79/1.97/52.0/14.9/35.17/3.50/44.92/4:44.1		
10. Perry Clay Moore (Maryland)		6213
11.3/6.34/12.91/1.78/51.4/15.3/37.94/3.66/50.53/5:04.2		
11. Jim Klein (USAF)		6197
11.2/6.45/12.89/1.88/52.2/16.0/43.72/3.36/45.32/4:56.9		
12. James Podoley (Central Michigan)		6097
11.1/6.41/12.16/1.78/50.7/15.2/33.82/3.73/43.52/5:06.1		
13. Bill Black (AF)	5662	
14. James Johnson (Hobart, Ind)	5619	
15. Dale Saxton (US-A)	5597	
16. Dave Norton (US-A)	5507	
17. Glenn Lewis (DeSoto, Mo)		5286
18. Howard Smith (SCS) (8)		5286
19. Robert Smith		5111
20. Charles Stevenson (NYAC)		5016

Also competed: Phil Mulkey (Wyo), John Glaser (Marq), Ken Kelly (US-A), Carlton Shelley (LAAC), Max Richey (Michigantown, Ind), James Gulick (US-A), William Appleby (Wisc St), Tom Millett (Aberdeen, Wa), Haig Bohigian (NYAC), Bob Giombetti (West Bend, Wisc).

Even before the first event it was felt that the battle for first place would be between Johnson, the world record holder, and Campbell the silver medalist from Helsinki...which meant that only one Olympic place was available for the rest. The top contenders appeared to be Aubrey Lewis, who had fallen in the heats of the FOT 400h, but had taken 2nd in the 1954 AAU, Bob Lawson 2nd in the '55 AAU, Bob Richards, the winner of both of those meets, Sam Adams the weight man from Santa Barbara, and hurdler Charley Pratt.

The track and runways were slow due to torrential rains in the days leading up to the meet, and Johnson (3rd in the FOT, and a regular 25' jumper) could do only 23'2 3/4". Nevertheless, his marks in the Shot (49'8 3/4) and 400 (47.9) were good enough for him to be 99 points ahead of WR pace after the first day. His score of 4640 left him 253 ahead of Campbell, with a tight bunch behind vying for third place, headed by Lawson (3998), Lewis (3987), Adams (3986) and Pratt (3944). Pratt moved into 3rd with his 14.2 hurdles behind Campbell's 14.1, while Johnson ran a disappointing 14.4. He had finished a close second to Lee Calhoun in the NCAA with 13.8. The vault was the deciding factor for 3rd place. Richards started vaulting (at 13'0") after the other contenders had finished, and ended up with 15'0", a decathlon record. He lost major ground in the javelin only to Adams and his 4:55.8 held off Lawson and Adams by over 150 points. Johnson, tired after a long season of collegiate competition ended up with the #4 mark of all-time, while Campbell set a short-lived PR, as he went on to win the Olympic title in his final decathlon ahead of Johnson with 7937.

WOMEN - Washington - August 25

100 Meters

1. Isabelle Daniels (TS)		12.0
2. Mae Faggs (TS)	(12.2-O)	12.1e
3. Lucinda Williams (TS)		12.3
4. Rose Caccamise (Unat - Batavia, NY)		12.5
5. Rebecca Ayars (CC)		No time
6. Alfrancies Lyman (CC)		No time

Heats:

- 1/ 1. Faggs 12.1, 2. Alfrances Lyman (CC) 12.7, 3. Baker 13.4
 2/ 1. Daniels 12.1, 2. Caccamise 12.1, 3. I.Green 13.1
 3/ Ayers 12.1, 2. Elaine Ellis 12.5, 3. Freddie Daniel (Tuskegee) 13.1
 4/ 1. Barbara Lee 12.5, 2. Mary McGovern (QM) 13.0, 3. Louise Mead (Police AL, NY) 13.6
 5/ 1. Jones 12.3, 2. S.Miller 12.6, 3. Vernell Golden (Tuskegee) 13.0
 6/ 1. Williams 12.4, 2. Marcia Cosgrove 12.6, 3. Dolores Dwyer (QM) 12.7

Mae Faggs became the first US woman to be selected for 3 successive Olympic games in track and field, and here found herself sandwiched between two 18 year-old Tennessee State teammates. Faggs was caught in the closing stages by Daniels and lost by less than a yard, belying the official 2/10 differential. Daniels (4th in the OG 100 in 11.98) and Faggs went on to run in the relay team which won bronze in Melbourne, with TS teammates Wilma Rudolph and Margaret Matthews. The immense success of the Tennessee Tigerbelles was due to the harnessing and channeling of wonderful natural talent by coach Ed Temple. Heats were held at 9.30 am, and semis at 2.30 pm.

