

Great Moments In Track & Field



From The Pages Of
Track & Field News
1948-1959

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All articles appear exactly as published in Track & Field News. The varying type faces and styles reflect the changes in America's monthly track news magazine from its birth in 1948 through its first dozen years. And the articles report much of the great track history made in those years.

ON THE COVER: In one of the great races of the 1948 - 1959 era Emil Zatopek leads into the home stretch of the 1952 Olympic 5000 meters, followed by Alain Mimoun, Herbert Schade and Chris Chataway, who has just fallen. Story is on page seven.

(June 1948)

Mel Patton Runs Century in 9.3

FRESNO, Calif., May 15—Mel Patton became the first man in history to run 100 yards in 9.3 seconds as he edged Lloyd LaBeach in the thrilling feature of the 22nd running of the West Coast Relays.

The slim U.S.C. speedster, running under ideal conditions, grabbed a one foot victory over LaBeach, ineligible U.C.L.A. student who will represent Panama in the Olympic Games. After a half-hour of measuring and consulting it was announced that an official application for a world's record would be made.

That Patton's phenomenal performance and the almost equally amazing run by LaBeach were no flukes was proved in the evening when LaBeach, running without Patton, equalled the 100 meter record of 10.2.

Patton's record shattering effort came the very day it was announced that he had been given official approval of his 9.4 race at Modesto last year. Thus he broke the record held jointly by himself, Frank Wykott, Dan Jourbert, Jesse Owens, and Clyde Jeffrey.

LaBeach, in gaining an easy win over Cliff Bourland and Don Anderson, tied the mark held by Owens and Hal Davis. This mark, too, will be submitted for approval.

Patton, who ran 9.4 three times last year, and LaBeach, who recorded 9.4 with a rolling start earlier this season, met three other runners in a special invitational 100. The race was

scheduled for the afternoon when Coach Dean Cromwell announced that Patton, who was slated to anchor U.S.C.'s two sprint relay teams, would not run in the open 100 meters that night.

Four false starts were made before starter Bob Strehle sent them away, and LaBeach was guilty in three of them. Apparently afraid to be caught again, LaBeach was off poorly the fifth time and trailed Patton by a yard.

At the 50 mark the dusky former Wisconsin flash had all but closed the gap. From that point on they ran stride for stride.

Three of the five watches clocked 9.3, including two official and one alternate. The other official and alternate timers each had 9.4. Measurement of the track showed the race to be run over 100 yards and one inch and there was a one-mile-per-hour wind across the track. Temperature was 90 degrees.

After the race, Patton said, "I can hardly believe it is true. I really don't believe I was going as fast as that. It didn't feel to be my fastest race. I wasn't conscious of LaBeach or any other runner. I was only looking toward that tape."

In the 100 meters, there were again four false starts, but LaBeach was away flying on the fifth one. He had only a yard at the 50 but drew away to a four yard margin at the finish.

(August 1948)

Dillard Surprise 100 Winner

Ever since the final Olympic trials at Evanston, people had been feeling sorry for Harrison Dillard. He was the greatest hurdler in the world, they said, but a bad break had kept him off the hurdle team, and he really was not a sprinter to be classed with Patton, LaBeach, and Ewell.

But ever since his hurdle career had ended so disastrously, with his hands pushing over the seventh hurdle at Evanston, he had kept a tight little smile on his face, and his only comment to his sympathizers was:

"I can run some, too."

And he did run, as the results of the heats show: First trial heats won by: Ewell (10.5); Patton (10.6); LaBeach (10.5); Testa, Uruguay (10.5); Dillard (10.4); Bailey, GB (10.5); Treloar, Australia (10.5); Chacon, Cuba (10.7); Curotta, Australia (10.7); Lewis, Trinidad (10.8); van de Welle, Belgium (10.8); Payos, Uruguay (11.0).

Second trial heats won by: Dillard (10.4); Ewell (10.5); Patton (10.4); LaBeach (10.5).

Semi-finals: I. 1, Dillard (10.5); 2, Ewell (10.5); 3, McCorquodale, GB (10.7); 4, Testa; 5, Bartram; 6, Curotta.

II. 1, Patton (10.4); 2, LaBeach (10.5); 3, Bailey (10.6); 4, Treloar; 5, Chacon; 6, Jones, GB.

In the final, before 84,000 spectators, Dillard drew the least torn-up lane on the track, nearest the stands. Next to him was MacDonald Bailey, Trinidad Negro, representing Great Britain. Then came broad-shouldered, blond Alistair McCorquodale, unknown even in England a few months ago.

Lloyd LaBeach of Panama, who had run 9.4 and 10.2 twice each this year, but who looked stale, was in lane three, next to Barney Ewell, cocky little 30-year-old who had won the American trials in 10.2. In the badly chewed up pole lane was Mel Patton, regarded by some as the fastest man ever to wear spikes.

Patton was obviously nervous, having been on the track half an hour before the others, and at the start his left foot scraped the ground. He arched forward and staggered, losing up to two yards on the field. Later, Bailey said:

"I can tell you Patton got a bad start, because I got one, too. We were together, and we didn't really have a chance."

Dillard was off fast, leading at 30 meters. He flashed down the red brick track, and was never headed, although Ewell closed with a rush and jumped for joy, thinking he had won. He clasped his hands boxer-style, and flashed his teeth.

But when the official announcement gave the race to Dillard, Ewell said, "Aw nuts. I thought I had it." Dillard patted him sympathetically on the back.

"I won something anyway," said Dillard, whose comeback in a substitute event is hailed as the Cinderella story of the year. "This compensates me for not getting on the 110 meter hurdles team."

The official results: 1, Dillard (10.3); 2, Ewell (10.4); 3, LaBeach (10.6); 4, McCorquodale (10.6); 5, Patton (10.6); 6, Bailey (10.7).

The official times were obviously in error. Track-side observers and the official pictures show that Patton, in fifth place, was a mere yard behind Dillard, and only inches behind McCorquodale. Bailey was a bad last, a yard behind.

Many reasons were given for Patton's poor showing. Patton himself blames it on his lack of training, having run in only two meets since May 21. But Coach Dean Cromwell blamed the humidity, pointing out that Patton is used to dry

heat. Some experts say Patton's chewed up lane caused much of the damage, and Patton admits the track gave way beneath him on one stride. But by far the majority of experts blame Patton himself, saying he was too nervous, got a bad start, and tied up trying to catch a fast field.

"It's pretty terrible," Patton said, "for a fellow to come all the way over here, and then run a race like that."

Dillard's Baldwin-Wallace coach, Eddie Finnigan was probably the happiest man in the world when Dillard won. He vaulted the rail and raced to Dillard who lifted him off the ground while tears ran down Finnigan's cheeks. Then, Finnigan, overcome with emotion, retired to his hotel room, where he left this note for Jack Clowser of the Cleveland PRESS:

"This was the day we waited for so long. To think it came not in the hurdles but in the event we all thought Dillard couldn't win. Fate is strange and wonderful. I'm going out to find a church somewhere. My heart is bursting."

(August 1948)

Mathias Best Decathlete

The story of the 1948 Olympic decathlon will go down in history as one of the wonder stories of all time.

It is the story of Robert Bruce Mathias, a 17-year-old man from Tulare, California. It is the story of how he defeated the greatest all-round athletes in the world, despite the weirdest and most heartbreaking conditions with which any athlete ever had to contend.

It seemed all the fates were against Bob, and, in spite of his 6-foot 1½-inches and his 195 pounds, he was regarded as too young to stand the strain.

The rain and the treacherous take-offs of Wembley Stadium were as bad for the others as they were for Bob, but he lost two feet in the shot put by an obscure Olympic rule which required him to step out of the rear of the circle. He came back strongly in the high jump and 400 meters to finish the first day's competition in third place.

Lt. Carlos Enrique Kistenmacher of Argentina was leading with 3897 points, 49 more than Bob's total. He told Bob, "Whatever you do in each event, I'll do better."

But the next day Bob started out at 10:30 A.M. with a 15.7 clocking in the high hurdles. He passed the confident Kistenmacher, but Simmons took the lead with a 15.2 race, leaving Bob in third place.

Another mishap occurred in the discus, when Mondschein's throw knocked over Bob's marker, and the officials had to spend twenty minutes finding it, and, according to one eagle-eyed reporter, set Bob back 18 inches. Even so, he won the event and took the lead.

In the pole vault, he had to wait six hours, while another group finished, and when he vaulted, it was too dark to see the slot for the pole. But Bob, one of the greatest competitors of any age, vaulted as high as his closest competitors had done in the daylight, and retained his lead.

Now it was so dark the javelin line had to be illuminated by flashlight. Bob was tired, and the javelin is an erratic event at best, but Bob's great pitching arm hurled the spear to the better-than-expected distance of 165'1".

He had clinched the championship. All that remained to beat Heinrich's final total of 6974 was to drag his weary body around 1500 meters in at least 5:49.1. There in the darkness of the torch-lighted stadium, he put on a sprint that gained him a time of 5:11.

Then, twelve hours after he had started the day's

events, he plodded barefooted across the turf to embrace his proud parents. Wearily, he said:

"No more decathlon, Dad, ever again. I never worked so long and so hard for anything in my life."

Detailed results for first ten competitors:

Event	Bob Mathias	Ignace Heinrich	Floyd Simmons	Enrique Kistenmacher	Erik P. Andersson
	USA	France	USA	Argentina	Sweden
100m	11.2	11.3	11.2	10.9	11.6
B.J.	21'8 1/3"	22'7 1/2"	22'3/4"	23'2 3/4"	21'7 1/2"
Shot	42'9 1/4"	42'2 1/2"	42'	41'6 3/4"	41'6 1/2"
H.J.	6'1 1/2"	6'1 1/2"	6'1 1/2"	5'7"	5'9"
400m	51.7	51.6	51.9	50.5	52.0
H.H.	15.7	15.6	15.2	16.3	15.9
Discus	144'4"	134'3 1/2"	107'4 1/2"	134'10 1/2"	118'6"
P.V.	11'5 3/4"	10'6"	11'2"	10'6"	11'9 3/4"
Javelin	165'1"	134'5"	170'7"	147'10"	167'6 1/2"
1500m	5:11	4:43.8	4:58	4:49.6	4:34
	7139	6974	6950	6929	6877

Event	Peter Mullins	Per Eriksson	Irving Mondschein	E. Adamczyk	Gottfred Holmvang
	Australia	Sweden	USA	Poland	Norway
100m	11.2	11.9	11.3	11.7	12.1
B.J.	21'9 1/2"	22'3 3/4"	22'4"	23'2 3/4"	22'1 3/4"
Shot	41'9 3/4"	39'2 3/4"	41'9 3/4"	43'3 3/4"	39'11"
H.J.	6'	5'11"	6' 1/2"	5'9"	5'7"
400m	53.2	52.5	51.6	52.5	52.9
H.H.	15.2	16.2	16.6	15.8	16.4
Discus	111'4"	114'6 1/2"	127'1 1/2"	128'3 1/2"	125' 1/2"
P.V.	11'2"	10'10"	11'5 3/4"	11'2"	11'2"
Javelin	168'4 1/2"	186' 1/2"	120'9"	143'4 1/2"	176' 1/2"
1500m	5:17.6	4:35.8	4:49.8	5:01.4	4:38.6
	6739	6731	6715	6712	6663

(April 1950)

Record Toss For Jim Fuchs--58-5 1-2

by Cordner Nelson

Los Angeles Coliseum, April 29— Exactly as advertised in pre-meet publicity, Jim Fuchs came through with the longest shot put in history while Southern California (96) was swamping Michigan State (34) and Yale (32). The 21-year-old Yale senior pushed the iron ball 58'5 1/2", an inch better than his own unofficial world mark made in Norway last summer.

The black-haired, freckle-faced husky started slowly. His first toss floated out only 55'1 1/2", and his second, over 56 feet, was foul. His third attempt (56'2 1/8") cracked his own Coliseum record. Then, with 15,000 pairs of eyes focused on him, Fuchs muttered, "I'm going to put my back into this one". Wagging his head and his outstretched left foot, Fuchs exploded across the ring, grunted louder than usual, and sent a low put off to his right, kicking up dust at 58'5 1/2".

Fuchs showed little elation. While dozens of people on the field tried to clap him on the back, he barely smiled and broke into a jog, warming up for his next attempt. Where another man might have been satisfied, Fuchs tried harder the next time. Later, he explained it: "I had my sights set on 60 feet".

His fifth put was 57 feet even. Then he fouled on one slightly longer. His last put, while the crowd was intent on the start of the mile, slipped off his hand and went

only 51'8 1/2".

After the meet, Fuchs said, "It didn't feel right, but I guess it was." Asked about his obvious ability to come through when he is on the spot, he said, "This was the first meet I was high for. I had a lot of that nervous energy which is so important."

Fuchs' mark also takes the American record away from Charley Fonville. All precautions were taken to insure acceptance of Fuchs' put as a world record, and application will be made, providing he does not break it again.

(May 1950)

World Mark for 2-Mile Relay Shattered

by Cordner Nelson

Los Angeles Coliseum, May 19— The dazzling flood lights of the Coliseum were no more brilliant tonight than the athletes who ran on this gray track. Forty thousand hoarse-voiced fans went home muttering about "the greatest invitational track meet ever staged" — the 10th annual Coliseum Relays.

Those fans stood up and roared as Michigan State and Southern California see-sawed back and forth in the 2-mile relay, both teams breaking the world's record. They screamed with amazed delight as little Occidental's spirited foursome fought off each succeeding challenge of the all-powerful invaders from Morgan State to win the second best mile relay on record. They watched with awe as Bob McMillen ran the fastest 2-mile ever run by a western American. They applauded mightily as Andy Stanfield emerged as the greatest four-event man since Jesse Owens. And they cheered the No. 1 athletes in the world in at least half a dozen events.

All this resulted in one world's record, one Coliseum record broken and two equalled, and six Relays records broken and one tied. In addition, all four relay races and three individual events were the best performances in the USA this season.

The 2-mile relay started with Dave Peppard, who recently ran 1:52.9, against Stan Mattoon of USC. Peppard ran 1:55 and opened up seven yards on USC, the largest distance which ever separated the two teams. Oklahoma A&M and UCLA were never in the race after the first leg. Wally Wilson of USC took out after Warren Druetzler, the NCAA 2-mile runner-up. Wilson ran 1:52 and closed the gap to two yards. Big Bob Chambers, Olympic place-winner, outsprinted Don Makielski with a 1:52.3 leg, and started Bob Pruitt off with a two yard lead. Pruitt, third in last year's NCAA with a 1:50.8 clocking, seemed certain to hold his lead over the Michigan State miler, Bill Mack. But Mack, the indoor IC4A champion, sprinted past Pruitt with half a lap to go and held a two yard lead to the tape. Mack's 1:51.5 should not have beaten Pruitt, but the victory was decisive. Michigan State took home the world's record. USC's 7:32.1 was well under California's old record of 7:34.5. (Lap times announced as "official" were obviously incorrect.)

In the mile relay, Rice was supposed to have the only team with a chance against Morgan State. But Rice's lead-off man ran well over 52 seconds, and only Payton Jordan's Occidental runners were in contention. The fourth team, Michigan State, was outclassed. Morgan State's Sam LaBeach, a Panamanian who ran 48.1 in last year's NCAA final, lost a yard to Oxy's Walt McKibben. Virtually unknown nationally, sprinter McKibben ran a bang-up 48.1 lap. Ted Ruprecht, an-

the almost unknown Oxy sprinter who barely made the team after a season of injuries, was up against the veteran Bob Tyler, junior AAU sprint champion who once ran a 47 flat 440. Ruprecht came through magnificently with a 48.4 leg, losing only three yards to Tyler. Then it was Oxy's Johnny Barnes against Morgan State's Bill Brown. Barnes, who may be the "find" of the year in the half mile, slowly closed the gap on Brown, who placed fifth in the AAU 800 meters and ran impressively in Europe last year. Into the stretch,

Barnes pulled even. His 47.1 leg was strong enough to start Bill Parker off even with AAU champion George Rhoden. But an excellent baton pass won the pole for the blond Parker, a veteran of many years of relay racing for the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Parker, who had already run an all-out race in the open 440, held off the national champion until the final turn. The giant Rhoden, running with his left thigh taped, almost pulled even coming out of the turn. But the track-wise Parker held him out and had enough left to fight him off in a bitter battle to the tape. Tom Cox of Rice raced past Jack Dianetti with a 46.8 anchor lap. Track fans were limp and hoarse when it was over. Coach Payton Jordan received more congratulations than an NCAA winner. Coach E. P. Hurt of Morgan State told Jordan, "You certainly surprised us. I didn't think your team was that good." Coach Jordan said, "Spirit won it for us".

(August 1952)

Outsider Barthel Wins 1500

By R. L. Queretani

From the standpoint of competition, this was to be the greatest of all Olympic events: in a two-month period prior to the Olympics no less than 25 runners bettered 3:50 - easily an all time record. Not included in that group were men like Slykhuis and Bannister. Five of these sub-3:50 men were not on hand for the Helsinki races: Béres (Hungary), Reiff (Belgium), S.Karlsson (Sweden), Santee (US) and Robinson (GB). One of the top favorites, Holland's Wim Slykhuis, dropped out in the third heat because of a recurring muscle injury. The absence of Reiff and Slykhuis from the final certainly meant a lot - the Belgian is the greatest pace-setter ever seen in the 1500m business and Slykhuis one of the strongest finishers of all time.

The field for the final included two Germans (Lueg and Lamers), two Swedes (Åberg and Eriksson), two Americans (McMillen and Druetzler), an Englishman (Bannister), a Finn (Johansson), a "dark-horse" from Luxemburg (Barthel), a Frenchman (El Mabrouk), a Norwegian (Boysen) and an Australian (Macmillan). Earlier in the week the last three had competed in the qualifying rounds of the 800 meters!

Boysen was in the lead for a few seconds, then Lamers took over. At 400m he was clocked in 57.8. This prompted me to conclude that he intended to set the pace for Lueg, whose chances admittedly rested on the assumption of a fast race throughout. But Lamers somehow slowed down in the second lap. At 800m (time 2:01.4) Lueg, Boysen, McMillen, El Mabrouk and Bannister were trailing in that order. Australia's Macmillan and Druetzler were closing up the rear. At 1200m Lueg was leading (3:03.0), yet it was apparent that the pace until then had been slower than he expected. A gigantic battle raged in the backstretch of the final lap. In close succession Åberg, El Mabrouk and Bannister tried to forge ahead, running in the outside lanes. At one time it looked

as if almost everybody was sprinting -- with about half a lap to go! Lueg poured on the pressure more than anyone else and increased his lead to about three yards in the last turn, Barthel was second, in the first lane, with McMillen close, while Bannister & El Mabrouk fought in outside lanes throughout the entire turn. Entering the homestretch the Luxemburg ace came up with a devastating spurt and began to close fast on Lueg. With 50yds to go the German tied up and Barthel pulled away. McMillen probably started his bid a fraction of a second too late, yet he was closing fast at the end: he passed Lueg and finished about 2' behind Barthel. Bannister beat El Mabrouk for fourth by a narrow margin. Lamers of Germany did not fade and finished a brilliant sixth, followed by the two Swedes, Åberg and Eriksson. These eight men bettered Lovelock's Olympic record (3:47.8)! Two others - Macmillan of Australia (the tallest miler I have ever seen) and Johansson also beat 3:50. Only Boysen and Druetzler finished far behind.

(August 1952)

Zatopek Wins Thrilling 5000

By Bert Nelson

The 5000 meter final was supposed to be a three man race. There was, of course, the incomparable Zatopek, the favorite of many. But many thought defending champ Gaston Reiff of Belgium could do the trick again. And Herbert Schade, Germany's up and coming 14:06.6 man, had his supporters.

Nothing in the three great heats changed any one's mind. Each of the trials was a tremendous race and any good track fan could have gone home satisfied after having seen only one of them. It took 14:27.8 to qualify and the American trio did not come close. Game Charles Capozzoli ran his best ever but finished a distant seventh in the first heat; Wes Santee ran like a novice and kept on the pace too long in the second heat, eventually finishing 13th; and Curt Stone had to admit defeat after sticking on the pace for nine laps.

Little Alain Mimoun kicked home for a new French record in winning the first trial, but he's a distance man and can't run any faster than that--so the experts agreed. Schade led all the way in the second heat and claimed a new Olympic record with his 14:15.4, as against Reiff's 14:17.6 mark.

Zatopek was an easy third in his heat, after giving the fans, if not his opponents, something to laugh about in the closing stages. Seeing that the field had narrowed to the five qualifiers, the balding Czech attempted to slow the field by means of gestures, facial contortions and speech. On the last backstretch after Zatopek had smiled and waved to the crowd, he and Aleksandr Anoufiev held a conversation. Just behind them English was exchanged between Chris Chataway of Britain and Les Perry of Australia.

Rumor had it, before the final, that Reiff was not in shape to run a fast 5000 and that he intended to set up a world's record by pouring on the pace for 4000m and then dropping out. Sure enough, he did drop out at 4000m, but after not having set the pace an inch of the way.

The July 24 final saw red-haired Chataway go to the front and lead through a 65.8 first lap with Zatopek 14th and Gordon Pirie, who had dogged the great one's steps in

the 10,000, again playing Zatopek's shadow in last place. Schade took over the pace on the second lap with Zatopek making his first move on the third lap, spurring to fifth. At 1200m it was Schade, Chataway, Reiff, Mimoun, and Zatopek and the field remained that way until midway through the sixth circuit when Zatopek moved into the first spot. The class of the field was up front, with Schade second, Chataway, of whom the British expected so much, third, Reiff fourth, Mimoun fifth, and then a little gap with Pirie, Bertil Albertsson, Ake Andersson, and Ilmari Taipale hanging on.

Lucien Theys of Belgium and Eero Tuomaala of Finland lost contact on the seventh round and Alan Parker was gone on the ninth lap. Meanwhile, Schade had taken over the pace chores again on the seventh lap with Zatopek getting up front two laps later.

The real running began at about this point, although the pace was about 10 seconds off world record figures. It was still mighty fast and Anoufrieu could no longer stick with it.

Pirie, who ran both his Helsinki races as if he had more guts than brains, didn't think the pace too fast, however, and moved into the lead on the backstretch of the tenth lap. But the others stormed past again and at the 4000m mark (11:24.8) it was Schade, Zatopek, Reiff, Chataway, Pirie and Mimoun, closely bunched. Perry had been moving up all the while and now found himself 10 yards back of Mimoun, with Albertsson, Andersson and Beres another five behind, and the others completely out of it.

Reiff dropped out. That left the battle to five men, but an increasing pace forced Pirie to give ground by 10 yards as the bell sounded the start of the last lap.

The 28-year-old Zatopek moved to the fore with the bell and led around the next to last curve. But on the last back stretch the precocious Chataway challenged his older, better known rivals and started a sprint that carried the upstart into the lead. The bespectacled Schade and Mimoun met the challenge and both swept past Zatopek, who at this point was a very tired looking runner.

Zatopek, though, always looks tired, and no sooner had it appeared he might be licked than he began his fantastic kick. He swung wide around the curve, running in the third lane. Half-way through the curve he had the lead, and, running with less effort in his sprint than otherwise, seemed to have the race won by the time the four entered the homeward leading straightaway.

Mimoun and Schade were in hard pursuit and all had passed the tiring, gallant Chataway just before the track straightened out. Here Chataway spilled to the infield, his remaining hopes dying as he sprawled across the curb, bruised and bleeding.

Zatopek tore home, completing a fabulous 58.1 last lap, with a 28.3 last 200. The man who "hates" the 5000 because it is too short, opened up a five yard gap on the surprising Mimoun, who also likes the longer routes. Schade, very tired but fighting to the end, lost considerable ground to Mimoun over the final 100 meters, finishing some eight yards in arrears.

Chataway, meanwhile, got to his feet rather slowly, and painfully and tiredly took up the completion of his effort. Closing fast down the stretch came teammate Pirie, who did not realize that Chataway had fallen. The latter had no fight left and Pirie gained the fourth spot by inches. Perry, a Zatopek training disciple, who had run a well paced race all the way, finished a good sixth.

Chataway's fall was the result of his extreme

fatigue, and nothing else. He said afterwards he was very tired and might have been brushed as the others went by-- or he might have stepped on the curb. At any rate, he had no excuses and admitted he was much too tired to be in the race.

There was no chance to win, or even to salvage second for Chataway. He might have outgamed Schade for the bronze medal. There's no telling. Certainly, though, he would have done 14:10 or better, a fantastic performance for a 22-year-old. The boyish looking Oxford student, who trains as hard as any but likes to give the impression he doesn't, is the heir apparent to the oldies who beat him.

Zatopek's new Olympic record of 14:06.6 has been beaten only by Gunder Hagg and by Zatopek himself (three times) and equaled by Schade. The latter, a non-aggressive looking, sandy haired 29-year-old, joined Zatopek as the only men to break 14:10 more than once.

Mimoun, whose best pre-Helsinki time was 14:21.8, enters the all time list in fourth place. He also has the bitter knowledge that but for Zatopek he would have three Olympic and two European championships to his credit.

New national records were set in the finals by the 28-year-old Mimoun, an Algerian born Frenchman who clerks in Paris; Perry and Beres, while in the heats national records of Denmark, Turkey, and Austria also were broken.

(August 1952)

Ashenfelter Scores Upset

By Bert Nelson

Any Hollywood scripter who wrote the story of a virtually unknown 17th ranked American FBI agent beating a world record holding Red out of Russia's best hopes for a gold medal would be laughed out of the business. Yet this stranger than fiction history was made as Horace Ashenfelter defeated Vladimir Kazantsev to win the United State's first gold medal since 1908 at any distance further than 800 meters.

Kazantsev was THE big name of modern day steeplechasing. Running phenomenally well he had blasted steeplechasing out of the nine minute plus class and eventually lowered his time for the 3000 meters to 8:48.6.

Ashenfelter, on the other hand, had run barely half a dozen steeplechases, and only one of them well. That was his win in the final trials when he appeared close to all out in clocking 9:06.4, an American record, but far from Kazantsev's time.

Throw in 15 other performers with better times than Ashenfelter's and the long shot position which was his can be readily appreciated.

If there was any one in the world who believed he stood any sort of a chance it was "Nip" Ashenfelter himself. He had withdrawn from the 10,000 meters only to see friends Curt Stone and Fred Wilt, rated America's two best ever distance men, do no better than 20th. And he had seen all three Americans do very poorly in the 5000m.

That left the salvaging of America's already meager distance reputation squarely in the hands of Ashenfelter. When told that, Nip would only say "I'll try". But he knew that his 8:51.4 indoor two-mile times compared favorably with anyone in the race, and that he had improved consider-

ably in his steeplechasing technique, largely through the help of Jindrich Roudny, the Czech European champ. He refused to count himself out of the money.

Kazantsev impressed in winning the first of three heats. The long haired, thin faced hurdle expert eased off after a fast pace (1000m in 2:49, 1500m in 4:20.8 and 2000m in 5:50) but still broke the Olympic record with his 8:58.0 clocking. Roudny was the number one casualty, his late challenge just missing the fourth spot even though his time equalled Ashenfelter's American record.

Britain's John Disley and Finland's hope, Olavi Rinteenpaa nearly deadheaded in the second heat after a fast last 1000m with Germany's 8:50.0 star, Helmut Gude, unimpressive although he rushed up from fifth on the last lap to qualify. Intermediate times were 2:55 and 4:29 by Gude and 5:57 by Disley.

Bill Ashenfelter, the tall younger brother of Nip, failed to finish the first heat and veteran Olympian Browning Ross was a poor last in the second. But America's great moment was yet to come.

Going to the front early, Ash set and held a fast pace. He met the challenge of Russia's number two ace, Mikhail Saltykov (8:57.6), and clocked 2:50.4, 4:20 and 5:49. So at the two-thirds mark he was a second ahead of Kazantsev's new Olympic record and running strongly.

Unaware of his fast pace--no lap times are given and the lap is well over 400 meters anyway--Ash had no idea he was heading for a new record. But he felt full of run and even though untested came home strongly with a brilliant 8:51.0, third greatest ever.

Eight of the 12 qualifiers were under Iso-Hello's old Olympic mark of 9:03.8 and the slowest managed 9:06.0. So the final two days later was a cinch to be the greatest steeplechase of all times. Despite the ease of Ashenfelter's performance the Russian was still rated the favorite with Disley given as much chance as Ashenfelter.

Rinteenpaa went to the front at the gun with Ashenfelter last, but at the end of the first lap (67.1) Saltykov had taken over his familiar pace setting role and Nip had moved to fourth with Kazantsev fifth. For another lap (2:20.5) the order remained virtually the same.

Then, just before the water jump on the third lap--about 50 meters from the starting mark--Nip went ahead, dragging Kazantsev with him. They crossed the mark in 3:55 with Rinteenpaa third, Saltykov fourth, and Curt Soderberg of Sweden fifth. Disley was last at this point, and Gude next to last.

By four laps Nip's burning pace had begun to tell and the two aces had opened up a five yard gap on the Finn with open air showing all the way along the line.

Around they went, the guant, 140 pound Ashenfelter and his red-shirted rival both taking the hurdles and jumps cleanly, neither losing nor gaining on each other. Kazantsev sometimes ran alongside Ash, sometimes just behind, but never did he give ground.

The 6:04 fifth lap clocking saw the American-Russian lead widened to six yards over Rinteenpaa with Soderberg and Saltykov hanging on and Germany's Gunther Hesselman and Disley moving up. Disley's belated move carried him from seventh to third at the end of six rounds, (7:20) but he had a 20 yard deficit on the flying Ashenfelter and the latter's relentless pursuer.

Pace-setter Saltykov had hit the 1000m mark in 2:49.8 and Nip had poured it on for 5:47.4 at 2000m, faster even than his Olympic record. The rest of the field appeared

beaten, but Kazantsev was running strongly and there were many who felt he was only biding his time, toying with Ash. America's hopes were lifted just after the bell when Kazantsev made his first mistake. The Russian stumbled coming off the hurdle and for an instant he was in trouble. But he recovered nicely and quickly and in a few strides was alongside Ash again.

Now on the last backstretch, the pair still enjoyed a huge yard lead over Disley, but for the first time both showed signs of distress from the unheard of pace. Still both were fighting and picking up the pace.

Then it was that Kazantsev made his big move, swinging past Nip and taking the lead just before the curve. It looked like the beginning of the end for the game American who wasn't supposed to be up there in the first place. All the experts knew that Ashenfelter had no kick, that if he couldn't run his rivals into the ground before the last lap he was doomed. And here was the greatest of all time starting to run away from him with a half lap to go.

Ash knew something the experts did not, and as they approached the water jump, just past the middle of the last curve, and on the outside of the track, Nip swung wide. Kazantsev went over cleanly with Nip splashing just short of dry earth about four feet behind his opponent.

Driving out of the water with a tremendous burst, Ashenfelter exploded past the startled Russian. The latter could be expected to rally and fight home, but in 25 yards it was all over. Ash's lead had increased to four or five yards in that incredibly short distance and Kazantsev was licked. Without challenging further he threw in the sponge and came home wearily.

Sensing victory, Ash eased off the quick sprint--no man could sustain that explosion for long--and took the last hurdle cautiously. Once on safe ground Nip strode home, no need for a last, dying sprint. He received a tremendous hand from the Finns who lose no love on their aggressive neighbor.

Meanwhile, Disley, who is bothered by insomnia but who slept well the night before, was closing with a rush on the beaten Kazantsev. The 22-year-old schoolmaster had started too late, though, and missed second by a yard. There was a terrific battle for fourth among the four who had pursued the two leaders all the way. Finland got one of its big thrills when Rinteenpaa grabbed the fourth with Soderberg and Hesselman shutting Saltykov out of the money.

The times were phenomenal. Ashenfelter's 8:45.4, helped by a 68.6 last lap, was more than three seconds faster than Kazantsev's best on record in this event for which there is no recognized world record. The seventh man ran 8:56.2 with the eighth man, the disappointing Gude, also under the former Olympic record.

Before the Olympics only Kazantsev and Gude had broken 8:57. In this one race no less than seven men bettered that figure. It was, of course, a new national record for the United States, as well as for Great Britain, Finland, Sweden, and Turkey.

Once again Ashenfelter did not know how fast he was going. "There weren't any times" he said, "and besides, in a race like this you can't run by the clock. I just felt good and went out and ran."

"What did I think when Kazantsev passed me? I knew I had something left and decided to give it a try coming off the jump."

No sooner had Ash put on his sweat suit than he was

seen headed across the field and under the stands. Soon he appeared in the stands, coming up the aisle to where his wife, Lillian, was sitting as a member of the Track and Field News Olympic Tour. The new champ received a big hug, gave his wife a kiss which was later described as "very salty", and then dashed down to the victory stand.

Soon he was back in the stands again, presenting his medal and bouquet of carnations to Lillian, and receiving the heartfelt congratulations from the American contingent, most of whom had just received their biggest thrill of the Games.

It was the 29-year-old's eighth steeplechase but only his second in fast company. He was fifth in the 1950 AAU, second in 1951 and 1952 and won the final trials. He had also competed in a pair of unimportant two-mile steeplechases.

For the quiet, modest father of two boys it was the climax to a late starting career. Ash did a little running in the air corps, then entered Penn State College after the war, graduating in 1949. There he came under the tutelage of ace distance coach Chic Werner, one of the three assistant Olympic coaches. Following graduation and despite marriage and a hard job, Nip continued to improve, but saved his blossoming into greatness for the right moment.

(May 1953)

O'Brien Sets World Mark

Fresno, Calif., May 9— Parry O'Brien climaxed his relentless pursuit of shot put glory here in the West Coast Relays, sending Jim Fuchs' world-record 58'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " into discard with a mighty 59' $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Other athletes were outstanding (Jack Davis ran two flights of hurdles in 13.6 with a wind only slightly above the limit, and Cy Young threw the javelin 241'10" to beat Bud Held by only two inches), the meet was especially well organized, USC won the team title, and 13,000 spectators had dust in their eyes, but the international headlines were made by the Olympic champion, O'Brien.

O'Brien's concentration was extreme. As he poised his 6'2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 225-pound body in the ring, the band started playing the national anthem, but he probably did not hear. Bending low over his right knee, which was pointed in exactly the opposite direction from his put, he shoved his body a foot and a half across the ring, landing in the same position. Then, with the fluid movement of a General Patton tank, he uncoiled, sending the shot off his fingers in a long arc which appeared silver under the lights. Then O'Brien, usually a stoic package of concentrated explosive, danced up and down happily until he realized he was supposed to stand at attention for the music.

The record put came on his fourth trial. Before that, O'Brien had used a unique system to combat the chilly wind. For his first toss of a flight he wore two sweat suits. As a starter, he put 57'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", soon followed by 58'4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " without sweat clothes. On his second flight he reached a bare 55' in sweats, then stripped for his long toss. He had one "poor" put later, then waived his last two. Between puts he moved around constantly, keeping warm ... and concentrating.

(September 1953)

Gordien Hurls 194'6

by Dick Bank

Passadena, August 22— Concluding a truly great summer of discus throwing, Fortune Gordien produced history's greatest track and field achievement with a throw of 194'6" (59.28m) in the final All-Comers Meet of the summer at John Muir College.

According to the latest IAAF handbook Gordien's throw, which is off the table, is superior to a 3:55.9 mile, a 27-foot broad jump, and a 7-foot high jump, among others. The hot afternoon evidently agreed with Gordien as did the enthusiastic crowd. His easy, 180-foot warmups gave one the feeling that something big was in the offing.

Fortch almost disproved this with his first two efforts. He started with 171'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Then he purposely stepped out on a throw of approximately 162'. Then he lit the fuse.

On his last throw of the preliminary competition he muscled one out 190 feet (actually 190' $\frac{1}{8}$ " but the fraction was dropped under the new rules). This one touched him off. Opening the finals, he slipped back to 176'3". But as it turned out, this was the lull before the storm.

His fifth throw exhibited great power. Great speed and a fine follow through got the platter off sailing just a bit to the right of straight center. Not a soul in the crowd knew that this was anything but history's finest as it left his hand.

The roar was already increasing while disc was in flight. It struck only a few feet short of hitting the wire fence on the fly.

Through a multitude of backslaps and handshakes, Gordien allowed as how he felt that one as it left. "My coach Jim Kelly could always tell when it left if it was a good one or not. I never could up until right now."

As an anti-climax, he finished up with the second greatest toss on record with 191'6".

Weighing 224 today, the magician-actor-father said that he will continue to throw as long as he can find time to do so. After all, he has that big one on his schedule for 1954 — the 200 footer.

May 1954)

Bannister's Day of Days

Oxford, England, May 6--A pitifully small crowd of only 1200 waited in expectant silence for the results of the mile run in a dual meet between Oxford University and the British AAA team held on the Oxford track at Iffley Road.

"Ladies and gentlemen," spoke the solemn voice of announcer Norris McWhirter, "Here is the result of event number nine, the one mile: First, number 41, R.G. Bannister Amateur Athletic Association and formerly of Exeter and Nerton Colleges, Oxford, with a time which is a new meeting and track record, and which, subject to ratification, will be a new English Native, British National, British All-Comers', European, British Empire, and World's record. The time was THREE..."

A roar from the spectators drowned further words. The 4-minute mile had been run.

The longest awaited of all the coveted goals in track and field had been reached. The figures "3:59.4" and the name "Roger Bannister" flashed around the world, creating excitement and headlines everywhere. And, believe it or not, a local English reporter asked Norris McWhirter, "Has anyone ever run a mile under four minutes before?"

Bannister, a 25-year-old, 6'1", 150-pound medical student, did not decide to go all out until 15 minutes before the race began. Heavy rains earlier in the day and winds of about 15 miles per hour made a record run seem unlikely. In fact, competent observers said they think the magnificent race would have been two seconds faster under ideal conditions.

Six runners started in the race. Olympic steeple-chaser, Chris Brasher, set the pace for the first two laps. After 220 yards, Bannister said, "Faster". At 2½ laps, with Brasher no longer able to push the pace, Bannister said, "Chris", calling on former Oxford teammate and Olympic 5000 meter sensation Chris Chataway to take the pace. Chataway increased the pace, which had slowed dangerously, and actually led Bannister with 300 yards to go. There, the long-striding Briton launched into his famous sprint, giving it everything he had in an all-out effort which contorted his usually pleasant face and left him completely exhausted at the tape. Chataway finished in 4:07.2, William Hulatt in 4:16.0 and Brasher untimed. Two other runners could not get through the throng that poured onto the track.

Bannister's pace:				
220	28.7	(28.7)		
440	57.5	(28.8)	57.5	
660	1:27.5	(30.0)		
880	1:58.2	(30.7)	60.7	1:58.2
1100	2:29.6	(31.4)		
1320	3:00.5	(30.9)	62.3	
1540	3:30.5	(30.0)		
1760	3:59.4	(28.9)	58.9	2:01.2

One unofficial watch timed Bannister in 3:43.0 for 1500 meters, equal to the world's record.

All three official timers showed 3:59.4. One alternate clocked 3:59.4 and another 3:59.2. The track was surveyed and the distance was found to be two inches longer than one mile, statute, or a mile plus 1 5/8", standard.

Bannister's time takes two full seconds off Gunder Hagg's world record. No man has ever lowered the mile record by a greater margin since the IAAF started keeping records. Back in 1874, Walter Slade lowered the record 2.8 seconds, to 4:26.0.

It was a great comeback for Bannister, long recognized by insiders as a super runner, but who sorely disappointed Britons when he "failed" in the 1952 Olympics. At that time he had run 3/4 mile in practice in 2:52.9, but had not exposed himself to enough competition to cope with the greatest field of milers ever assembled. His best miles, like this one, have been semi-private affairs. He ran 4:03.6 on this same track last May, and 4:02.0 in London June 27. The later time, bettered only by Hagg and Anderson until today, was not accepted by the British AAA because it was a paced race. Bannister's fastest mile in open competition was 4:05.2 in last year's British Championships. His fastest previous 1500 meters was 3:46.0 for fourth in the Olympics.

Bannister, who trained himself for years up to this year when he had some help from Austrian coach, Franz Stampf,

prepared diligently for this record assault. All winter long he prepared, and for three weeks before the race he punished himself in practice. A sampling of his recent training shows: April 12- Seven 880's, averaging 2:03. April 14- 1320 in 3:02. April 15- 880 in 1:53. April 22-Ten 440's averaging 58.9. April 24- 1320 in 3:00. April 28- 1320, alone, in 2:59.9. April 30- 880 in 1:54.

(August 1954)

Miracle Mile to Bannister

by Bert Nelson

Vancouver, Canada, July 31-August 7--The aptly named "Miracle Mile", the greatest 12 lap race in history, and a heart-rending marathon drama highlighted a British Empire Games in which greatly improved performances were the rule.

Climaxing the meeting of 24 nations, in which 15 of 20 meet best performance marks were bettered and one tied, was the long awaited Bannister-Landy mile duel. It turned out as bally-hood--the greatest mile competition ever--with Dr. Roger displaying the better finish as two men broke four minutes in the same race for the first time. Bannister's 3:58.8 was his best ever, while Landy's 3:59.6 made two sub four minute miles for both.

All the speculation as to tactics in the final quickly disappeared. Law jumped to the front and Landy was hemmed in by Boyd, which made it appear for moments as if the English were planning teamwork. But Law lost a shoe at 150 yards (he dropped out on the second lap) and Landy shot to the lead half way around the second bend. "When I heard my 220 time of 28.9 I knew I would have to carry the pace", Landy said later.

The smooth running Australian was not headed for another three laps. Hitting the quarter in 58.2, Landy was followed by Baillie, Halberg, Ferguson and Bannister (58.9). Roger moved up around the turn so at the 660 (1:27.4) he was second by eight yards. At the half, which John reached in 1:58.2, the Englishman was still seven yards back, having trailed by 10 on the fourth curve. Ferguson was hanging on another seven in arrears, and Halberg, who had been expected to push the pace, was trailing by three more with a five yard bulge on Milligan.

Despite the big lead, no one thought of a runaway, as the powerful Briton commanded respect with every stride. He cut down the lead throughout the third quarter, despite a 60.2 pressure performance by Landy. Bannister had to hit 28.7 for his fifth 220 and 59.3 for the last lap to close the gap to two yards at the bell, which was reached in 2:58.4. At this point Ferguson had slipped back by 20 yards, but still looked good, with a 20 yard margin over the hard working Milligan.