200 Meters

1. 2. Mae Faggs (TS)	24.2
2. 3. Wilma Rudolph (TS)	24.2
3. Meredith Ellis (NYPAL)	25.2
4. Marcia Cosgrove (Unat - Renton, Wa.)	25.3
5. Rebecca Ayars (CC)	No time
6. Elizabeth McDonnell (Liberty AC, Boston)	No time

Heats:

- 1/ 1. Faggs 25.4, 2. Hazel Watkins 26.0, 3. Gloria F. Griffin (USMC) 27.6
 2/ 1. Rudolph 24.6, 2. Ayars 25.2, 3. Dolores Dwyer (QM) 26.4
 3/ 1. Elaine Ellis 26.0, 2. Alfrances Lyman 26.3, 3. Mary McGovern (QM) 28.0
 4/ Meredith Ellis 26.0, 2. Marcia Cosgrove 26.1, 3. Sandra Lindquist (Holland AC, Cleveland) 28.0
 5/ 1. Williams 25.5, 2. McDonnell 25.8, 3. Stella Walsh (So.Pac AA) 26.8

Faggs, winner in the AAU, running in lane 2, led all the way, but only just held off Rudolph in the next lane out. Rudolph was at 16 one of the youngest ever selections for a US Olympic team. Her affiliation was misleading as she was still a schoolgirl at the time, running for the Tennessee State Track Club. At the other end of the age spectrum, Stella Walsh, competing in the FOT for the first time since 1928 (!), failed to get through her heat in the morning, losing out to Lucinda Williams (TS) in 25.5 and McDonnell. In a packed program heats took place at 11.10 am, semifinals at 3.40pm and the final at 4.50pm.

80 Meters Hurdles

1. Barbara Mueller (CC)	11.9
2. Constance Darnowski (GAAC)	12.0
3. Irene Robertson (SPA AU)	12.1

4. Lenore Leister (Queens Merc.)	12.1
5. Doris McAfferty (Unat - Providence)	No time

Heats:

- 1/ 1. Darnowski 12.1, Alma Baskerville 12.3, 3. Caroline McDermott 12.5
 2/ 1. Robertson 12.1, 2. McAfferty 12.1, 3. Lauretta Foley 12.3
 3/ 1. Mueller 11.9, 2. Leister 12.1, 3. Shirley Crowder 12.5

The best hurdler in the USA in 1955 and 1956 was Bertha Diaz the AAU champion, but she ran for Cuba, and this served to make the FOT race a close thing, which was taken by Mueller ahead of Darnowski, with Robertson, a former Londoner domiciled in Los Angeles, just edging out Leister for 3rd. All 3 were eliminated in their heats in Melbourne.

High Jump

1. Mildred McDaniel (Tus)	5'4"	(1.63)
2. Anne Flynn (GAAC)	5'1"	(1.55)
3. Veneda Thomas (CC)	5'0"	(1.53)
4. Kay Bunting (CC)	4'11"	(1.50)
4. Billy Jo Jackson (Unat - Angleton, Tex)	4'11"	(1.50)

Mildred McDaniel had won the 1955 AAU with 5'6 1/2" (in the unlikely venue of Ponca City, Okla) to rank 3rd in the world for that year, so it was no surprise that she duplicated her AAU win with 5'4" followed by a similar jump at the FOT. Reportedly, she had cleared 6'0" in practice shortly before the trials. Nevertheless, she was not considered as a probable gold medal winner in Melbourne; indeed, she ranked =17th for the year prior to the games with her 5'4". In Melbourne she beat her seasonal best with 5'4 1/2" and then 5'5 3/4", and won the gold by clearing 5'7", and then made 5'9 1/4" for a world record. For any athlete personal bests are special, but to make two, including a WR, in an Olympic final is athletic perfection. McDaniel then departed from the sport, having just turned 23.