Trying desperately to shake Bannister of the feared kick, Landy again ran the first curve and stretch the faster. But Bannister would not be lost, although on the final turn Landy did gain back two feet of the margin he had lost.

When Roger's finishing burst failed to materialize at the expected 300 yard mark it was obvious Landy had achieved some success with his blistering pace. Down the back stretch and around the curve Bannister's kick was still withheld, and

the clamoring 35,000 fans were wondering if it would ever come, or if it had been run out.

The answer came at the head of the straightaway, about 90 yards out. Without an appreciable change of action--just an increase of power--Bannister drew abreast, was held even for a tiny moment, and then forged ahead. Landy was unable to change into a sprint action, and while he held his form admirably he was unable to offer effective pursuit.

For the first time in his career Bannister shortened his stride to sprint and steadily drew away, increasing his lead to the tape. Reaching the finish, Bannister collapsed into waiting arms, obviously run out. Far less exhausted, and recovering more quickly, Landy was unable to match Bannister's peculiar talent for drawing deep on physical reserves without losing control and tying up.

Landy had no excuses, and was most concerned about whether it was a good race or not. He did wonder, though, what the outcome might have been had a third man set the pace. Days later John reluctantly admitted he had run with a cut flash after stepping on a flash bulb while unable to sleep the night before the race. He insisted his running was not hurt.

The splits reveal, among other things, that Landy did draw Roger's sting, for the latter could manage only 30.5 for the last 220. But the pace showed even more on the maker, whose last 220 (31.5) was his slowest. The 220s, 440s and 880s:

L:	28.9	29.3	29.2	30.8	29.2	31.0	29.7	31.5
	58.2		60.0		60.2		61.2	
		1:58.2				2:01.4		
B:	29.2	29.6	30.0	30.6	28.7	30.6	29.6	30.5
	58.8		60.6		59.3		60.1	
		1:59.4				1:59.4		

(September 1954)

European Championships

by R.L.Querretani

The Fifth European Track and Field Championships, held in a far from pretentious setting at Bern's tiny Neufeld Stadium, Aug. 25 to 29, passed to athletic history as one of the greatest spiked-shoe festivals of all time.

From the standpoint of excitement the 800 meter final alone was something worth traveling hundreds of miles to see: five men were closely bunched at the end and the last of them ran 1/10th faster than Mal Whitfield has ever run!

The qualifying races were pretty "hot", the start at the beginning of the curve causing some serious scuffles. Among those who did not make the final were the two Russians and the two Germans, all previously credited with marks in the 1:49/1:50 range. Especially Oleg Ageyev, the USSR record holder, displayed poor racing tactics. Hewson of Britain posted a personal best in the heats but did not have much left in the next round. A major surprise was 20-year-old Ronnie Delaney of Eire, who in the first semi-final came up from nowhere with 100 meters to go, passed half a dozen men and finished second in 1:50.2 - 2.3 secs. under his best time in Ireland! In 1953 Delaney had not broken 2 minutes, but some three weeks before the Bern meet he had beaten Lang Stanley of USA. Boysen, Moens and Szentgáli were very

impressive: especially the Hungarian amazed experts with his supple movements.

In the final the order on the curved starting line was: Rasquin, Boysen, Johnson, Ekfeldt, Delaney, Moens, Szentgáli and DeMuyneck. Elbows played an important rôle around the first turn: Rasquin of Luxemburg (holder of the ATFS record at 1:50.4) was the chief victim, but also Johnson and Moens were hindered. Boysen jumped into the lead after less than 100 meters: a bad knee reportedly precluded to him any sudden bursts or sprints, so he was to resort to his favorite tactics - a swift, uniform pace throughout. At the bell he was timed in 52.4, certainly fast but not suicidal as had been his pace in Brussels four years ago. In close attendance were DeMuyneck, Moens, Szentgáli and Johnson, while Ekfeldt, Rasquin and Delaney were no longer in contention. Positions were unchanged up to the last turn. Entering the homestretch Boysen was still in the lead and had a yard on the two Belgians, 2 yards on Szentgáli and 3 yards on Johnson. The battle in the final stage was to oldtimers reminiscent of the historical Olympic race of 1912 in Stockholm. The only man in the field who had enough left for a prolonged sprint was 22-year-old Szentgáli: he opened up with some 70 meters to go, passed the three leaders and continued to move fast till the end. DeMuyneck, strong and calm, took second from the great Boysen, while young Derek Johnson of Britain, after charging wildly near the end, finished a close fourth. Moens, somewhat disappointing, closed up the rear as last man of the SELECT group. Rasquin was a distant but gallant sixth.

Szentgáli, who, like Johnson, finished in third lane, was credited with the second fastest time in history: 1:47.1 - i.e. only half a second outside Harbig's fabulous record. The next four were credited with similarly amazing times, so that the greatest 800 meter race in history shunted Marvelous Mal Whitfield from third to seventh in the All-Time list! Szentgáli's race was a great sensation, especially in view of the fact that he had little competitive experience at this distance. Like Barthel in Helsinki, the Hungarian went through heats, semi-finals and final always as a winner. Moens, the temperamental Belgian, had probably lost a considerable part of his nervous energy in the preceding races. DeMuyneck and Johnson are certainly bound to be heard from. This race probably opened a new era in the history of this event. Szentgáli's mark, achieved in an 8-man field and around four turns, is not inferior - in intrinsic value - to Harbig's record in Milan. But this historical race was made possible by the presence of the greatest Hare of all time: Audun Boysen. The Norwegian no doubt excelled Lanzi's feat in Milan, so that the task of Szentgáli & Co. was - at least in this respect - easier than Harbig's task fifteen years ago.

(October 1954)

Chataway Runs 13:51.6

by Norris McWhirter, ATHLETICS WORLD

White City, London, October 13— Vladimir Kuts' 45-day reign as world 5000 meter record holder was terminated dramatically when the 23-year-old 'Sherpa of British athletics', Christopher John Chataway, in a blizzard of flash-bulbs and a roar from 50,000 throats, passed the 27-year-old Iron Marine 15 yards from the sanctuary of the tape

at London's re-laid red White City Stadium to record an almost unbelievable 13:51.6.

The occasion was event No. 26 of an inter-city floodlit match between London and Moscow. The line-up from the inside was the scarlet-vested Kuts, in station two, the Chelsea-born Chataway, and outside him, Vladimir Okorokov (4th at Bern), and the 6-mile British Empire champion, Peter Driver. At the gun it was, as expected, the Russian champion who went straight into the lead, obviously out to repeat the Bern dose as before. He covered the 'odd' 188.06 yards in 26.6 seconds with the European vice-champion right on his tail. Ahead of them lay 12 oval laps during which the Russian well knew that if he could not shake off his auburn-haired pursuer by the bell, its strident message might become in fact a death knell.

With just two yards of night betwixt them, the ex-Marine of the Red Army and the Lieutenant of the British Territorial Army scorched round the track to pass the mile post in 4:24.4. Suddenly, in the fifth lap, Kuts went berserk and broke into a frenzied sprint which opened a 12-yard gap before the 'Red Fox' realised what had happened. Then, as if only drawn apart by elastic, Chataway rapidly closed the gap. In each of the next five laps the Russian put in stretches of 4 minute mile pace running, but never did he succeed in shaking off his ever frisky pursuer. The story of the torturing and extravagant pace as the laps were unreeled is best seen by comparing Kuts world record run at Bern on August 29th in 13:56.6 with this return match with Chataway:

	KUTS (Bern 29/8)	CHATAWAY (London)
1000m	2:44.0	2:41.5
2000m	5:36.7	5:31.6
3000m	8:23.9	8:16.5
4000m	11:12.3	11:09.9
5 miles	13:27.4	13:27.1
5000m	13:56.6	13:51.6
Last 400 meters	65.6	60.1

With the spot-lights playing on them, the two gladiators sped on, with Kuts passing the 2-mile post in 8:54.8. The Russian's 'shock treatment' really sorted out the men from the boys, for Okorokov (in Russian, 'Big Ham!') and even Peter Driver suddenly found a yawning chasm of night between them and the remorseless leaders. With four laps still to go, the Russian was still trying everything he knew. His fabulous training regimen, which involves 25 60-second laps at a session, was standing him in good stead. In the tenth lap he shot in a 67.6, but in the bell lap moderated to 69.0 in an effort to gather himself for a final bursting tearaway surge in which it would be impossible to take him from behind.

The bell clanged and the capacity crowd went mad. The rippling chant of CHAT-A-WAY CHAT-A-WAY broke off into a crescendo on which anyone on the infield could lean. Twelve million viewers went white at the knuckles as they gripped their chairs. Lost in the tumult was the shrill voice of 16-year-old Susan Chataway yelling for 'Chris'. The sweat sodden Russian was inexhaustible. Stoking up the fires of his boundless energy, he raised the pace higher and higher as the pair practically sprinted down the long back straight. Warned that Chataway would make his final effort late and decisive if at all, the viewing audience heard their commentator's metallic voice chip in with the words, 'This man looks unbeatable'.

Kuts yawed 'round the last bend in a superlative exhibition of courage and stamina, having flashed past the 3-mile post in the new world's record time of 13:27.0 with Chataway recording 13:27.2 for a British Empire record.

With 80 yards to go and coming off the bend into the short home stretch, the huge audience saw why Chataway is called 'The Man They Never Beat Twice'. Piling Kinchinjanga upon Everest, Chataway got right up on his toes, reached for the diapason stop, and let go with a searing drive for the tape level with 15 yards to go, a foot up with 10 to go, and two feet up on the line, Chataway had matched Roger Bannister's 60.1 seconds 'Miracle Mile' last lap time for the greatest victory of his 7-year career. So ended a symbolic duel between the business-man amateur and the whole-time State athlete in the most animal exhibition of Total Sport yet beheld on any track.

First to congratulate the victor was aptly enough Dr. Roger Bannister, who took Chataway's left arm round his shoulder while Mick Mayes, Britain's ever faithful Hon. Team Masseur took his right arm. Administrations were unnecessary, for Chataway wanted to run around a little to limber down, but not before he had shaken hands with the bemused and dazed ex world record holder whose astounding efforts had proved of no avail and whose defeat caused Moscow Radio to choke off its minute by minute match bulletin.

(March 1955)

Spurrier's 1:47.5 World Record

by Bert Nelson

Berkeley, March 26--Lon Spurrier achieved track immortality today with a magnificent 1:47.5 world 880 record which thrust him into sudden and surprising international prominence.

This was no Bannister or O'Brien finally breaking a mythical barrier; no Whitfield shaving a few more tenths off a record already his; no Arnie Sowell or Derek Johnson fulfilling widely heralded promise. This was a bolt from the blue, for until six weeks ago the recent University of California graduate was unknown to most of the world and known only to a few in the U.S. And even in the historic months of February and March Spurrier's record did not fully prepare the world for his great new standard.

But Lonnie was ready, and he knew. Back from Mexico only two days, the 22-year-old, 160 pound six-footer quietly planned a 53-55--1:48 race. Coach Brutus Hamilton was in on the plans; others knew only that he would go all out if conditions were right.

Conditions were ideal--an outstanding track for middle distance running and one Spurrier knows and loves; warm, windless day; no pre-meet record build up put the pressure on; and no strategical worries. But before the race Spurrier was doubtful. His legs felt tight.

Fifty yards away from starter Tom Moore's gun, though, the smooth striding blond knew he had it. From then on it was only a matter of how much did he have.

A red flag and Hamilton were stationed at the 220 mark, which Spurrier passed in 25 seconds. Running beautifully, he passed the quarter post in 51.6 and headed into the hard third furlong where records are set-up. Getting only scant encouragement from the 2500 fans, most of whom had been misled by the announcer's call of "56 seconds", Lon headed again for the red flag.

Hamilton glanced at his watch, which would have read 1:19.3 if he had stopped it, and yelled, "you're under the record, keep going". Thus encouraged, Spurrier battled the

clock down Edward Field's long backstretch. Never faltering, he maintained class and form all the way, easing off just a bit in the last 15 yards to prevent tying up when he became tired.

Trotting over to get his sweat clothes, the Olympic Clubber told a teammate he thought he had run under 1:49. A few minutes after the time was announced, and he had started to receive warm congratulations, Spurrier said, "I can't believe it. This is a bigger shock than Lou Jones running 45.4".

And to most fans it probably was. Spurrier had never been better than tie for third in the NCAA (1952) and had not made the finals of the two AAU meets he competed in.

Yet the mark, great as it was, was surely no fluke nor even completely unexpected. Those who followed Lon's career closely knew that he had run 1:50.6 for 800m as a sophomore, and had shown flashes of greatness during the next two years when he was set back by one injury after another.

Spurrier knew he had the makings, too, and determined to prove it before entering the Air Force April 29.

Forced to get into shape early, he did so wonderfully well. On successive February weekends in Los Angeles he ran 1:51.6, 1:51.5, and 1:49.8. This put him on the Pan Am Games squad, where he ran 1:50.4 easily at Houston, and 1:50.3m for second in the altitude at Mexico City. Doctors told him the altitude added 1.5 to 2.0 seconds to the 800m time and Lon must have believed them.

Three official watches all had 1:47.5, and the two alternate's 1:47.4. Official measurement of the track showed that Lon had travelled $2 \frac{5}{8}$ inches more than necessary.

There were no watches at 800m, but the customary equivalent gives 1:46.8, just behind Harbig's previously unchallenged 1:46.6 world record of 16 years duration. Besides moving to number two on the all time list, Spurrier took away Whitfield's national 800m record of 1:47.9.

Not since 1895 has anyone taken more than 1.1 seconds off the existing world 880 record. Since 1876 two men have done better (Lon Meyers by 1.5 in 1881 and C. H. Kilpatrick by 1.2 in 1895) but both were national AAU champions. Only Harbig has taken a greater chunk off the 800m record or its equivalent, and he, too, was hardly the "unknown" that Spurrier was.

An hour or so later Spurrier ran a relay leg that was anti-climactic, yet at once was both historic and symbolic of things to come. His 46.3 time completed the greatest middle distance double in history. And the ease with which he did it, accompanied by a slowing up to wait for an opponent on the last curve, foretold trouble for the quarter-milers. All this after the fastest 880 ever run and when he was drained emotionally and lacking incentive.

(May 1955)

Southern Runs 47.2, 20.7

Austin, Texas, May 7--One of the all-time greats of high school track burned his name into the record books with the most amazing multiple performance since Jesse Owens, as Eddie Southern of Sunset HS in Dallas outshone the fastest field in Texas high school annals.

Southern a 17-year-old, well-built, wavy-haired boy in the white and purple of Sunset, set a national interscholastic 440 mark of 47.4 in his Friday heat, then won three events on Saturday. Caught rocking backward at the start of the high hurdles, Southern ran only 14.2,

but he came right back for a 47.2 440, breaking every high school time except the 47.1 by Ollie Matson made in a non high school meet behind Herb McKenley, and the 47.0 straightaway mark by Frank Sloman in 1915.

Southern finished his day's work by tying Jesse Owens' national 220 record of 20.7. A 4-mile wind aided him, but was not enough to disqualify his performance.

(June 1955)

Records Fall at Compton

by Corder Nelson

The mile was supposed to be another one-man attempt on 4 minutes, but Fred Dwyer was so confident of his newly gained ability that he had actually been voted the favorite in this race by 20 sports writers! Jim Terrill set a perfect pace for a lap and a half, clicking off 220's in 28.9, 29.5, and 30.7. Santee trailed close behind in 29.1, 28.8, and 1:29.4. But at the half Santee ran only 2:00.6 and at 1100 yards he had slipped badly to 2:33.0. The pace setter was obviously no longer of value, but Santee made no move to go around him. At this point, Santee was closely followed by Dwyer, Seaman, and Sid Wing, USC's 4:08.2 miler. Dwyer could stand it no longer, and grabbed the lead, bringing them past the 1320 in 3:03.6 with Wing now ten yards behind Seaman. Then Santee cut loose with his famous speed, passing Dwyer and running the next 220 in 28.4. Dwyer held close to his heels, but Bobby Seaman dropped ten yards back, saying later, "I lost my courage". That momentary doubt from the 4:09.4 miler cost him the race, and almost cost him his career, for he was about to give up the chase. But at the start of the back stretch he came to life and began to gain, and the crowd came to life with him in a hoarse, screaming roar of surprise and delight and admiration for this mere boy. All the way down the stretch and around the curve, Seaman gained, and into the home stretch he flew past Dwyer and crept up on Santee, and all the way to the tape it was an exhibition of sheer guts in the face of torture which must have been like birth pangs — the birth of a new great miler the likes of which the world has not yet seen. Seaman lost the race, by less than a yard, but few who watched that race believe he will lose many more races to Santee, or anyone.

Wing, ten yards back at 3/4, was completely discouraged, finishing with a $63 \frac{1}{2}$ second lap in 4:08.8, and Marty Montgomery closed to 4:09.8 to join the 4:10 club.

Seaman's last lap was about 57.5 to 57.6 for Santee and 58.4 for Dwyer. But his last 220 was in 27.6 compared with 29.2 for Santee and 30 for Dwyer! Santee passed the 1500 meter mark in 3:45.3, running the last 120 yards in 15.9, while Seaman must have run 15.5, at least. (Compare those times with Bannister's spurt against Landy at Vancouver in 16.6, or Landy's 16.2 finish in his 3:58 race. Arne Anderson finished in 16.4 in his 4:02.2 run, and Landy's best was 16.0 in a 4:01.6 race.)

(June 1955)

Johnson in Record 7983!

Kingsburg, Calif., June 10 & 11--One of the most inviol-

ate of all records fell to the amazing Rafer Johnson when the UCLA freshman upped Bob Mathias' world decathlon mark to 7983 points.

The big, 19-year-old Negro put on a tremendous show of all around class in this tiny San Joaquin Valley town (1950 population of 2303) which lies only 25 miles from Tulare, hometown of Mathias.

He started off with a bang, scoring 1125 points with a 10.5 hundred meters, a time equalled only by Milt Campbell in decathlon history. That put him well ahead of Mathias when the latter achieved his record 7887 in the Helsinki Olympics. And Rafer stayed ahead.

The Pan Am champ turned in another personal best when he broad jumped 24-6 3/4. Then he added a 45-3 3/4 shot put, a 6-0 3/4 high jump and a 49.7 400m. That gave him a first day total of 4537 points, the greatest in history, 170 more than Mathias scored at Helsinki, and 143 more than Bob secured in his 7825 record in the 1952 AAU.

Not as strong a second day man as the now retired Mathias, Johnson needed some come through performances to crack the record. He came through against pressure with personal bests in three of the last five events. After a 14.5 high hurdle flight he came within a quarter of an inch of his all time discus best with 154-10 3/4.

Then, putting on a finish reminiscent of the incomparable Mathias himself, Rafer did his best ever in the last three events. He vaulted 12-8 1/2, and threw the javelin 193-10 3/8. Needing a 5:18 1500m for the record, he smashed his own all-time best of 5:23 with a gutty 5:01.5.

Thus, at 19, Johnson shattered the record many thought would stand for many years. He surpassed Mathias' Helsinki marks (age 21) in the 100, broad jump, 400, highs and discus, was barely behind the javelin mark. With more speed and spring, and as much size and coordination, Johnson has a potential that is difficult to imagine. Like Mathias, he is a great competitor, and apparently he possesses more desire.

Less than a year ago Johnson tried his first full scale decathlon, managing only 5874 points in the AAU at Atlantic City. Hard work and the excellent coaching of Ducky Drake and Craig Dixon accounted for as rapid a blossoming as the track world has known.

	Johnson	Mathias	Richards	Morris	Kuznetsov
100-	10.5	10.9	11.1	11.1	11.0
BJ-	24-6 3/4	22-10 3/4	23-3 1/2	22-10 3/4	22-0 1/8
SP-	45-3 3/4	50-2 3/8	46-1 7/8	46-3 1/2	44-11 3/8
HJ-	6-0 3/4	6-2 3/4	6-3 3/8	6-1	5-10 7/8
400-	49.7	50.2	51.4	49.4	51.0
pts	4537	4367			
HH-	14.5	14.7	15.8	14.9	15.4
DT-	154-10 3/4	153-10	137-6 1/2	141-13/4	163-6 5/8
PV-	12-8 1/2	13-1 1/2	14-6 1/2	11-6	12-9 1/2
JT-	193-10 3/8	194-31/8	173-1/2	178-10 5/8	198-10 5/8
1500-	5:01.5	4:50.8	4:55.0	4:33.2	4:54.4
total	7983	7887	7315	7313	7292

(June 1955)

Iharos Runs 8:33.4 & 7:55.6

(by R.L. Quercetani)

May, opening month of the European season, was featured by four

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historical middle distance races, all of which produced record or near record performances. Chief character in three of these races was a tall, slim 25-year-old Hungarian, Sándor Iharos. And, who knows, he might have been the hero of the fourth race as well, if an indisposition had not confined him to bed on the eve of that meet. This race saw in any case the victory of another Hungarian, sprightly 24-year-old László Tábori (formerly Talabircsuk). This incredible Hungarian Rhapsody began at

BUDAPEST, MAY 14 - Added to the program of the Junior Inter-Club Championships at the Honvéd (Army Club) Sports Ground was a special 3,000 meters event. The track was in good condition, only a bit soft round the turns. Despite a mildly warm weather, cross winds gave the runners something to think about. Thirteen men lined up at the start. One of them, ascetic-looking Sándor Iharos (pr. shandorr eehahrosh) was confessedly shooting for a new world record. Last September he had come within less than a second of Gaston Reiff's 7:58.7 and in a recent practise session he had turned in an easy 7:55.8 for 1,200 meters. In this new record attempt Iharos was to receive the aid of two qualified runners, his Honvéd teammates László Tábori and István Rózsavölgyi. Tábori set the pace in the first lap, with Iharos third in 60.6. There was an alarming slump in the second lap (Iharos 2:05.3 at 800 meters), but then Rózsavölgyi took over and the parade began to move faster. Iharos, always in close attendance and acting sometimes as a "back seat driver", was timed in 2:37.6 at 1,000 meters and in 3:58.6 at 1,500 meters. At this stage, however, the invisible Gaston still lay ahead by a thin margin (3:57.8). At 2,000 meters, however, Iharos had outjumped Reiff (5:18.4 against 5:19.8). Sándor went into the lead with a little more than 2 laps to go and with his smooth style, spiced by an energetic arm action, he finished off with a last lap in 60.6 - exactly the same as his opening lap. His final time, 7:55.6, was 3.1 faster than Reiff's record. Iharos' second half, 3:57.0, should be regarded as one of the most remarkable efforts in middle distance history, inasmuch as it compares on even terms with the times registered in the epic 1,500 meter final of the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm (Jackson-Kiviat-Taber-John Paul Jones-Ernst Wide!). Tábori had a good recovery in the final stage and finished second in 8:11.6. Ernő Béres was third in 8:14.0, young Hubert Berta fourth in 8:20.8 and Sándor Rózsavölgyi fifth in 8:30.6. Rózsavölgyi did not finish.

LONDON, MAY 30 - Iharos, who had come to England with the intention of setting two world records, for the mile on Saturday and for the two miles on Monday, was anxious to fulfill his project at least to a half. Almost completely recovered, Iharos once again availed himself of the services of a phenomenal pace-setter, 4-minute miler László Tábori. The two did a remarkable job from the beginning and negotiated the first half-mile in 2:07. Many good English runners back in the rear could not follow the pace. The time for the first mile was 4:17.2, as opposed to Reiff's 4:21.2 in the first half of his 1952 record race (8:40.4). Two Englishmen, however, were still in contention: little, sturdy Brian Barrett and the good but not widely publicized Ken Wood, a 24-year-old miler who ranked right after Bannister and Chataway in the 1954 British list. After a mile and a half Tábori dropped out and Iharos continued to glide along, clocking 6:31.2. It was by then obvious that the Hungarian had much left: in fact he began to build up a lead. With one lap to go Barrett began to fade, while Wood courageously stood up to the killing pace and at one time he actually managed to cut down Iharos' lead to about two yards. But the Hungarian, who all this time had never faltered, finally outpaced his gallant rival in the last drive home and finished in 8:33.4, a close equivalent of his 7:55.6 for 3,000 meters. Iharos thus covered the second mile in 4:16.2! Wood was timed in 8:34.8, still 5.6 under Reiff's world record! Brian Barrett, third in 8:45.8, moved to seventh on the All Time List. Ken Caulder was fourth in 9:03.8, followed by Chris Suddaby, 9:06.8, and Mike Schofield, 9:07.8.

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(July 1955)

Sowell is Top AAU Star

by Corder Nelson

Boulder, Colorado, June 24 & 25— Arnie Sowell was voted the outstanding performer of the 67th annual AAU Championships for his victory in the greatest half-mile race ever run, and four other meet records fell (plus one equalled) as the New York Athletic Club regained the team title.

Sowell's 1:47.6 880 was only one tenth slower than the unofficial world record.

One of the worst seedings of all time put Sowell, Spurrier, Stanley and Tidwell in the same heat, four to qualify, while in the other heat with Courtney, were Rogers, Wheeler, and Angle. Rogers won the first heat in 1:51.3, the best performance of his career. Surprise of the heat was the complete failure of junior college star Chuck Kirkby. In the second heat, McLaughlin ran faster than third place in the first heat, yet had no chance to qualify. Arnie Sowell, after his boner in the NCAA, bolted to the front and stayed there — the simplest tactic of all.

Lon Spurrier, unofficial world record holder at 1:47.5, had the pole in the final and he vowed to get out in front and set a fast pace, "if it kills me". Another front runner, NCAA champion Tom Courtney, was in lane two, while Sowell was in lane six. Starting on a curved line in the middle of the track, Spurrier started fast, but Sowell used his 9.9 sprint speed to advantage, grabbing the lead in the first forty yards. This early burst carried Sowell past the 220 mark in 24.8, with Spurrier on his heels, and a fast time was assured.

At the 440 it was the same pair, in 51.7, followed closely by Lang Stanley, possessor of the second fastest mark of any of the runners (1:49.0), Billy Tidwell, and Courtney. Rogers trailed Courtney by five yards, and Ted Wheeler, the tall, stooped Army champion (1:50.3), was another five yards back.

Past the 660 in 1:19.2, one tenth faster than Spurrier ran in his record race, there were only five men in contention, with Courtney pushing up on the outside so that the field was bunched within about four yards. Tidwell, runner-up to Whitfield last year, began to show his strength and forged past Stanley. But around the last curve only Spurrier looked good enough to catch the flying Sowell. Coming out of the turn, just before they reached the short home stretch, Spurrier was still near Sowell's heels, but then he weakened, and Tidwell went past, gaining slightly on Sowell. Then Courtney, the big, powerful Fordham runner, came charging down the stretch in the third lane, gaining on everybody, and nipped Tidwell at the finish line, three yards behind Sowell. Lang Stanley showed good finish speed, going past Spurrier twenty yards from home.

Note the similarity in place times with those of that great European Championship last year:

European Championship:		U.S. Championship	
1:47.1	1st	1:46.9	(880 times,
1:47.3	2d	1:47.3	less 7/10
1:47.4	3d	1:47.4	second.)
1:47.4	4th	1:47.9	
1:47.8	5th	1:48.0	
1:51.4	6th	1:50.9	

Sowell nearly collapsed after the race, even with the many oxygen inhalators present, but he said, "I hope this makes up for last week." Asked if he were all-out in this effort, he said yes. Courtney said, "Was I that far

back? I thought I was closer," Spurrier said simply that he didn't have it, pointing out that he had done only short work since his record run. He observed that when training is slighted, "My endurance is the first to slip". Stanley was grinning widely afterwards, but expects to do much better next year when he is back at San Jose State. Tidwell, the silent type, needs very little more to be best in the world.

(August 1955)

More World Records 1-Moens Runs 1:45.7

Oslo, Aug. 3--Never challenged for 15 years, but in danger for the past 12 months, Rudolf Harbig's great 800m record was soundly bettered in a pair of brilliant efforts.

The new record holder is Roger Moens, a temperamental Belgian, whose 1:45.7 knocked a big chunk off Harbig's 1:46.6. The later German's record, unapproachable for a decade and a half, also was bettered by second place Audun Boysen of Norway with 1:45.9. Finn Larsen of Norway set a 52.0 pace.

Moens first started closing in on Harbig's mark last year when he ran 1:47.5 to win the favorite's position for the European Championships. He ran 1:47.8 at Bern, but was shunted to fifth in that great race. This year Moens has purposely campaigned for the record. He came closest at Nuremberg June 29 when he was clocked in 1:47 on a wet track.

Boysen, the record holder at 1000m (2:19.5), has been an 800 contender since 1950. His previous best was the 1:47.4 he ran for third at Bern.

Perhaps never has an event undergone such change as the 800/880 standings in the past 12 months. Until August 8, 1954, Mal Whitfield's 1:47.9 was the second best ever. Now Mal ranks 14th. The Aug. 4 ranking ("y" denotes adjustment from 880 yards by subtracting .7 seconds). Best ever 800m:

1:45.7	Moens, Belgium	1955	1:47.4	Johnson, GB	1954
1:45.9m	Boysen, Norway	1955	1:47.4m	Tidwell, USA	1955
1:46.6	Harbig, Germany	1939	1:47.5y	Nielsen, Den.	1955
1:46.8y	Spurrier, USA	1955	1:47.6	Stanley, USA	1955
1:46.8	Courtney, USA	1955	1:47.8y	Santee, USA	1955
1:46.9y	Sowell, USA	1955	1:47.9	Whitfield, USA	1953
1:47.1	Szentgali, Hung.	1954	1:48.2m	Hewson, GB	1955
1:47.3n	DeMuyneck, Belg.	1954	1:48.3	Hansenne, France	1948

2-Iharos Clocks 3:40.8

Helsinki, July 28 - Sandor Iharos of Hungary captured another world record - his third in less than 3 months - on the second day of the dual meet with Finland at Helsinki's Olympic Stadium this afternoon.

The frail-looking, 25-year-old Magyar phenomenon ran 1,500 meters in 3:40.8 to shave one second off the mark set by Australia's John Landy enroute to his 3:57.9 mile at Turku last summer. Running under ideal conditions, Iharos was once more masterfully aided in the pace setting by his Honvéd teammate Istvan Rozsavölgyi, who twenty-four hours earlier had lowered his 800 meter best to 1:49.7. Rozsavölgyi led the field of four (the Finnish entrants were Vuorisalo and Huttunen, two 3:46 men) negotiating the first 400 meters in 56.9.

Then Iharos took over and at 800 meters the time was 1:55.7. Here there was, not inexplicably, a short period of "floating", with Rozsavölgyi again in the lead - 1,000 meters in 2:26.2. When Iharos forged ahead for the final rush, Rozsavölgyi began to gradually lose ground. At 1,200 meters Iharos was timed in 2:57.2. Obviously tired, yet far from burned out, he covered the last 300 meters in 43.6 and was thus given a total time of 3:40.8. Rozsavölgyi was second in 3:42.8, his third sub-3:43 clocking this season. Vuorisalo and Huttunen ran true to form and finished third and fourth respectively in 3:46.2 and 3:46.4. But for a cross wind near the end Iharos might have come closer to 3:40 flat - a time believed to be equal in merit to Landy's 3:57.9 mile. This new record did not come as a surprise to European observers. After his disappointing race against Pirie in Brussels on June 15, Iharos took it easy for a while and did not think of fast times until late in July. Then, a few days before the Helsinki meet, he had a workout over 1,200 meters: 2:52.4! This obviously dispelled any doubt as to his condition. Iharos was born in 1930.

3-Chataway Does 13:23.2

London, July 30 - To the great delight of a large British crowd, Chris Chataway finally became the sole owner of a world running record as he ran 3 miles in 13:23.2 here today. This was the feature event in the first day program of the GB vs Germany match. Four men started: Chataway and George Ibbotson for Britain, Herbert Schade and Walter Konrad for Germany. Ibbotson, with three sub-13:40 marks to his credit, was so confident that he did not bother about his German opponents and rather chose to help Chris set a new world record. The two Britons actually ran it in alternate laps, very much "à la Hungary". And the once great Schade, though still a respectable runner, never had a chance to interfere. The mile mark was reached in 4:26. At two miles the watches showed 8:59.6. His rôle nobly completed, Ibbotson dropped back with two laps to go. Chris went on with his usual determination and reeled off a 61 secs last lap to finally shave 3.2 seconds off Vladimir Kuts' 1954 world mark. Ibbotson was second in 13:42.2, well ahead of Schade, 13:44.8.

(November 1955)

Iharos Runs 13:40.6

Budapest, October 23 - Sandor Iharos, Hungary's Wonder Runner, recaptured the world's 5000 meter record with a smashing 13:40.6 to feature the second day of the Hungarian National Championships.

This was the third round of the fantastic tussle between Iharos, a 25-year-old Hungarian Army officer, and Vladimir Kuts, a 28-year-old Russian sailor. The Magyar ace had administered his first blow on September 10 when he ran the 5 kilometers in 13:50.8 to shave four tenths off Kuts' 1954 world record. Only eight days later the Russian launched his successful counterattack and bettered Iharos' mark by four seconds. The Hungarian has now come up with an even greater exploit, clipping no less than 6.2 seconds off Kuts' latest mark.

There were 9 men in today's race, and most of them had run very fast times twenty-four hours before, e.g. Kovacs 10000 meters in 29:20.0 and Tábori 1500 meters in 3:43.0. Iharos, reportedly "looking very fresh for a man who has had 700 practise sessions in one year", was ready for an all-out attempt on the record, and unlike their secretive friends from Russia, the Hungarians had made no mystery about their man's intentions. The thermometer showed

16°C.(61°F.) and there was no wind; the Népstadion track, one of the fastest in the world, was not at its best though, for it had been raining until a few hours before the race. Kovács and Bérés stayed with the leaders for two kilometers, Szabó II for three. During this time Tábori and Iharos had alternated in the lead, the pace being much the same as in Kuts' 13:46.8 race. At 3900 meters Tábori dropped back. With one kilometer to go Iharos was 1 second behind Kuts' intermediate time in Belgrade, but in the decisive stage the superior speed of the Magyar runner settled the issue. Iharos covered the last kilometer in a great 2:33.6 and the last 400 meters in 59.6. At 3 English miles he was officially clocked in 13:14.2, nine seconds under Chataway's listed world mark.

Here are the comparative times of Iharos and Kuts in their latest races:

	Iharos (10/23/55)	Kuts (9/18/55)
1000m	2:42.0	2:43.0
2000m	5:28.0 (2:46.0)	5:30.0 (2:47.0)
3000m	8:16.0 (2:48.0)	8:16.0 (2:46.0)
4000m	11:07.0 (2:51.0)	11:06.0 (2:50.0)
5000m	13:40.6 (2:33.6)	13:46.8 (2:40.8)

For "Sányi" this was a fitting climax to a phenomenal season, which has brought him five world records - 1500, 3000 and 5000 meters, 2 and 3 miles. László Tábori had enough left to finish a good second in 13:53.2, time bettered only by Iharos, Kuts and Chataway. Tábori's great double (3:43.0 and 13:53.2 within 24 hours) is one of the greatest in the history of middle distance running. It is obvious that Iharos and Tábori have now reached a condition such as even great runners like Hägg, Landy and Bannister have never known.

Miklós Szabó II was third in 13:59.0, József Kovács was fourth in 14:07.2 and Ernő Bérés was fifth in 14:21.8.

(January 1956)

Dave Sime Runs 9.5

Washington, DC, Jan 21— Three startling surprises featured the Washington Star Games, run on a flat armory floor covered with non-skid, white casien paint.

Dave Sime, 19-year-old Duke sophomore impressed observers as being of Olympic calibre with his amazing triple victory in the sprint series. The 6'2", 185' pound red-headed stylist, who had been shut out in his semi-final 50 at Philadelphia last night after a bad start, ran four sprints tonight and appeared stronger in each race. He said, "This sure is fun." After a 70 heat, he came from behind to beat Andy Stanfield by a foot in world-record tying time of 7 flat. Rod Richard, another top sprinter, was 3d. Then Sime beat Stanfield by a yard and half in an 8 flat 80, and finished with a world's best ever time of 9.5 in the 100 where he defeated Stanfield by 2½ yards, going away.

(May 1956)

Bailey over Landy in 3:58.6

by Bert Nelson
Los Angeles, May 5--John Landy's greatly improved and

excellent finishing kick was to no avail as countryman Jim Bailey's magnificently better finish produced one of all-time's most shocking major upsets--a well earned five-foot victory in a near record 3:58.6.

Coming to the U.S. to promote the Olympics and to take two cracks at his 3:58 world's record, Landy produced like the champion he is. Despite a 7500 mile trip and an exhausting schedule of press conferences, Landy managed his fastest ever finish, putting out a great 1:56.4 last half, 57.2 last quarter, 28.0 last 200 and 15.4 last 120. Of the previous 23 miles under 4:02 only Laszlo Tabori (56.3 and 15.2) had gotten home faster. By comparison, Roger Bannister's much publicized finish in beating Landy was 60.1 and 16.6.

But all of Landy's tremendous running wasn't enough to hold off the flying Bailey. The NCAA champion from Oregon dashed through a 55.5 quarter, collaring Landy at the 1500 meter mark, where both were timed in 3:43.3, and edging away in the speedy drive for home.

Neither Bailey nor Landy, nor the 38,543 spectators and millions of TV viewers were prepared for Bailey's victory. A few stuck their necks out on Villanova's Delany, apparently on his promise and Landy's problem of acclimation. But Bailey, while sparkling in his 4:05.6 NCAA win on this same track, had lost to teammate Bill Dellinger in 4:10.0 in his fastest run this year.

Delany, whose one hope was to outkick Landy, unaccountably dashed into the lead, building up a one second margin at the quarter, 59.6 to 60.6 for Landy. Bailey was third in 61.0 but gave way to Lon Spurrier on the second lap. Landy moved into the lead before the half-way mark, which he passed in 2:02.3, with Delany second in 2:02.9 and Bailey close behind.

At this point Landy figured he had Delany licked, and with his only competition beaten he decided to challenge the clock. Pouring on the pace, he rattled off a 59.2 third lap, opening an 11 yard lead on Delany and 12 on Bailey. No one paid much attention to the others as Landy, still going strongly, ran his penultimate 220 in 29.2.

But all of a sudden there was Bailey, supercharged and full of run, closing the gap with a rush along the backstretch. In thrilled and noisy disbelief the crowd watched Bailey regain contact as they hit the turn, catch John at 1500 meters and take a slight lead as they turned for home. Landy fought back and for moments held his own, or even gained back a little. But in the last 50 or 60 yards Bailey crept away.

The handsome and somewhat dazed Bailey confessed afterwards that he had not figured to beat the record holder. He was aiming at 4:02 or so and was in the race for second. When he saw that he was getting close to Landy he figured he might be able to spur on his friend to a new record. A slap on the behind and a shouted "go" were supposed to produce the desired results, as once previously when John took off to leave Jim by 14 seconds. This time Bailey wasn't left.

Bailey jumped from 36th to 2nd on the all-time mile list. Only Landy's 3:57.9 is faster, although John twice this year ran 3:58.6. It was Landy's 5th time under 4:00.0, and his 13th time under 4:03, as against 26 times for the rest of the world.

Delany managed a respectable 62.5 last lap but was left far in the ruck to finish in 4:05.5. Dellinger was fourth in 4:08.8 after trailing the field most of the way and confessed he had plenty left but had been training for the two-mile and couldn't seem to work up speed. Jerome Walters (4:09.3) and Danny Schweikart (4:12.1) never were in the hunt, while Spurrier (4:15.8) faded horribly after passing the 7th furlong a close fourth.

Sectional times, including last 880s.							
BAILEY	61.0	62.0	(2:03.0)	60.1	(3:03.1)	55.5	(1:55.6)
LANDY	60.6	61.7	(2:02.3)	59.2	(3:01.5)	57.2	(1:56.4)
DELANY	59.6	63.3	(2:02.9)	60.1	(3:03.0)	62.5	(2:02.6)
DELLINGER	62.1	62.1	(2:04.2)	61.4	(3:05.6)	63.2	(2:04.6)
WALTERS	61.4	61.9	(2:03.3)	61.0	(3:04.3)	65.0	(2:06.0)
SCHWEIKART	61.5	62.2	(2:03.7)	63.1	(3:06.8)	65.3	(2:08.4)
SPURRIER	61.7	61.4	(2:03.1)	60.9	(3:04.0)	71.8	(2:12.7)
(Landy's 220s: 30.5, 30.1, 30.7, 31.0, ?, ?, 29.2, 28.0)							

(May 1956)

Sime Runs Lows in 22.2

Durham, NC, May 5-- Dave Sime, Duke University's sensational 19-year-old sophomore speed demon, turned in the fastest triple of all time, including a world's record in the 220 low hurdles.

Duke's largest crowd in history, 1500, saw the tall redhead win the 100 in 9.4 and the 220 in 20.3 before he flashed over the low hurdles in 22.2, a tenth of a second faster than Harrison Dillard's record.

Sime also placed second in the broad jump with 23' 2½" and threw the discus 135' for third as Duke fought to a 71½-59½ dual meet victory over North Carolina.

Sime hurt his hip broad jumping but its effect was slight. His 22.2 came later.

The anemometer registered less than 3 mph for a crosswind. All three official watches caught Sime in 22.2. In the 100, one official watch stopped at 9.3, and in the 220, all three read 20.3.

Sime's description of his record run: "I never felt better than I did in those low hurdles today. I had a feeling I was going faster than usual. I was running on my toes all the way and those hurdles just seemed to be going under me faster. I bumped the next to the last one with my knee."

(May 1956)

9.3 for Leamon King

by Cordner Nelson

Fresno, May 12-- An overflow crowd of 16,000 came to see John Landy run his 3:59.1 mile, but they went home raving about an almost unbelievable burst of speed by Leamon King.

Helping the 30th annual West Coast Relays live up to the slogan, "Where World's Records Are Broken", King ran to a 9.3 clocking in the 100. The wind was only 1.4 mph and the track measured two inches long; there is no reason why the time should not become official, although there was an odd disagreement among the timers, the official watches reading 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4.