Long Jump

1. Margaret Matthews (TS)	19'9 1/4"	(6.02) AR
2. Willye White (TS)	19'3 3/4"	(5.88)
3. Joan Wolski (Queens Merc. NY)	18'0 1/4"	(5.49)
4. Kay Bunting (CC)	17'2 1/2"	(5.24)
5. Phyllis Logan (CC)	16'10 1/2"	(5.14)
6. Vernell Golden (Tus)	16'8 1/2"	(5.09)

Matthews had broken the US record the preceding week with 19'4" at the AAU in Philadelphia, and had that mark threatened by White, the 17 year-old whose debut season it was; White jumped 19'3 3/4" which was topped by Matthews' second national record of 19'9 1/4". The two girls hugged each other at the end of the competition, and both won medals in Melbourne - Matthews in the relay after failing to qualify for the LJ final, while White jumped her first NR of 19'11 3/4" for second place.

Shot Put

1. Earlene Brown (SPAAU)	46'9 1/2"	(14.26) AR
2. Lois Testa (RDAC)	45'6 3/4"	(13.88)
3. Paula Deubel (LRAC)	41'10"	(12.75)
4. Sharon Shepherd (Unat - Portland, Ore)	41'4"	(12.60)
5. Wanda Wejzgrowic (Pol. Falcons, St Louis)	40'9"	(12.42)
6. Marjorie Larney (Queens Merc. NY)	37'7 1/4"	(11.47)

Earlene Brown, a quick footed powerhouse of impressive proportions (5'8"/220) burst upon the American athletics scene in 1956, first breaking Lillian Copeland's 1935 national record (with the infrequently thrown 4 kg shot) of 40'5" with 45'0" in the AAU championships. In the FOT she was pushed by Lois Testa's 45'6 3/4" to another NR, this time a put of 46'9 1/2". She broke the American record 3 more times in 1956, culminating with 49'7 1/4" for 6th in the Olympic final.

Discus Throw

1. Earlene Brown (SPAAU)	145'4 1/2"	(44.31) AR
2. Pamela Kurrell (Laurel TC)	141'7 1/2"	(43.17)
3. Marjorie Larney (Queens Merc. NY)	130'3 1/2"	(39.70)
4. Lois Testa (RDAC)	129'3"	(39.39)
5. Bernice Holland (Cleveland AC)	120'1 1/2"	(36.60)
6. Amy Brown (Lexington, Mass)	116'2 1/2"	(35.47)

Pam Kurrell beat Earlene Brown for the AAU title with a US record of 140'11", breaking Brown's week old record by 2 inches, but in the FOT Brown, the 21 year-old mother (of Reginald), got her revenge with another US record of 145'4 1/2", with Kurrell also beating the old record. Marjorie Larney, made her first Olympic discus team, a good effort for a javelin thrower. In the Olympics the ebullient Brown took her US record to 168'5 1/2", finishing 4th only 67cm behind '52 Olympic champion Nina Ponomaryova.

Javelin Throw

1. Karen Anderson (Philadelphia AC)	153'5"	(46.75)
2. Marjorie Larney (Queens Merc. NY)	143'7 1/2"	(43.78)
3. Amelia Westhoven (Queens Merc. NY)	142'4 1/2"	(43.40)
4. Catherine Walsh (Queens Merc. NY)	122'10"	(37.43)
5. Melinda Roper (CC)	119'4 1/2"	(36.38)
6. Dixie Griffin (SPAAU)	117'1"	(35.73)

There were no surprises, as Anderson the Pan American champion, Larney the 1952 Olympian, and Westhoven the 1953 nationals winner, were a cut above the others, with Anderson almost 10 ft ahead of the Queens Mercurettes duo. Anderson headed the qualifying round with a US record in Melbourne but ended up 8th in the Olympic final.