Keyed up for his race against 9.3 and 20.1 man Mike Agostini, King blazed through his heat in 9.4, looking almost effortless on the fast track where he made his first success five years ago. He was aided by a legal wind of 4.1

mph in his third official 9.4.

In the final, three false starts probably caused King some discomfort as he held tightly to his blocks a la Golliday and Patton, and on the final start he was off slowly, probably surprised by a faster than normal gun. Running in lane 4, between Art Bragg and Agostini, King trailed Agostini and pro Alex Burl by two feet at the 40 yard mark. Burl, who claims two 9.4s and who ran a close 9.5 behind King in the heat, and the speedy Agostini could have been expected to stay with King all the way, but then came King's astounding explosion.

So smoothly it was more like a jet rocket takeoff than an explosion, King surged away from the field in as beautiful an exhibition of sheer speed as most people have ever seen. So full of run was this high geared competitor that he was still sprinting ten yards past the tape and did not stop running until he was half way around the turn.

Agostini mistook the mile finish, at 80 yards, for the 100 finish and eased up, finishing 5th. Burl, undoubtedly the fastest pro football player, was only about four feet back. Bragg, who was only a foot behind a 9.6 heat, ran 9.8 in the final, for 7th place.

(May 1956)

Sime 20.0, 9.3; Davis 13.5

by Bert Nelson

Sanger, Calif., June 9--The greatest exhibition of speed the track world has known took place on a hyper-fast high school track as Dave Sime broke the 220 record with 20.0 and tied the 100 mark of 9.3 while Jack Davis finally equalled the high hurdle standard of 13.5.

Central California AAU meet fans also saw Ancel Robinson approach the low hurdle record with 22.5 and Mike Agostini speed to 9.4 and 20.4 clockings only to be soundly defeated.

Undoubtedly the most consistently great sprinter who ever lived, young Sime overcame less-than-good starts and strong opposition in both races. Agostini, who is fast regaining form after six weeks of little work, was out ahead of the Duke sophomore in both sprints. In the century Sime moved away gradually to hold a two foot margin as two watches showed 9.3 and one 9.4.

The 220, matching the world's only two 20.1 runners, was another story. Again little Mike was leading at 30 yards and he managed to hold his big opponent even to 120 yards. With Sime beginning to edge ahead, Agostini went into his kick, but he might as well have been dragging an anchor. Without changing gears or form, Sime poured out his magnificent power to grab a two yard lead, build it to three and increase it to five at the tape.

Two clockers had 20.0 and the third official a shade over. An aiding wind was measured at 3 miles per hour. Agostini's 20.4 was the fastest losing 220 ever.

Jubilant, Sime revealed that he had changed his form since beating Agostini in 9.3w and 20.4 a week ago. "These clay tracks are so fast," he said, "that my feet were getting out ahead of my body, causing me to run straight up. In all my better races I have had a good body lean so I worked on it this week. Now I can run the way I want even on these fast tracks."

Even happier was the veteran Davis who has pursued Attlesey's great 13.5 for more years than he likes to remem-

ber. "After 11 years", the Navy Lieutenant beamed, "I finally made it. Now I want to win the AAU, because the man who does so will break 13.5 on that Bakersfield track."

Davis said, though, that the Sanger track was the best he had ever run on. Admitting others might not find it so, Jack found it just right for his build, with no slippage at all. Before the race he complained of lack of light, but soon forgot about it.

Davis, who learned a lot about starting from Yale coach Bob Giegengack last winter, drove hard off the blocks. But it was too hard and he took off six inches too close to the first hurdle, skied over it, and by the second barrier was behind the rapidly improving Joel Shankle. Pressed all the way by the ex-Duke star, Davis settled down and moved away to a $4\frac{1}{2}$ foot win. All-arounder Shankle, specializing in the hurdles for the first time, clocked a fast 13.7.

Jack has wanted this 13.5 clocking so badly he could taste it, and wanted it for six long years, ever since he stood in Attlesey's lane, awaiting the next heat, as his Trojan teammate astounded the world with the first ever 13.5. But no sooner had Davis gotten his equalizer than he began to talk about 13.4. He feels his best races are still ahead, especially now that he has given up the 400 hurdles and can peak for the trials. He plans all out efforts in both heat and final at Bakersfield, knowing he has already qualified for the Olympic trials via the All-Service meet.

All three watches read 13.5 and the wind was 2.1 mph.

(June 1956)

Lea Sprints 440 in 45.8

by Cordner Nelson

Modesto, May 26-- In a brilliant evening of track, 8000 spectators at the 16th annual California Relays saw the fastest relay meet of the year, including two world's records broken and two others equalled.

Jim Lea clipped a fifth of a second off McKenley's record in as well-paced a 440 as was ever run; a hodge-podge of half-milers representing the Southern Pacific Association of the AAU was forced well under the 2-mile relay record by Occidental and USC; and Abilene Christian sprinted to world record ties in both sprint relays.

Lea, 23-year-old, 5'11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 148 pound Air Force lieutenant, glided along the middle lane of the 220 straight aided by a 2.9 mph wind and went into the turn two yards behind powerful J.W. Mashburn and five yards behind the talented Texas freshman, Eddie Southern. Into the hom stretch, Mashburn overhauled Southern, and Lea was only a yard back. Lea's friend, Des Koch, shouted, "Get going," and Lea turned on a finish such as he never showed before. Legs whirling smoothly and white shoes flashing, he sped past Mashburn as if the big tow-head was not equalling the American record and widened the margin to almost four yards at the tape.

Mashburn's time at the 220 was 22.6, making Lea's first 220 22.8 and his second 23.0 -- a finish so swift that he would have gained two yards in the last half of McKenley's 1952 Olympic pace of 22.7, 23.1.

Lea had run in Honolulu two weeks ago, injuring his right calf. He lolled on the beach and body-surfed for several days (as did Spurrier before his 1:47.5!). This afternoon, Lea's leg hurt enough so that he almost withdrew from the race.

Mashburn apparently broke a small blood vessel at

the start and after the race the inside of his thigh turned black. His 46.2 tied Whitfield's former national record.

(July 1956)

Davis 49.5, Dumas 7' 1-2",

by Cordner Nelson

Los Angeles Coliseum, June 29 & 30— Paralyzing tension in this meet to choose the U.S. Olympic team produced shocking surprises, heart-rending disappointments, almost unbelievable drama, and the most fantastic quality of performances ever witnessed. The fierce competition resulted in six world's records and ten American records broken or tied, plus meet records in all events except one.

Bobby Morrow was probably the outstanding individual, although his two world-record equalling performances were overshadowed by three more sensational records: a 7'½" high jump by Charles Dumas, a 49.5 400 meter hurdles by Glenn Davis, and a 45.2 400 meter flat by Lou Jones. Parry O'Brien's 60'10" shot put caused only mild excitement since it merely ties his own record and he has better marks up for approval.

Four other American records were broken. Tom Courtney's powerful kick smashed Arnie Sowell in a 1:46.4 800 meters, second fastest of all time. Bill Dellinger ran well within himself to register a 14:26.0 5000 meters. Ira Davis hop-step-jumped 51'4 3/4", best American triple leap on record. And Phil Coleman ran 9:00.3, the fastest steeple chase ever run in America.

400 METER HURDLES— the heats were murder. With only two to qualify (plus the fastest third place), and Glenn Davis and Josh Culbreath in the first heat, Harry Bright started much too fast in an all-out effort. The tall Negro veteran led to the last turn, but faded badly. Gene O'Connor, the promising Kansas State sophomore, hit the last hurdle and failed to make the final.

The second heat found Aubrey Lewis, the NCAA champion, overrunning and chopping at each hurdle. This impressive Negro sophomore with power to burn was regarded as possibly the greatest prospect in the history of this event. But he chopped badly at the 10th hurdle, mincing his steps, and crashed into the hurdle. He fell to his knees, bewildered. Leaping up, he staggered, took one frantic look at the field ahead of him, and knew it was too late. The first great tragedy of the meet had occurred. Lewis said later, "This is the greatest disappointment of my life." Regarding that 10th hurdle, he said, "I didn't have any momentum as I came to that final barrier, and I just can't tell why."

Eddie Southern looked perfect in the third heat, taking each hurdle in 13 steps although he had to run on the outside of his lane to do it. Like Lewis, he has talent to burn, and he burns it, running three yards extra per race. He had to chop his stride on the 6th and 7th hurdles, as usual, and then Willie Atterberry charged past him to win in 51.4, somewhat speedy for a heat but still no indication of what was to come. Lee Yoder, the 1952 Olympian, made the final by one tenth of a second as the fastest third.

In the final, Southern in lane 5 caught up with Davis, in lane 6, after three hurdles, running as he had never run before. Startled, Davis picked up his own pace, still taking 13 strides and tried to stay with Southern. Around the last turn they came, Southern hurdling right-legged and Davis left. Davis had to take 17 strides for the

last three hurdles, yet Southern chopped, too, and Davis pulled up to within two yards of the great Texan as they entered the stretch.

At the last hurdle, it was the red of Ohio and the orange-trimmed white of Texas all even, and the stretch race settled it. Both runners finished strong, but Davis was stronger and he took a world's record away from Southern by five feet, most of it gained coming off the last hurdle.

Josh Culbreath, undefeated for three years, ran his greatest race in defeat. Only 6 weeks out of Marine boot camp, his time was announced at 50.4, equalling the world's record, but the Longine Timer later showed it to be 50.6. When Dick Nash announced Davis' time as 49.6 and the crowd roared with amazement, Davis quickly wiped his eyes, hung his head, and smiled. Later, officials examined the watches and changed the time to 49.5. A wind of ½ mph was recorded during the race.

Atterberry's time had been bettered by only five men previous to tonight. His 51.2 and Bob Rittenburg's 51.9 are the fastest 4th and 5th place times on record, times fast enough to make any previous Olympic team and win medals in any previous Olympic final. But they stay home.

HIGH JUMP— Fourteen men cleared 6'4½", leaving behind SMU freshman sensation Don Stewart, NCAA co-champ Nick Dyer, and 6'8" jumper Mark Smith.

Only seven men cleared 6'6½", and two of those missed at 6'8½". Bernie Allard, in the black of Notre Dame, was first over 6'8½". He screamed with joy and ran around the infield. Charles Dumas cleared next, and then Verne Wilson, a tall, goateed Negro in the yellow of the Santa Clara Youth Center. Phil Reavis and Ernie Shelton cleared on their second attempts, and there were two men yet to be eliminated from the team.

At 6'9½", Allard missed. Then Phil Reavis, the 5'9 3/4" sensation of the early indoor season, amazed the crowd by rolling smoothly over. Dumas and Shelton missed, and then Wilson, a very consistent jumper who was 2d in the AAU this year and 3d last year, rolled over, using the economical "float" popularized by Shelton and now used by Dumas and Reavis.

Allard missed again, Dumas became the third man to clear, and Shelton came close but missed. Then Allard missed for the last time, and it was up to Shelton.

He jumped well, but not high enough, and he lay face down in the pit for many seconds until his brother, Warren, led him away. Shelton walked quickly to the tunnel, without his sweat clothes, head down. There, two photographers tried to snap his picture, but he broke into a frightened run.

The team was already chosen, but the trio kept jumping. Dumas cleared 6'10½" on his first attempt and Reavis was close on his third. The bar was raised to 7' 5/8 but Dumas hit it on the way up.

Dumas rested for about five minutes, then, at about a quarter past ten, he poised himself for the effort. A colorful figure in a dark red Compton jersey, silver pants, and green shoes, he started his run, easy and relaxed, hands dangling.

Half way to the bar he speeded his run, threw up one green shoe in a powerful kick over his head, and floated gracefully over without even touching the cross bar. A tremendous roar rose from the thousands who had remained to watch, and immediately Dumas was mobbed by high jumpers and photographers. While they pounded him on the back and the crowd noise continued, his white teeth gleamed happily.

Later, Dumas said, "I wasn't nervous. By that time

I 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."

(September 1956)

O'Brien Reaches 62' 6 3-8

Eugene, Oregon, Sept. 3--Parry O'Brien, an intelligent, devoted perfectionist who doesn't know the meaning of "satisfied", reached another plateau when he tossed the shot 62-6 3/8 in an Olympic development meet.

O'Brien's magnificent effort, which included two other 62 foot puts, was one of the few top quality marks in a meet which showed that much of the U.S. Olympic team has a long way to go to regain top form.

Forced to lay-off for removal of a cyst on his throwing wrist, O'Brien has come back better, and stronger than ever--and bigger, too. Now 235 and still gaining, the Olympic champ has been lifting weights and intensifying his unique and highly successful mental preparations.

The first pay-off came Aug. 18 when Parry raised his record to 61-4 1/2 in a Pasadena All-Comers meet. Today the Air Force lieutenant was razor sharp from the very start. He hit 62-3 on his first put, an even 62 feet on his second, and the big distance on his third effort. Afterwards, Parry set his sights on 63 feet, figured he might do it before the Olympics. A fine day was climaxed by 180-6 3/8 in the discus.

(September 1956)

Pirie Lowers 3000 Mark

Malmö, Sweden, Sept. 4--Gordon Pirie took on Hungary's tremendous trio at 3000 meters today and emerged with both a sweet victory and a new world record.

The 25-year-old paint salesman, whose full monicker is Douglas Alastair Gordon Pirie, was timed in 7:52.8, cutting nearly three seconds off the 7:55.6 record he shared with Sandor Iharos. Iharos was a distant third today, timed in 8:05.8, but teammate Istvan Rozsavolgyi made a real race of it and also broke the record with a great 7:53.4. The third Magyar ace, Laszlo Tabori, was fourth in 8:16.2. Roger Dunkley of England and Stig Joenson of Sweden completed the field.

Iharos led at 400 meters in 59.5 and at 800 in 2:04.6. Tabori took over at the 1000 mark in 2:35.8 and passed the half-way point at a record breaking 3:57.0 pace. All this time Pirie was close up and never worse than third.

Tabori, who hasn't yet shown his 1955 form this year, began to drop back just short of the 2000 meter point, where multi-world record holder Iharos led in 5:46.8. Pirie, for the first time, tried to take over the lead at 2400 meters, but Iharos met the challenge and forced the cheek puffing Englishman to drop back.

With a lap to go Rozsavolgyi rushed to the fore with Pirie in determined pursuit. Iharos was through. Roza held a three yard margin on the last curve but Gordon turned on his spectacular 1956 model kick and was going away at the tape.

(October 1956)

Kuts Runs Record 28:30.4

(r1q) - While Krivonosov and Shcherbakov were receiving rather alarming news from U.S.A. and Brazil respectively, Russia's Olympic hopes were somewhat rejuvenated by the phenomenal running of Vladimir the Great alias Kuts. The 29-year-old Ukrainian took no less than 12.4 seconds off Sándor Iharos' world record for 10,000 meters with a scintillating 28:30.4. This was committed to track history at the new Bolshoi Stadium in Moscow on Tuesday, September 11. The man who first made the headlines in epic duel with Emil Zátopek under quasi-tropical conditions at Bucharest in 1953, this time achieved his eagerly sought goal despite a temperature of only 48° F. (9° C.). All alone after three kilometers (when even the rapidly improving Pyotr Bolotnikov dropped back), Kuts covered the first half of his journey in a fantastic 14:08.0 -- time which would have given him third place in the historic 5,000m final at Helsinki 4 years ago -- then proved hard enough to negotiate the second half in 14:22.41. Unfortunately for him, no time was taken at 6 miles. It can easily be guessed that he beat Iharos' English distance mark (27:43.8) by several seconds. Here is how the times of the two latest record breakers at 10,000m compare:

KUTS ---					--- IHAROS
(9/11/56)	(5:34.0)	2:42.5	1,000 m	2:46.8	(7/15/56)
	(8:25.0)	2:51.5	2,000 m	2:50.2	(5:37.0)
	(11:16.0)	2:51.0	3,000 m	2:52.0	(8:29.0)
	(14:08.0)	2:52.0	4,000 m	2:52.0	(11:21.0)
	(17:02.0)	2:54.0	5,000 m	2:54.0	(14:15.0)
	(19:54.5)	2:52.5	6,000 m	2:50.0	(17:05.0)
	(22:48.5)	2:54.0	7,000 m	2:53.0	(19:58.0)
	(25:42.5)	2:54.0	8,000 m	2:54.0	(22:52.0)
	(28:30.4)	2:47.9	9,000 m	2:57.0	(25:49.0)
			10,000 m	2:53.8	(28:42.8)

(November 1956)

And O'Brien Again--63'2"

By Dick Bank

Los Angeles, Nov. 1--America's Olympic Team engaged in its fourth and final tuneup prior to departure for Melbourne this afternoon but the show belonged to William Parry O'Brien, Jr., his good right arm and sixteen pound German-made shot. The bull-shouldered Air Force Lieutenant from nearby Santa Monica had a six put series unparalleled in track and field history and one destined to stand until the next time O'Brien steps into a ring.

Parry's best effort measured 63'2" and he did it on his fifth attempt. It was obvious that he had broken the 63' circle as the last line marked on the field was "only" 62' and the throw appeared to have gone a good foot beyond it. O'Brien knew it was a record before it landed and showed his happiness by thrusting his arms skyward and jumping slightly off the ground. That's about as excited as Parry can get these days although he admits 65' might cause a bigger stir. His series: 62'1/2", 62'2 1/2", 62'8", 62'5 1/4", 63'2", 62'11".

(November 1956)

Connolly Throws 224'10 1-2

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2--Sending six high, towering throws

over 21½ feet, the not-to-be-denied Hal Connolly today moved ahead in his world hammer throw record battle with Mikhail Krivonosov. His best heave was a prodigious 224' 10½" -- and this time it was legal.

Just last Saturday Connolly reached 224' 8" on the last of two throws, but the implement proved to be 5/8 of an ounce light. At that time Hal expressed confidence he could do it again, although admitting a dislike at being forced to all-out throwing so frequently.

Today's competition was held on the cement circle at Occidental College as the wind-up of yesterday's final pre-Olympic development meet at the Coliseum. AAU officials were on hand and said they would submit the record for approval. The hammer was a half ounce overweight.

Spinning rapidly in his white ballet slippers, Connolly got off a tremendous series: 219' 3", 217' 8½", 224' 10½" (68.54m) 215' 10½", 214' 7½", 214' 13". His third heave bettered the recent world mark of 220' 10 3/8" by Krivonosov, which in turn had upped Connolly's October 3 figure of 218' 10½".

(December 1956)

Courtney Edges Johnson

by R. L. Quercetani

From the standpoint of competition, the 800 meters was in all probability the most dramatic event of the Melbourne Games. Unfortunately, world record holder Roger Moens was not there to defend his reputation. But even in his absence, the favorites from USA had a far from easy job.

On the curved line close to the turn, the line-up for the final was: Leva, Courtney, Sowell, Boysen, Farrell, Johnson, Butchart, Spurrier. There were two false starts (Leva & Johnson). When the race was off, Courtney took advantage of his position near the pole to jump into the lead, with Sowell, Boysen, and Johnson trailing. But Sowell, who since his first defeat to Courtney (his underdog for a long time) seems to have lost poise and confidence, soon took over and passed the 200 meter mark in 25.1. The Pitt star continued to lead the parade through the first lap (400 in 52.8), followed by Courtney, Boysen, Johnson, while Spurrier and the three men who had never beaten 1:49, Farrell, Leva, and Butchart, already appeared to be in disgrace. In the backstretch of the final lap, Courtney began to chase Sowell, who by his own admission had set a fast pace "to kill them off".

At 600 meters (1:20.4), Courtney was alongside his rival. The battle went on furiously round the turn, while the European tandem Boysen-Johnson began to emerge as a distinct threat.

Entering the home stretch, Johnson suddenly saw a gap between the two Americans and immediately found his way through it. While Sowell began to fade, an epic battle developed between Johnson and Courtney. Boysen, too, was close, in one of the best final drives of his career. In view of the strong wind which was blowing against the runners, this closing stage was comparable to that of the historic 800 meters at the 1954 European Championships in Bern, when 5 men bettered 1:48.

This was the hour Johnson had been waiting for since 1950, when the British press first described him as a coming "Great". Courtney, who had previously fought hard to knock down Sowell, was presented with the most arduous task of his career. Johnson actually led for about 30 yards, but Courtney once more gathered himself together and came alongside his opponent. By then the adverse wind obviously began to tell, and Courtney, taller and squarer than his British rival, finally won with a desperate driving throw at the tape. Boysen, who was short of training as a result of his belated decision to make the trip to Melbourne, nipped Sowell for 3d. Britain's Mike Farrell turned the same trick for 5th, as Spurrier stopped. Emile Leva, the talented Belgian, came closing fast at the end but could do no better than 7th.

Even in the absence of Roger Moens, Europeans fought gallantly and intelligently against the Americans. It was shown once more that the 800

meters is on the borderline between American and European hunting grounds. It would seem that the US needs men of superior potential (such as once Johnny Woodruff, and now Tom Courtney) to narrowly emerge over the less impressive but tactically wiser Europeans. Both Courtney and Johnson, but particularly the former, were on the point of exhaustion after the battle.

(December 1956)

Kuts Murders Pirie

by Cordner Nelson

On Friday, November 23, 1956, a blond Ukrainian killer in the blood-red shirt of Russia impassively murdered Gordon Pirie and 22 other hapless victims before 100,000 horrified witnesses. The figurative slayer was Vladimir Kuts, a 29-year-old sailor with an instinct for pogrom.

The carnage began immediately after the starting gun sent three rows of runners off the curved white line. Tipping his hand with a near false start, Kuts set off at a wicked pace. A stocky bundle of muscles with bouncing straw-color hair and a vicious face, Kuts circled the red track in a purposeful 61.2.

Behind Kuts, irresistibly clinging to him like the doomed mate of the venomous black widow, was Gordon Pirie, his spidery limbs moving smoothly with unwarranted confidence. Pirie, off his sensational world records at 3000 and 5000 meters, was given a chance to defeat Kuts, even though his best 10,000 time of 29:17.2 was almost 47 seconds behind Kuts' astonishing 28:30.4.

No other runner was given a chance, for Sandor Iharos, the Hungarian army lieutenant who broke 7 world records, was absent for four stated reasons, Emil Zatopek, the 1952 hero, was the victim of a hernia operation and was saving himself for the marathon, and Dave Stephens lacked the fighting heart.

With Pirie in tandem behind him, Kuts bounded around the next 3 laps at a steady pace of 68.8, 68, and 68.7 -- a pace faster than his planned 28:40. Still, Pirie clung to him, and so on the back stretch of the 5th lap, Kuts fired his first murderous shot.

Bursting into a far faster sprint than any Zatopek used, Kuts opened an 8-yard gap. But Pirie, his head cocked slightly to the right and his cheeks puffed, doggedly closed the gap, and Kuts, after that explosive 64.7 lap, slowed to 71. On the 7th lap, he weaved out to the second lane on the backstretch, offering Pirie room to pass, but Pirie, noted for his pace-setting tactics, would not lead. It was now obvious that he would copy any pace Kuts produced.

Kuts passed the 3000 meters mark in 8:26 -- a 28:07 pace! And still Pirie held on, a lean, persistent threat in the white vest with the red and blue stripes of Great Britain.

Now Pirie gave the illusion of being the hunter, with Kuts the victim. Pirie followed Kuts' every move, so closely that their feet sometimes touched, and Kuts appeared the desperate one in this greatest of all distance duels.

Desperately sprinting down the back stretch and slowing almost to a jog on the turn, Kuts passed 8 laps in 9:00.1 (estimated 9:05 for the 2-mile), and continued the tactics for fast laps of 67.1, 68.8, 67.6, and 69. At 12 laps in 13:32.6, his 3-mile time must have been about 13:39 and his 5000 meter time equalled Zatopek's Olympic record of 14:06.6!

Forgetting pace now in his vicious attempt to kill off Pirie, Kuts exaggerated his weaving tactics in the backstretch, swinging out as far as the third lane. After laps of 71.1 and 71.6, Kuts tried another assassination, sprinting insanely on the backstretch of the 15th lap so that his time, despite a slow curve, was 66.7.

But Pirie was still there, a threat to Kuts' life. On the 16th backstretch, Kuts pulled out, slowed and waved Pirie past, but Pirie stayed blindly in place. After that slow 73.7 lap, Kuts tried again to shake Pirie with a backstretch burst and again Pirie stayed close behind.

That lap was in 69.3, and in the next three laps Kuts appeared beaten. His pace slowed to 72.7 and 70.9, and on the 20th lap he swung out and slowed so abruptly that Pirie was forced to lead.

Kuts trailed Pirie around the bend, watching him carefully, and, as he stated later, relaxed from the pressure of Pirie on his heels. Apparently satisfied with what he saw, Kuts jumped Pirie in the home stretch, with 5 laps

to go, and the duel was almost over. After that 72.4 lap, Kuts ran 69.7 and Pirie lost contact. From 4 yards back at 21 laps, Pirie gave up and fell back rapidly. While Kuts finished the kill with a 68.5 lap, Pirie dropped 15 seconds behind and other runners went past unheeded. He finished 8th.

Kuts held his pace, finishing with laps of 69.4, 70.3, and 66.7. Obviously, he could have run faster. He said, "I could have run another two or three laps without trouble." But Kuts the Killer had chosen Pirie as his victim, not a world record.

Officials messed up the finish almost as badly as AAU officials, placing Porbadnik 4th for awhile. Then, times were confused and never officially straightened out.

Killer Kuts said, "I felt very fit today and hoped to break my own world record. If the track had been faster I might have done that. But the public helped to spur me on. They were very kind and I appreciate the way they applauded me."

Russian coach Kikiforov said, "We knew for some time that the big trouble would be Pirie. Our solution was to make the pace really uncomfortable, but I admit that Pirie had me very worried."

Some of Pirie's statements: "Kuts is a magnificent runner and thoroughly deserved his win. I never had a chance from the start. He was too good for me. He ran me off my feet. It was a magnificent performance. Kuts is unquestionably the greatest 10,000 meters runner in the world and I could never beat him... He murdered me -- that's all there was to it... I should not have run in the 10,000 meters. A lot of people criticized me, and they were right... If I had ignored Kuts I could have run with the others. I feel okay now, but I had a job to finish. It seemed like the marathon."

Official 1000 meter times:

1000- 2:43	4000- 11:16	7000- 20:01
2000- 5:31.1	5000- 14:07	8000- 23:01
3000- 8:26	6000- 17:02	9000- 25:53

(December 1956)

Calhoun Nips Davis

by Cordner Nelson

This was the greatest high hurdle race ever run -- perhaps the greatest footrace of all time.

In the final, on November 28, an hour and a half after the semi-finals, they lined up like this: Lane 1 - Joel Shankle, the fastest third-string hurdler in Olympic history, who had qualified with two 14 flat heats. Lane 2 - Lee Calhoun, tall, lean Negro army veteran, like Shankle from North Carolina. He ran 14.1 and 14.0 to qualify. Lane 3 - Stanko Lorgjer of Yugoslavia, a fast starter, who qualified with two 14.6 races. Lane 4 - Stalyarov of Russia, a 14.4 man at home who ran 14.3 and 14.5 to qualify. Lane 5, the dreaded lane with its soft area 30 yards out -- Jack Davis, the tall, well-built runner-up in 1952 and recently ratified world record holder at 13.4. He won two 14 flat heats. Lane 6 - Martin Lauer, a wiry, curly-haired German prodigy, who ran 14.1 and 14.4 to qualify. Missing were Steines of Germany, who ran 14.2 in his heat and was beaten out in the semi-final, losing to Stolyarov by 2 feet; Iglesias of Cuba, who ran 14.3 in his heat and was barely edged out in the semi-final by Lorgjer; and Kinsella of Eire, who failed in the first heat.

Davis, always a poor starter, was off a foot behind Calhoun, who had an unusually fast start. Lorgjer was off with Calhoun, and Lauer lagged with Davis. After the 2d hurdle, Calhoun led Davis by a foot and it was apparent that he was to have one of his good days.

Calhoun, AAU champion indoors and out, and co-winner, with Davis, at the Final Trials, had shown enough competitive ability and fast times to rank among the four best hurdlers of all time. But Davis, on a time basis, was the undisputed Fastest Ever. And off his recent two yard victory over Calhoun in 13.3, he was obviously in top form.

Davis was expected to win, yet here he was, skimming over the third hurdle still a foot behind the smooth-g geared Calhoun. Before the race, he had said, "I will break the Olympic record, if the wind is not blowing." But the wind was blowing, and he was behind.

At the fourth hurdle, Davis had closed the gap to half a foot. Later, he said, "I was off better than usual, second only to Lee, and maybe I felt too confident. Maybe I slept a little through the 3d and 4th hurdles. Anyway, when I looked up at the 5th hurdle, I had a yard to make up..."

It was not a yard, but it must have looked like a yard to Davis. He dug in with a desperation born of four years of preparation for this one race, and over the last five flights no hurdler ever ran as fast.

Yet Calhoun maintained most of his lead, running the race of a lifetime. At the 8th hurdle, he said later, "I jumped too high, and that fraction of time gave Davis an opportunity to come up on me, and we fought it out stride for stride to the tape."

Over the last hurdle they battled, the two fastest hurdlers of all time, meeting at this time, in this place, for the Olympic gold medal. Calhoun, who had learned his finishing lunge from Davis, says: "As we drew near the line, I felt that the one who lunged the farthest would win it. My head was in front of his and as I threw my shoulder at the tape, I saw Jack bend far over."

Davis' lunge was a desperate one, and the finish looked much like the dead heat they ran in the Final Trials for the American team. Calhoun says, "I thought I just got there. Davis confirmed this by congratulating me as soon as we got through the tape."

But the photofinish sign was flashed. Calhoun, a minister's son from Gary, Indiana, said, "I was praying for 10 minutes while I waited for the result of the photo. I thought I had won, but I kept on praying."

Then the yellow lights on the scoreboard began to spell out the results, beginning with CA... Davis shook hands manfully, but inside he was torn to shreds. He said, "I pointed four years for this race, then I had to lose it because someone got hot. I thought 13.5 would win." Later, he was reported under sedatives and sleeping in his quarters. For the 24-year-old Davis, this was the end of a career.

Calhoun said, "I was off like a shot. I knew I had to get the jump on Jack to beat him, and I knew I had to run the race of my life." He smiled. "I did."

Both men set a new Olympic record at 13.5. Considering the conditions, this was easily the fastest race of all time. They ran on a track so slow that Bobby Morrow easily beat 10.1, 10.2, and 9.3 sprinters in 10.5. They ran against a wind over 4 miles per hour. At Bakersfield, with that wind behind them, they would have run 13.2.

Joel Shankle was never in the gold rush, never threatened for 3d, completing USA's third consecutive sweep of Olympic high hurdle medals. The other three finalists waged a hot fight for 4th, all clocking 14.7.

(January 1957)

Herb Elliot, 18, Runs 4:06

By Joe Galli

Aussie track was lifted out the post-Olympic doldrums by the appearance of a potential top world class miler, Herb Elliot of Perth.

Temporarily domiciled in Melbourne, and training under the guidance of Percy Cerutti, the 18-year-old Elliot broke Ron Clarke's world unofficial junior (under 19) record by 0.8 with 4:06.0 at Olympic Park on January 12. Leading all the way from teammate Geoff Fleming (another Cerutti product), Elliot paced steadily through laps of 63.0, 63.0, 62.0 to bring up the three quarters in 3:08.0, racing over the last lap in 58.0 to produce his most impressive 4:06.0. Fleming returned 4:07.6.

(April 1957)

Bob Gutowski 15' 8 1-4"

by Bert Nelson

Stanford, Calif., April 27--The long famed Warmerdam era of vaulting appeared to be a matter for history today as young Bob Gutowski fulfilled his

early season promised by upping the world's pole vault best to a sky-topping 15'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Working beautifully, the slim, fast Occidental wizard was well clear of the bar as he topped Dutch Warmerdam's 15-year-old standard by half an inch. Some observers, including veteran official Snort Winstead who measured Warmerdam's 15'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " as well as this vault, insisted that Bob had a good 4" margin--and it could be, although no one will ever know.

And it well may be that it won't matter much, even to the nuts. For the lithe 22-year-old gave every promise of putting into the record books a Gutowski era which may be every bit as famous as that of his fabled predecessor. The 6 foot, 150 pounder had no misses until he tried--and missed badly--at 16'. Working upwards from 13'6", the Olympic silver medalist got better as the bar got higher. He cleared 14', won the meet at 14'4", and immediately had the crosspiece boosted to 15', which he skimmed over with so much to spare that the crowd gasped. At a measured 15'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Guts again was well over, but appeared to barely brush the bar with his chest on the path down.

This was the 8th highest vault in history, but the fun was just beginning. Gutowski, who reported later that he didn't feel good until reaching 15', asked to have the height set at 15'9", and accepted 15'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " without complaint. Then he measured the bar with his silver-hued, aluminum alloy Gill pole, which failed to reach the bar by nearly a foot, had the standards moved forward slightly, and retreated to the very end of Stanford's much liked grass runway.

A workmanlike vaulter, who shows no nerves--if, indeed, he has any--Bob hesitated only momentarily as he gazed at the pit, nearly 50 yards away. Then, lifting the pole off the running track to his left, he began his run. Swinging his pole around in front, this 9.9 dashman quickly, and easily, gained top speed.

An exact 5.5 seconds later, Gutowski slid the six pound pole into the box, kicked, swung, pushed and arched his beautifully coordinated body over the cross bar, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ " above his top hand. As his left arm manipulated free of the bar, he gave a last push off the black tape with the fingers of his right hand, and he was over.

Long before he settled into the pit, at 2:48 p. m., Pacific Standard Time, the 6000 or so spectators roared forth the welcome news--if he had any doubts--that the new world mark was his.

Pleased, but far from delirious, Guts was mobbed by his excited teammates and anybody else who could touch him or yell at him. While awaiting the official measurement, he calmly sucked a piece of ice, and was unperturbed when the remeasurement came out at 15'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The lower height apparently came about when he had moved the standards, which were mounted on a specially designed, \$200 base built for Payton Jordan, Gutowski's coach until this year and now headman at Stanford.

After the height was read, and the bar upped to 16', Bob calmly waited for the 220 to start, and the panting runners to unheedingly cross his runway. Free to vault at last, he started skyward, but half way up his hands, now holding at an unaccustomed 13'10", slipped and he slammed into the pole with a metallic clank, twisted and skidded into the pit. On the next try he didn't complete his vault and went well under. And on the last effort at this rarefied altitude he barely got his feet over on another poor vault.

But few who witnessed the wiping out of the second oldest mark in the book would care to wager that someday, perhaps soon, Gutowski would not make 16'. His ceiling? In Bob's own words, "somewhere over 16 feet."

Modest and undemonstrative, the likeable champ is a worthy successor to King Warmerdam whose modesty and unselfish help to all vaulters, as well as his immortal feats, endeared him to a generation of track followers. Gutowski comes from a somewhat similar pattern, although his vault progress has been much more rapid.

He did a moderate 12'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " at La Jolla, Calif., high school, cleared 13'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " as a frosh, jumped to 14'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " as a soph, and got over 15'3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in his junior season. Placing fourth in the Olympic trials, he cleared 15'5" in a warmup meet and made the team when third placer Jim Graham withdrew. At Melbourne, Guts fought a pulled stomach muscle and the always tough Bob Richards to place second at 14'10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

This year Bob has added a weight training routine under the supervision of new coach and weight enthusiast Chuck Coker. He works with light weights, for speed, and thinks it has helped. And he has good reason to feel that way. Indoors, Bob had a fine season, reaching a peak of 15'6" in the Millrose Games. And outdoors, in a still young season, he displayed the consistent brilliancy

which makes it appear the Gutowski era will be a memorable one. His best efforts, prior to today, were new collegiate records of 15'4" and 15'5".

With years of improvement ahead of him, Gutowski already has five of the 11 highest vaults in history. But his five-best average is still $\frac{3}{8}$ " behind the incomparable, until today, Warmerdam.

(May 1957)

Two U.S. Marks for Truex

by Cordner Nelson

Fresno, May 11-- Little Max Truex broke American records for 3 miles and 5000 meters, and Bobby Morrow anchored Abilene Christian to a world record 39.9 in the 440 relay, but the big thrill to the over-capacity crowd of 15,000 at the 31st West Coast Relays was a stirring distance medley relay which saw all previous records shattered beyond recognition.

Max Truex, wearing a white T-shirt under his maroon jersey, twinkled around the track at a steady pace designed to break the 3-mile and 5000 meter records. After a 67.5 lap, in 11th place, Truex took the lead with 2:16.3. For the first mile, in 4:33.4, he was accompanied by Maury Graves, Tom Sturak, and Walt Boehm (just out of the Air Force where he found a Moroccan bride). But stubby little Max, to shouts of "Go, Teddy Bear", kept his beautifully economical stride rolling for a lap of 69.5, and he was all alone. He ran 69.9, 68.9, and 70.2 for a 9:11.9 2-mile. He ran 69.8, 71.6, 69.3, and 65.0 for a 13:47.6 3-mile. His last 186 yards were run in 26.9, a 64-second pace.

Truex's 3-mile time broke Charley Capozzoli's national record of 13:51.8, made in London in 1952. His 5000 meter time of 14:14.5 broke Bill Dellinger's 14:16.2 made last year when he beat Truex by half a second. Little Max's exuberant freshness after this run indicated much faster times. He said the soft track was to his liking because hard tracks produce blisters.

Ralph Adams of Compton JC showed an impressive last lap to defeat Stanford's Maury Graves for second in 15:04.7. Cal's Roger Price moved up for the entire race and apparently had 4th place when he collapsed 40 yards from home.

(June 1957)

3:58.7 for Don Bowden

by Cordner Nelson

Stockton, Calif., June 1-- Don Bowden became the first American to run the long-awaited mile under 4 minutes as he strode powerfully through an unprecedented solo effort in 3:58.7.

Running in warm twilight with only a 2.8 mph wind during the Pacific Association AAU Championships, the 6'3", 160-pound University of California junior left his "competition" a hundred yards behind as he made his own pace every step of the way. Thus, he became the first runner ever to break 4 minutes without the aid of close competition or elaborate pacing.

Two official watches read 3:58.7, one 3:58.8, and the alternate watch read 3:58.7. The track, which measures 2'3" less than 440 yards, required 4 laps plus 3 yards, thus confusing big city lap timers. Bowden's actual distance run was one foot longer than a mile. No intermediate posts were marked, and so lost to posterity was a probable United States 1500 meter record of around 3:42. The track was a hard, white clay, hand worked to near-perfection by retired COP coach Earl Jackson.

Only two men have ever run faster than Bowden's mile. He brings the total of 4-minute milers to an even dozen, but only 5 have run under 3:59. This equalled the 5th fastest mile ever run, but only Landy's 3:57.9 was more than a tenth faster than Bowden's time. He now holds the national record, breaking Wes Santee's 4:00.5 of 1955, but Jim Bailey's 3:58.6 still stands as

the collegiate record. At the age of 20, Bowden is easily the youngest 4-minute miler.

Called "divinely gifted" by his coach, Brutus Hamilton, Bowden has long been regarded as a great prospect. He set the interscholastic 880 record of 1:52.3 in 1954. As a freshman, he ran only 1:51.5 in the 880, but he had a 1:48.9 relay leg. In one dual meet, he set a national freshman mile record of 4:11.7, won the 880 in 1:52.7, and ran a relay leg in 48.3. As a sophomore last year, he was handicapped by an injured Achilles tendon, yet made the Olympic team in the 1500 meters. Later, he ran 3:46.6, but was slowed by mononucleosis and failed to qualify at Melbourne.

This year, already, he had run 1:47.8 in the 880 and a 4:01.5 relay mile at Fresno (not to mention two 1:49.7 half miles, plus a 4:09.9 - 1:50.0 double). Out of competition for two weeks after his 1:47.8 PCC victory over Jim Bailey, he had barely maintained his condition while he prepared for and went through his rigorous final examinations. On last Monday he ran a three-quarters on grass with Tom Courtney in 2:57. Although he said, "I had a lot of confidence after Fresno," and there had been rumors he might try the mile at Stockton, it was on Monday that he really decided he wanted to.

Brutus Hamilton, whom both Bowden and Lon Spurrier call "the greatest middle distance coach", told him then: "You can run it if you get the sleep." Bowden, who normally sleeps 9 hours each night, managed only 7 or 8 hours during his finals, but he felt this was adequate. On Saturday afternoon he took his last final, in economics, not far from Edwards Field. He said, "I jumped every time I heard a gun go off at the state meet."

After completing his examination, on which he did "fairly well", he said, "I felt dead. I almost didn't come." He said that if Coach Hamilton had so much as indicated that he thought Bowden was not ready for a peak effort, he would have been glad to skip the race. But Hamilton wanted Bowden to run one fast mile this year, and so Bowden rode in a car to Stockton, 65 miles from Berkeley. He thought, "I'm just going to run a 4 minute pace as long as I can."

Only five runners started in this historic race, witnessed by a paltry 2500 spectators, mostly casual observers of track and field. Bowden, who is sometimes affectionately called "The Stork" by admirers, took the lead immediately and his long strides pulled the field around in 59.7.

Sometime after that first lap, said Bowden, "I began to feel good." He held his pace steady, aiming for a 2:01 half, and so good is his pace judgement that he was clocked in 2:00.8. At this point his competition was far behind, but interest began to pick up among the spectators as he started his real battle against the stop watches.

As Bowden's long legs drove him steadily around the third lap, it became apparent that he was not letting down and the excitement began to rise. Spectators with stop watches were glancing at the sweeping hands of their watches and urging Bowden to greater speed, but the lanky, dark-haired runner in the dark blue of California maintained his steady pace, crossing the three-quarter mark in 3:00.6. Later, Bowden revealed, "After three laps I felt great."

The announcement of the time brought a roar of excitement from the crowd, which had been quickly educated by H. D. Thoreau's expert announcing. This vocal encouragement later drew thanks from Bowden. On the back stretch, he appeared to increase his pace. Brutus Hamilton, who almost lost his dignity in his excitement over this boy who really loves to run, shouted, "You've got it!" Bowden heard, and "gave it all I had. I felt strong."

He looked strong, as he rounded the last turn, adding more speed to his drive. Announcer Thoreau added to the suspense by counting the time over the loud speaker, and the spectators rose and roared Bowden home. Down the short stretch it was no longer a question of breaking 4 minutes, but of challenging the world's record. Bowden crossed the line with gigantic strides, losing no speed from having run himself out as he did at Fresno, and the jubilation among the spectators was great.

(July 1957)

It's 15' 9 3-4 for Gutowski

Austin, Texas, June 14 & 15--Records tumbled like crossbars in the

fastest ever NCAA championships, with lithe, loose Bob Gutowski accounting for the supreme mark with a new world's vault record of 15'9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Two other international figures were equalled in this meet of unparalleled performances. Ancel Robinson darted over the lows in 22.2, a time first clocked by Dave Sime just last year. And Bobby Morrow, continuing to win all the important races, took additional honors with his first non-wind-aided 9.3 century.

Five other meet marks fell, making a total of 8 new championship standards in 14 events. Particularly outstanding were the 26'7" broad jump by Greg Bell, and the 1:47.2 half mile by Don Bowden. Both marks were the second best ever, and Bowden's time, achieved in a fine win over doubling Ron Delany, was a new collegiate record.

Also the best ever by a collegian was the 248'1" javelin fling of John Fromm. The 7th and 8th meet records were turned in by Lee Calhoun in the highs (13.6) and Deacon Jones in the two mile (8:57.6). Additionally, the shot, discus and 220 around a turn were the second best, and the mile time the third best, in the meet's history. The record assault doomed the two oldest marks in the files (100 and highs), as well as two (broad jump and lows) of the three next oldest. This leaves Herb McKenley's 46.2 of 1947 as the most durable of all meet marks.

Five 1956 winners retained their championships--Morrow (twice), Delany (4:06.5), Calhoun, Gutowski and Bell. Only Phil Reavis and Ken Bantam failed to defend titles in a meet which ran remarkably true to form. There were no real upsets for first, and not many big surprises among the placers. Indeed, every single champion was no worse than co-favorite in pre-meet speculation.

The favorite prevailed in the team competition, too, with Villanova's 47 points winning handily. Paced by Delany's 18 digits; the Jim Elliott coached squad became the first Easterners ever to win this meet, with the exception of Navy, whose 1945 title was a war-time win over non-representative competition. California's three man squad was a surprising second, tallying 32 points, while Fresno State at 23, Kansas with 22 1/3, Stanford with 21, and Abilene Christian at 20 battled it out for the show.

(August 1957)

Solo 3:38.1 by Jungwirth

Stará Boleslav-Houstka, July 12 - The Finns knew that their record would be short lived (Salsola, after the Turku race: "Somebody will run under 3:40 soon"). In fact, they might not even have made the I.A.A.F. book if Stanislav Jungwirth of Czechoslovakia had been able to run at Stará Boleslav-Houstka on July 11, as he was first scheduled to do. But it was raining on that day in the small town near Prague, and the organizers decided to put everything off until the next day. In the afternoon of Friday, July 12, conditions at Houstka were well nigh perfect for record breaking. At half past five 421 spectators saw Jungwirth, Alexander Zvolenský, Ludvík Liska and two little known men, Efmert and Kovács, on the starting line of the 364-meter track. Jungwirth had run new Czechoslovak records of 1:47.5 and 3:40.9 in early season meets and was credited with good chances of obliterating the newly-born Finnish record. Apparently, Salsola's and Salonen's fresh feat had the effect of a further incentive for Jungwirth. Liska, the sub-1:50 800m man, set a very fast pace, with Jungwirth two or three strides back. The times for Jungwirth in the early stages were phenomenal: 200m 26.2, 400m 54.9, 800m 1:54.2 ! A revolution in the history of 1500m running had started. Now the question to be answered was: "Can Jungwirth (or any of the select few who are in the same class) run the metric mile "à la McKenley", i.e. at a suicidal pace from the beginning, and still have enough left to produce marks never before attained?" After Liska dropped back (900m), Jungwirth was left all alone to answer the historic question. The Czech ace was timed in 2:24.0 at 1,000 and in 2:53.4 at 1,200 meters. So, his 400m fractions had been 54.9, 59.3 and 59.2. At that stage he was

6.4 ahead of Rózsavölgyi 1956 and 5.0 ahead of Waern (& Finnish company) 1957. But the last part of the journey was inevitably an odyssey for the 27-year-old red blond Stanislav. As he went down the homestretch in his awkward looking, workmanlike form, a bunch of unofficial timers began to shout the numbers shown on their watches: 35, 36, 37, 38 ... And the man who had been near the top of the 1500 meter mast for a number of years reached the tape at least two seconds earlier than any of his predecessors. The three official watches read 3:38.1, 3:38.1 and 3:38.0, the two alternates had 3:38.1 and 3:38.0. Jungwirth, a real demon as far as punishment is concerned, was thus rewarded for his fabulous race with the equivalent of a 3:56 mile. Alexander Zvolenský was a forgotten second, in 3:48.3.

Even in our time when one record is born every minute (or just about), Jungwirth's 3:38.1 seems worthy of the highest respect. Other runners are no doubt capable of similarly fast times, but it will take great courage to follow Jungwirth's "tactical" example. Before the race, Dr. Fiser, Jungwirth's coach, had prepared a time schedule which read: 400m in 57 secs., 800m in 1:57, 1200m in 2:59. Surely, Jungwirth was not so wise, but his madness probably resulted in a final time considerably faster than expected.

(August 1957)

Ibbotson Runs 3:57.2

LONDON, July 19 - Seven days after his great 1500 meter race at Houstka, Stanislav Jungwirth visited the town foreign milers who always feared most: London. Waiting for him there were Derek Ibbotson, holder of the European 1-mile record (3:58.4 in June) and Ronnie Delany, the Olympic 1500 meter champion. It was obvious that Jungwirth (by temperament only a moderately good, not outstanding finisher) saw his chance against these men in a suicidal pace from the gun. But the question arose: would he (Jungwirth) be physically and psychologically able to duplicate under pressure his fabulous race of the week before? And even if he were, would that suffice to knock down as strong a runner as Ibbotson (winner of the British 3-mile championship in 13:20.8 on July 13) or to nullify the finishing kick of Delany (easy winner of the 880 yards in 1:49.6 at the same meet)? Certainly, Jungwirth showed real sportsmanship when he accepted to meet such great competitors (and in the lion's den) so soon after his unique 1500 meter effort.

The invitation one mile event at White City Stadium on Friday, July 19, saw the Big Three flanked by such good runners as Ken Wood, Stefan Lewandowski of Poland (1000 meters in 2:19.4 in Germany three days earlier), Alan Gordon and Michael Blagrove. It had been raining and the track was not supposed to be in top shape. The winds had interfered with earlier events. 30,000 had come to see The Race. Blagrove, a 4:07.1 miler, opened up at a very fast pace, leading through fractions of 55.3 and 60.5 (880y time 1:55.8), followed by Jungwirth (55.7 & 60.4) and Ibbotson (56.0 & 60.4), while Delany, Lewandowski and Wood trailed further back, except that Wood moved ahead of the Pole in the second lap. Up to that time Jungwirth seemed to like the fast pace better than anyone else. Into the backstretch of the third lap, Blagrove dropped back and Jungwirth was out in front. It will be remembered that the week before at Houstka, the Czech ran the third 400 meters in 59.2 - and that nailed the record for him. Here in London, Jungwirth did not have the courage or the strength to do that. His third quarter took 63.9 (1320y in 3 minutes flat). Ibbotson was still there (63.9 & 3:00.3), and Delany, Lewandowski, Gordon and Wood followed in scattered order. That was the lull before the storm. In the backstretch of the last lap (where so many great mile races have been decided), Ibbotson started an all-out effort. Jungwirth was passed

and never again looked like a possible winner. Delany tried to move up as usual but apparently lacked his real fire: all he could do was to pass Jungwirth. Ibbotson finished like the great 3-miler he is, showing no signs of distress in his prolonged sprint. Delany and Jungwirth followed far back. Ken Wood, reportedly not yet fit for fast mile racing, surprised by coming from nowhere to finish a close fourth. All four men had made the journey in less than 4 minutes. Ibbotson's time, 3:57.2, bettered John Landy's three-year-old world record. The winner negotiated the last lap in a superb 56.9! (Jungwirth 59.1). Delany and Wood achieved personal best times, and Poland's Lewandowski lowered his country's national record to 4:00.6. Result: 1. Ibbotson 3:57.2 (1500m time 3:41.8), 2. Delany 3:58.8 (1500m time 3:42.4), 3. Jungwirth 3:59.1 (1500m time 3:42.1), 4. Wood 3:59.3, 5. Lewandowski 4:00.6, 6. Gordon 4:03.4. The Big Three thus covered the last 109.35 meters in 15.4 (Ibbotson), 16.4 (Delany) and 17.0 (Jungwirth).

It may be argued that Jungwirth was not as "hot" as the week before, and that Delany, reportedly not fully trained, was disconcerted by the fast initial pace. But all this boils down to the fact that on the day Ibbotson was easily the best man in the field. The 25-year-old Englishman probably won the race in the ... first lap, when he (a 3-miler) sustained a 56 secs. pace without faltering.

(August 1957)

Moëns Edges Courtney

Oslo, July 31 - Roger Moëns and Tom Courtney, by expert consensus the two greatest 800 meter men in history, met in a fabulous race at Bislet Stadium here today. It was a widely-heralded duel "world record holder vs. Olympic champion". The 27-year-old Belgian, who had concentrated on the 1500 meters in the early season, felt speedy enough to face at 800 meters the man who had won the Olympic gold medal. Moëns, as will be remembered, had been sidelined a few weeks before the Games by a serious injury. Courtney had posted a fantastic 1:46.0, three tenths shy of Moëns' world record, only 5 days before the Oslo race. Audun Boysen and Derek Johnson, the two other Melbourne medalists, were there to make this the greatest match race in the history of the two-lap circuit. Boysen, as distinguished a "hare" as ever lived, elected to set a "hot" pace from the start. The Norwegian had shown nothing resembling his best form recently, so he gallantly offered to pave the way for his rivals and friends. At times, however, he had up to five yards on Moëns, Courtney and Johnson. The gap had been practically closed as Boysen passed the 400 meters in 52.5. In the backstretch of the final lap the Norwegian moved to the second lane. Courtney had moved to second, yet the man who went through when Boysen gave up fight was not the American, but Johnson (always a master at filling gaps -- remember Melbourne?). Courtney made a fight of it and emerged on top in the last curve, while Johnson began to fade. Moëns, the "maître tacticien", had been following the proceedings from a close distance and obviously relied on his famous finishing kick. Courtney was first entering the homestretch, but Moëns produced that little extra which was required to win the race. Out of sheer nervous energy, the Belgian built up a lead of a good meter and came home first in 1:46.0, while Courtney was timed in 1:46.2. Johnson, who may look "dead" at certain moments during a track season but then always manages to "come back", shaved half a second off his personal best with a 1:46.9 performance. Men like Ragnar Andersen of Norway (4th in 1:48.0) and Tadeusz Matyjek of Poland (5th in 1:48.5) passed almost unnoticed! Boysen was sixth in 1:49.8. This was the third duel between Moëns and Courtney. The Belgian won 1955 in Brussels, lost 1956 in Compton, so that the

score is now 2 to 1 in his favor. Even in the Compton race, however, Moëns looked stronger in the last few yards.

(October 1957)

Kuts-nik Rockets to 13:35

By R. L. Quercetani

Rome, October 12/13: The first in a series of annual "pre-Olympic" meets to be held in Rome was honored with the presence of athletes from 16 European countries and was featured by one of the greatest solo efforts in the history of distance running.

Vladimir Kuts, now 30, dispelled all doubts about his health with a phenomenal 13:35.0 run in the 5 kilometers, cutting 1.8 seconds off Gordon Pirie's world record of 1956. A week earlier in Prague, Kuts had just failed in his record attempt, doing 13:38.0. A recurrence of his stomach ache had prevented an all out effort in the last kilo. But a couple of days at Formia, on the Tyrrhenian coast, apparently worked wonders in fixing him up for another great effort.

On the second day of the Rome meet (Sunday, October 13), Kuts was ready. The race was started shortly after 5 p.m. It was typical Roman "holiday" weather, with the temperature in the lower 70s. The 400m track at Olympic Stadium had proven adequately fast. The field for the 5000 included, among others, Pyotr Bolotnikov of USSR (13:54.4), Jerzy Chromik of Poland (13:59.4), Kevin Gilligan of Britain (14:09.2) and Urho Julin of Finland (14:19.2).

Soon after the start, Kuts jumped into the lead with a sustained burst of speed. Somebody from among the crowd of 25,000 began to cheer him on: "Kutsnik, Kutsnik!" However, the human satellite soon lost its tail: even the smooth-striding Bolotnikov was forced to drop back after less than 2000 meters. Kuts went on and on, and at no time was the crowd anguished by the fear that he might falter. The pace, as in many other great solo runs of the past, was characterized by a fast start, a long float and as good a finish as possible.

At 3000 meters (8:08.7) he was ahead of Pirie's time. At 4000 (10:52.9) he appeared to have a good margin and, in fact, his last kilometer took no more than 2:42.1. The Ukrainian was relatively fresh at the end of the gruelling race--definitely fresher than a year ago in Melbourne.

Here is a table showing the intermediate and progressive times in the four sub-13:40 5000 meter races to date: (5 times under 13:40 as Kuts was second at Bergen in 13:39.6):

Kuts (Rome '57)	Pirie (Bergen '56)	Kuts (Prague '57)	Kuts (Melbourne '56)
2:37.8	2:36.0	2:39.2	2:40.1
5:24.3 (2:46.5)	5:22.0 (2:46.0)	5:24.6 (2:45.4)	5:26.2 (2:46.1)
8:08.7 (2:44.4)	8:09.0 (2:47.0)	8:10.0 (2:45.4)	8:11.2 (2:45.0)
10:52.9 (2:44.2)	10:57.0 (2:48.0)	10:55.3 (2:45.3)	10:57.4 (2:46.2)
13:55.0 (2:42.1)	13:36.8 (2:39.8)	13:38.0 (2:42.7)	13:39.6 (2:42.2)

As usual, Kuts lapped the overwhelming majority of his "opponents". Some of his distant pursuers, misled by the lap counter, sprinted for the tape one lap too early; as a result of this scramble, positions from 3 onwards had no significance. This "cheated group" included, among others, Gilligan and two Italians, Perrone and Volpi, who might otherwise have bettered a 15-year-old national record. No 3-mile time was taken for Kuts; according to estimates based on his pace in the final stage, he must have passed the English distance in no worse than 13:10. (Sandor Iharos holds the world record at 13:14.2).

(April 1958)

Oerter Whips Disc 202'6"

Fayetteville, Ark., April 5-- Al Oerter, Olympic discus champion, threw the discus 202'6" in the University of Arkansas Relays. The 6'3½",

233-pound Kansas senior had two other throws over Gordien's world record, out probably none of them will be accepted because the field has a 2½% slope.

Oerter said he had been working hard with the discus for three weeks, intending to taper off to give his arm freshness for the big meets. But some exams interfered with his training last week. He said, "I didn't have a rough week in practice, and I was just fresh. I had a lot o whip in my arm."

A wind of varying speeds was blowing from in front of the throwers, and the other throwers had exceptional throws, too. Clyde Northrup of Oklahoma State threw an amazing 173'3½" for as much improvement as Oerter. Bob Mears of Arkansas threw 163'9½" for third.

Oerter had three throws estimated over 190 feet while warming up. His first official throw traveled 198'7", and the second was his 202'6" toss. He passed his third, then came back with 195'4½". He said the wind was about 10 mph for his best throw, and observers noted that he threw directly into it. He said it was almost still on his first throw.

Officials measured the throws, then took the discus to the post office to weigh it. The implement weighed about a quarter of an ounce too much. When Oerter made his final three throws he had cooled off and none of them were exceptional.

(May 1958)

Shot Record

DALLAS LONG DOES IT AGAIN--69'3½"

Phoenix, Ariz., May 16--Dallas Long, who continues to make track writers run out of superlatives, closed out his high school shot putting career with a magnificent 69'3½" put which left him more than five feet better than the second best school "boy" of all time.

Long's latest record came in the Luke-Greenway Invitational, the same meet which last year produced the 15'½" record vault by Long's North Phoenix teammate Jim Brewer. It was a great series for Dallas, with successive puts of 66'7½", 68'8½", 69'3½", 66', 68'3", 66'6½", and 66'3".

Now Long turns his efforts to the 16 pound shot. He will compete against the world's best at the California Relays (Modesto, May 31), the Compton Invitational (June 6), the SPAAU (Los Angeles, June 13) and the National AAU, June 20-21. His best official 16 pound mark is 55'11½", early in the year, but on May 23 he took one exhibition put at the Occidental Relays and recorded 58'4". Rumor has it he has been over 60 feet in practice.

(July 1958)

45.7 for Glenn Davis

by Corder Nelson

N.C.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

440- Forced to run fast heats plus semi-finals on Friday, the quarter-milers might have been expected to turn in slow times in the final, but such was not the case. Five of them ran the fastest races of their lives.

Eddie Southern, in lane 4, could look 30 yards ahead and watch Glenn Davis in lane 8, but Davis was all alone in the lane they all hate. Later, Davis said, "I thought that outside lane would bother me, but it didn't. Running out there you don't know where anyone else is and you can run your own race."

For the first half of a lap, Davis ran steadily, clocking 22.0 for his 220. Southern ran faster than anyone else, being timed in a speedy 21.6 around the turn. For the next 110 yards, the Olympic 400 meter hurdle champion held a steady pace, but Southern was 2 yards ahead at 330 yards, timed in 33 flat.

Around the last of the curve, the red-shirted veteran with a gray OHIO on his chest began his kick, caught his black-haired challenger at the head of

the home stretch, and began to draw away. Thirty yards from home, Southern began to tie up and lost ground rapidly, slowing to a near-disastrous jog in the last two strides.

Meanwhile, California's strong sophomore, Jack Yerman, had maintained a steady interval behind Davis and came into the stretch barely ahead of Puerto Rico's red-shirted Ivan Rodriguez. Despite a good finish by Rodriguez, Yerman held him off, then drove at the finish to almost catch Southern, who said later, "Cal's Yerman will break all kinds of records".

Asked if he could run faster than this, Davis said, "I rather doubt it, but I don't know." Later he admitted, "I had a lot left". He said conditions were perfect — "good track, nice weather, and top competition".

Eddie Southern said, "I just got whipped." Asked if he had ever tied up like that before, Southern answered with revealing honesty, "Yes, the last time I ran against Glenn Davis." Forgetting he was only a teen-ager when Davis started beating him, Southern had developed an inferiority complex about Davis which prevents him from utilizing his near-equal ability. He may have run better with a more sensible first 220 plus the knowledge that Davis said, ironically, "I was worried about Southern. He is probably responsible for my doing as well as I did."

(July 1958)

Connolly 225'4

by Cordner Nelson

NATIONAL A. A. U.

HAMMER THROW- This was quite likely the best competition in the history of the event. Al Hall had barely missed the official world record last week, and he seemed the favorite because Olympic champion Harold Connolly was injured. Connolly had dead-lifted about five weeks ago and, because of his short left arm, had dislocated the useless joint at the chest end of his left collarbone. But a local doctor gave him a shot of blockaine to kill the pain and he tried.

Connolly had the first throw of the competition and it sailed 217'6" for a new meet record. That throw, as all of them, was measured immediately, announced to the crowd of many hundreds of delighted spectators, and exhibited on a signboard just as in the Olympics.

Hall's first throw was 207'3½". Connolly fouled his second, and Hall threw 213'5". Connolly threw 215'11½", and Hall 213'3". Throwing in flights of four, these two, plus John Lawlor (202') and Marty Engel (181'2½"), completed their throws before any others began. Then Bob Backus tied Engel, but Stew Thomson heaved one 187'10½" to take over third spot. Backus passed Engel at 181'10" and Thomson improved to 189'4". In the third flight, 20-year-old Tom Pagani, who would like to complete his college education where he could throw the hammer in the NCAA meet, broke his own personal record at 177'11", then fouled one at about 180 feet.

In the final, Engel improved to 187'7½", Hall threw 206'10", and Connolly fouled again. On his second throw, Hall whirled with amazing speed and threw 217'5", only one inch short of Connolly.

Then the Olympic champion stepped into the concrete circle, spun with controlled power, and at 7:09 P.M., let the 16-pound ball and wire whirr through the air to sink into the turf beyond the 220-foot line. The tape was stretched taut, the crowd hushed, and Jim Lyon's voice was clearly heard: "Two hundred twenty-five..." The other 4 inches were lost in the roar of the crowd.

Connolly's wife, Olga, pretty Olympic discus champion, had said before the event that it made Harold nervous when she watched him. And so she was hiding behind a bush where she could not see well, but at the announcement of the world record she burst through the bystanders, crying with joy, and gave her embarrassed husband a bruising hug and kiss.

Connolly had flattened his hammer on one side by hitting a wall in practice. Repaired by a Bakersfield blacksmith, the record-breaking implement weighed one half an ounce over 16 pounds.

Hall's last throw was 214'2" and Connolly passed. The next day he had a swelling over his injury the size of one end of an egg, but he intends to compete in Moscow.

(August 1958)

Eight World Records

Eight world records have been eclipsed since the last (July) issue of Track & Field News in as frantic a month for the record keepers as can be remembered.

Most of the heroics occurred on the track, where new marks were made in six events from the 400 hurdles to the three mile. One field event and the decathlon records also fell.

Chronologically it happened this way:

1. Albie Thomas of Australia, three miles in 13:10.8 at Dublin, July 9.
2. Gert-Potgieter of South Africa, 440 hurdles in 49.7, in the British Empire Games at Cardiff, Wales, July 22.
3. Oleg Ryakhovskiy of Russia, hop-step-jump 54'5¼" (16.59m), in the US vs. USSR meet, Moscow, July 27.
4. Rafer Johnson, United States, 8302 points in the decathlon, in the US vs. USSR meet, Moscow, July 27 & 28.
5. Jerzy Chromik, Poland, 3000 meters steeplechase in 8:32.0, in the US vs. Poland meet, Warsaw, August 2.
6. Glenn Davis, U.S., 400 meter hurdles in 49.2, in the US vs. Hungary meet, Budapest, August 6.
7. Herb Elliott, mile in 3:54.5, Dublin, Ireland, August 6.
8. Albie Thomas, Australia, two miles in 8:32.0, at Dublin, Ireland, on August 7.

The old steeplechase mark was equalled and the official 1500 meter record was bettered as a host of good performances chalked up countless continental, national and meet records.

While all of the new standards were set in Europe they were made by athletes from five continents. The unusual visit of a full strength American team accounted for the two marks by U.S. athletes, and the two records set by Europeans (one Asian born) were against the U.S. squad. The other four records were made by British Empire athletes, attracted to Europe by the Empire Games in Cardiff.

The picture changes considerably now. The American team has come home, and most of the Empire athletes also have left Europe. But the Europeans are looking forward to their big meet, the quadrennial European Championships in Stockholm, August 19 to 24. Following this meet the Europeans will resume their normal summer activity of international duals and other meets of note.

Naming the outstanding athlete of the past month is impossible, but four names stick out—Davis, Elliott, Johnson and Thomas. Johnson hasn't the quantity of performance of the others, but for sheer brilliance his 8302 point decathlon showing is tough to beat. And he did score 7754 in winning the AAU title earlier in the month. The other three have had a magnificent string of performances, both in quality and quantity.

Davis had an unparalleled run of successes at 400 meters, both on the flat and over 10 intermediate hurdles. After running 46.3 on the flat, 50.4, 50.9 and 51.2 for the hurdles, and losing one 200m race, the rugged Ohioan went to work in four straight two day meets:

July 17, Oslo, 21.1 for 200m and 49.8 for 400m hurdles.

July 18, Oslo, 10.3 for 100m and 45.6 for 400m.

July 27, Moscow, 45.6 for 400m.

July 28, Moscow, 50.4 for 400m hurdles (wet track) and 46.1 relay leg.

August 1, Warsaw, 45.5 for 400m, equal second fastest ever.

August 2, Warsaw, 49.8 for 400m hurdles and 45.1 relay leg.

August 5, Budapest, 45.6 for 400m.

August 6, Budapest, 49.2 for 400m hurdles, world record.

But how does this stack up with the string turned in by Elliott who was racing over much longer distances? After a British Empire Games double of 1:49.3 (July 22) and 3:59.0 (July 26), along with heats in each, Elliott had a phenomenal four days:

- August 4, London, 1:47.3, third fastest 880 ever.
 - August 4, Watford, 1:50.7, for 880.
 - August 6, Dublin, 3:54.5 for mile, world record.
 - August 7, Dublin, 8:37.6 for two miles, equal fastest fourth ever.
- And how about Thomas, whose nomination includes three mile world record on July 9, and then this five day workout?
- August 2, London, 13:20.6 for three miles, 10 seconds off world mark.
 - August 6, Dublin, 3:58.6 for mile.
 - August 7, Dublin, 8:32.0 for two miles, world record.

(August 1958) Decathlon Record

by R.L.Quercetani

Moscow, July 27 & 28-- U.S. vs. U.S.S.R.

Rafer Johnson fulfilled the hope of this distant observer by shattering the record of records with a sound decathlon score of 8,302 points, which could have been better but for adverse weather conditions on the second day. This was no doubt the most spectacular feat in the history of the decathlon since the days of Jim Thorpe. After a fantastic "come-through" in the javelin (72.59 m. or 238'2") Johnson had already clinched the world record! His gallant effort in the last event, the 1500 meters, left Russia's Vasiliiy Kuznyetsov more than 400 points behind.

Decathlon--Here, in figures, is the whole story of this great two-day battle:

R.Johnson	Vas.Kuznyetsov	D.Edstrom	Y.Kutyenko
10.6	10.8	11.0	11.1
7.17 (23'6"1/4)	7.49 (24'7")	6.96 (22'10")	7.07 (23'2"1/4)
14.69(48'2"1/4)	13.90(45'7"1/4)	13.75(45'1"1/4)	13.28(43'6"3/4)
1.80 (5'10"7/8)	1.85 (6' "7/8)	1.85 (6' "7/8)	1.75 (5'8"7/8)
48.2	49.6	49.1	50.9
4529 p	4420 p	4174 p	3866 p
14.9	15.1	14.8	15.8
49.06 160'11"1/2	47.17 154'9"	42.42 139'2"	46.34 152' "1/2
3.95 12'11"1/2	4.00 13'1"1/2	3.40 11'1"3/4	4.10 13'5"1/2
72.59 238'2"	65.39 214'6"1/2	59.31 194'7"	64.49 211'7"
5:05.0	5:04.0	4:33.8	4:48.2
3773 p	3477 p	3225 p	3431 p
Total 8302 p	7897 p	7399 p	7297 p

(August 1958) Davis Runs 400H in 49.2

U.S. vs. HUNGARY

Budapest, Hungary, Aug. 6--Disappointed because he ran "only" 45.6 yesterday, tireless Glenn Davis charged over nine flights of 36" hurdles, hit the 10th barrier, stumbled and still finished the 400 meter event in a new world record time of 49.2.

It was the Ohio Stater's third world record this season, following his 45.7 for 440 yards and 49.9 for 440 yard hurdles, achieved in the NCAA and AAU meets. And the 49.2 clocking thus won 400meter--440 yard hurdle honors

away from Gert Potgieter, whose recent 49.7 for 440 yards is regarded as the equal of 49.4 for 400 meters. Davis' official 400m record is the 49.5 he set in the 1956 American Olympic trials.

"I was trying harder than ever before" said talented Glenn. "The track was too wet last night. If it had been dry, I think I could have clocked a time of 45.2 instead of 45.6 seconds. Being disappointed about my performance yesterday, I took off tonight like a 100 meter runner." Observers felt that had the Ohioan not hit the final hurdle he would have been under 49 seconds.

(August 1958) Elliott Does Mile in 3:54.5

Dublin, August 6--Finding that rare combination of favorable conditions that is always necessary for a major break through on the track, Herb Elliott finally came close to realizing his obvious potential (for the present) when he smashed the world mile record with a brilliant 3:54.5.

After seven miles in the 3:57.8--3:59.6 range in just six months, the 20-year-old wonderboy was overdue for a much faster race. When he found a good track, good weather, good competition, and good help in pushing a good pace, the result had to be better than good.

And so it was. Elliott chopped nearly three seconds off Ibbotson's still unrecognized 3:57.2 and even more off the accepted world mark of 3:58.0 by John Landy. There was no question but that the mark should ultimately be approved as an official IAAF world mark.

It was the second world mark in less than a month on this brand new track. A light rain helped, rather than hindered, for, according to track officials, it put the course in excellent condition. And the competition was there, as the final results will testify:

- 2nd, Merv Lincoln, Australia, 3:55.9, second fastest mile ever.
- 3rd, Ron Delany, Ireland, 3:57.5, fourth fastest mile ever.
- 4th, Murray Halberg, New Zealand, 3:57.5, fifth fastest mile ever.
- 5th, Albie Thomas, Australia, 3:58.6, to become the equal eighth all time best performer.

The pace was near perfect with Herb in the fortunate position of not having to do any of the leader's work. Thomas, the new world recordman in the three-mile and a 4:01.5 miler until today, was responsible for the early pace. He led at the quarter in 58.0 with Lincoln just behind and Elliott third, as the small field remained bunched.

Through another quarter the diminutive Thomas forged the way although Elliott was alongside part of the distance. The clock read 1:58.0 at the half, the order being Thomas, Elliott, Lincoln, Halberg and Delany. On the third circuit this talented crew found a new pace pusher, and unexpectedly, in Lincoln. Herb, who has prayed that a legitimate competitor could share the work through a sub-three minute 1320, found the answer to his dreams as they got the bell in 2:59.0.

Going into the last lap, Herb moved to the front ahead of Lincoln. Halberg, on the outside, and Thomas, were about three yards back of the leader and Delany trailed by another three yards, but the King of the Kick was still in good position and his home town crowd was going wild.

In any other field it could have been anybody's race but this Herb Elliott is a rare breed of cat and he was in his element. Pouring it on over the final run for the tape, the young Aussie built up a large lead and at the end had some 12 yards on Lincoln--the second fastest man in history.

The 1500meter mark was reached by Elliott in 3:39.6, a full second under the official world mark. But meet badge-wearers said the 1500m time was unofficial and could not be submitted for a record. Elliott covered the last 120 yards in 14.9, within .6 of the best ever fast-mile finish, and hit a speedy 55.5 for the final 440.

The performance fulfilled the prediction of Elliott's coach, Percy Cerutty, who said Herb would be the first to run under 3:55.0. And it came close to fulfilling Cerutty's statement, ridiculed way back in 1951, that a 3:53 mile was possible.

Afterwards, this light was shed:

Elliott: "The pace was terrific. During the first half mile I knew I was running the fastest race of my life. It was definitely my night. Conditions were perfect. And I must thank the wonderful enthusiasm of the Irish crowd for their terrific applause on my last lap. I think a 3:50 mile could come within a couple of years. Of course we shall need track conditions like the ones we had here-- conditions as near to perfect as any runner could want."

Delany: "There is only one way to beat Elliott. That's to tie his legs together."

Roger Bannister: "Absolutely incredible."

Lincoln: "It's the best race I have run in my life. I feel right on top of the world."

Elliott: "They got off a little too fast for me but I managed to catch up with two laps to go (?). I found the pace really punishing, particularly amongst the leaders. I realized by the three-quarter mark that world record figures were possible for perhaps the first four. I felt strong at the finish and I had no doubt of the result. But plenty of credit is due to that terrific early pace set by Thomas and Lincoln."

(September 1958)

Elliott Runs 1500 in 3:36

What young Mr. Elliott of Australia did in the 12 days following the 1958 European Championships (at which meet, reporters say, he was a casual, sometimes bored spectator) amounts to the greatest one-man show in the annals of middle distance running. Competing against the best runners the world can now supply, he outclassed them in the following way:

August 25, Stockholm (Stora Mossen) -1500m in 3:41.7. Mediocre track. Runner-up Murray Halberg was timed in 3:45.5.

August 28, Göteborg -1500m in 3:36.0, new world record. Stanislav Jungwirth, holder of the previous mark, was second, 3 full seconds behind.

August 29, Malmö -Mile in 3:58.0, leaving Dan Waern, a silver medalist at the European Championships, 4 full seconds behind.

September 3, London - Mile in 3:55.4. Runner-up, Brian Hewson, the European 1500m champion, set new personal best but finished 3.5 seconds behind Elliott.

September 5, Oslo - 1500m in 3:37.4. Reportedly tired, beat Halberg by only 1.4 second.

And here are details of these fabulous races. On the small Stora Mossen track in Stockholm, one day after the conclusion of the European Championships, 2,295 spectators saw Elliott in what can best be described as a "warm-up" race. He sped round the 385 meter track, a few strides behind Nisse Toft, who was timed in 61 seconds at 400m and in 2:01 at 800m. Then Elliott took over the lead and went home undisturbed in 3:41.7 -two tenths faster than Brian Hewson in annexing the European title the day before in a great competitive race, on a much faster (Olympic Stadium) track! Yet, runner-up at Stora Mossen was New Zealand's Murray Halberg, a 4-minute miler, who could do no better than 3:45.5 here. Josko Murat of Yugoslavia was third in 3:49.4. Toft finished in 4:29.1. Elliott's fractions were roughly estimated as 60, 60, 60, 41.7. After the race, Toft said that Elliott looked capable of doing 3:36/3:37 at any time. That's exactly what happened three days later on the Ullevi track at Göteborg. 11 runners were lined up at the start of the greatest 1500m race in history. It was 7.24 p.m. World record holder Stanislav Jungwirth, who was thirsty for revenge after his poor show in the European Championship final, immediately took the lead, followed by Albie Thomas. At the 400m mark (56 flat) the two were followed by Ibbotson, Waern,

Lewandowski, Lundh and Elliott. This last must have covered the first lap just inside 58 seconds. Thomas had superseded Jungwirth as a pace-setter. But in the second lap, Elliott began to move up fast. At 800m (Thomas 1:57.5) he was alongside his countryman, having passed all the Europeans! Elliott lost no time in jumping into the lead: very soon he had a substantial lead, and was flying after the record, with no respect whatsoever for the capabilities of the men who followed him. Halberg and Jungwirth led the pack, which however began to lose units rapidly. At 1200m Elliott was timed in 2:55.5. He continued to stride along till the end, looking very much like a superhuman -even in the presence of the world's best runners, who were struggling way behind like human mortals. His final time -3:36.0- was probably better, in intrinsic value, than his Dublin mark for the mile, 3:54.5. A crowd of 35,069 spectators (a record for Sweden) tributed an ovation to the 20-year-old Aussie phenomenon, who had to run a Lap of Honor. Almost unnoticed passed the great feats of Elliott's rivals. Stanislav Jungwirth surged past Halberg in the last phase to take second, both men bettering 3:40. The result of this historic race follows:

1. Herbert Elliott (Australia)	3:36.0 (World Record)
2. Stanislav Jungwirth (CSR)	3:39.0
3. Murray Halberg (New Zealand)	3:39.4 (personal best)
4. István Rózsavölgyi (Hungary)	3:40.0 (Hungarian record)
5. Dan Waern (Sweden)	3:40.9
6. Stefan Lewandowski (Poland)	3:41.1 (Polish record)
7. Ulf-Bertil Lundh (Norway)	3:42.1
8. Ingvar Eriksson (Sweden)	3:47.3
9. Derek Ibbotson (Great Britain)	3:50.8
10. Albert Thomas (Australia)	3:55.1
11. Tommy Holmestrand (Sweden)	3:56.8

Elliott's fractions can be presented thus: 58, 59.5, 58. Last 300 meters in 40.5 (faster than Lovelock in his famous 3:47.8 race at Berlin in 1936). Elliott was also timed in 2:42 at 1100 meters, so his final 400m was a sound 54.0!

(February 1959)

Epic Shot Putting

Los Angeles, Feb. 27--Two amazing athletes took turns in the seven foot shot put circle today and the results were as could be expected--amazing.

First up was Dallas Long the phenomenal Southern California frosh who has been over 65' in practice and whose desire was to erase Parry O'Brien's world record of 63'2" in his first collegiate meet. So this brother of a boy, still only 18, dropped one out 63'4". It broke every record but none will be accepted because the ground was sloping. Still the handwriting was plain enough for all to see--the O'Brien era was giving way to the Long era.

One who couldn't see it was the great O'Brien himself, a spectator as Long won against Compton College. While Dallas was taking well deserved plaudits, Parry came down out of the stands, slipped into the dressing room, changed into his briefs, and warmed up. When ready, the 27-year-old Southern California alumnus stepped into the ring, mustered all his skill, strength and pride--of which he has considerable--and exploded. The result--63'6".

Succeeding chapters of this story promise not to be dull.

(February 1959)

Bragg Clears 15'9 1-2

Philadelphia, Feb. 13-- Private Don Bragg of Fort Dix, 23-year-old

would-be movie Tarzan, swung his 200 pounds over 15'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to erase Dutch Warmerdam's 16-year-old indoor pole vault record from the books. Competing in the 15th annual Inquirer Games, Bragg left outdoor record holder Bob Gutowski at 15'4" and cleared his record height on his first attempt.

Bragg's muscular chest hit the triangular crossbar, flipping it over, and Bragg crouched in the sawdust while he watched the bar quiver. Then, with 10,650 spectators cheering, he danced wildly with joy.

The actual height was 15'9 $\frac{5}{8}$ ", officially measured twice after his vault. Bragg attempted 16', half-heartedly, giving up after bruising his heel on his second trial.

(March 1959)

National Mark for Alley

Austin, Texas, April 4--American javelin stock rose sharply when Bill Alley of Kansas featured the Texas Relays with a throw of 270'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", exceeding by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " the best toss ever made by an American.

It was Alley's second big throw in 10 days, following hard on the heels of his collegiate record of 258'4". The throw, which will erase Bud Held's mark from the books, puts the 217 pound junior 7th on the all-time list behind Egil Danielsen (281'2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "), Vladimir Kuznyetsov (278'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "), Janusz Sidlo (274'5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "), Soini Nikkinen (274'1 $\frac{3}{8}$ "), Jan Kopyto (273'6 $\frac{3}{8}$ "), and Viktor Tsibulenko (273'5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "). Alley, who naturally won the trophy as the outstanding athlete, was pushed along by Bruce Parker of the host Texas U. who led the Friday prelims with a fine 245'9" to 240'6" for Alley.

(June 1959)

Cook 9.3, Texas 39.6

by Corder Nelson

Modesto, May 30-- A pleased crowd of more than 10,000 at the 18th annual California Relays saw all the ingredients of a great track meet -- exciting competition, surprising upsets, the soothing quality of a well-run meet, and great performances (two world records, another American record, and various best-ever).

Rocketing Roscoe Cook blasted off to an astounding one yard lead over Bobby Morrow and Ray Norton in the first few yards of the 100 to win in world record equalling time of 9.3, and four Texans used fine baton passing to break the other world record -- 39.6 in the 440 relay.

Cook, a short Oregon sophomore, leaped into a commanding lead so fast that many fans wondered if he might have anticipated the gun. Norton gained steadily over the last 50 yards but he was more than a foot short of catching Cook. The wind was 1.55 mph. Norton ran a 9.4 heat with no wind, and Cook ran 9.4 with 3.08 mph. Morrow, off even with Norton, lost ground and finally gave up, finishing 5th in his worst-ever race. He had trained excessively after the Coliseum Relays and said, "My legs were dead and I just couldn't get going." Cook said, "I never dreamed I could run 9.3."

The 440 relay was one of the great races of all time. Bob Poynter gave San Jose a lead on the first leg, but a combination of imperfect San Jose passes plus Eddie Southern's rapid stint resulted in a four-yard deficit for Norton. He set out after Ralph Alspaugh, Southwest Conference sprint champion and caught all except Alspaugh's desperate lean into the tape. Abilene Christian's Bill Woodhouse finished only a yard and a half behind the world record. Texas' 39.6 could fail to win recognition since the race was around only one turn and the wind gauge was not located to record the first 100 yards, where the wind blows free.

(June 1959)

Al Cantello 282' 3 1-2

by Corder Nelson

Compton, June 5-- Little Al Cantello celebrated his 28th birthday four days in advance at the 20th annual Compton Invitational. The 5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 163-pound, yellow-clad Marine lieutenant, his arms and chest swelling with ten pounds of muscle put on since last August, sprinted down the runway at 5:48 p.m., twisted sideways with nimble footwork, whipped his arm forward with all his strength, and followed through with a full length dive onto his hands and chest. His javelin, a metal Held, rattled mysteriously as it arched incredibly high and glided down. The point struck the turf at 282'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", a full foot beyond the world record.

Fewer than 200 spectators watched, and they were not completely astounded, for Cantello's previous throw had been the shocker -- 279'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". After a first trial of 224'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", officials stood at about 230 feet, and his second trial landed 50 feet beyond them. According to an eye-witness on the field, the javelin landed flat and left no mark. Officials were saved considerable embarrassment when Cantello's third throw improved on his second. His last three throws were poor by comparison. He fouled two at 230' and 220', then finished with an estimated 236'.

As with all such surprising performances, people were soon asking how such fantastic improvement could be possible. Cantello's answer is weight lifting. A puny little fellow when he broke the NCAA javelin record in 1955 (in second place), and, after three years in the Marines, not much larger last summer when he represented the USA against Russia, Cantello started, last August, on Occidental coach Chuck Coker's weight training program. The ten pounds of muscle Cantello added are evidently in the right places, for he has bettered his best-ever 249'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of last spring many times this year in practice. His best was last week, when his 264'10" was not officially recorded because of some doubt as to its landing point first.

(July 1959)

Piatkowski Hits 196' 6 1-2

The European discus duo Piatkowski-Szecsényi is living up to expectations. The Hungarian raised the continental mark to 58.33 (191'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2) at Győr, June 7. Same as Jesse Owens on his Day of Days, Szecsényi showed up at Győr with an injured back. Notwithstanding this handicap, he produced the following series: 57.62 (189' "1/2)- 57.03 (187'1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "1/4) - foul - 55.36 (181'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2) - 58.33 (191'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2) - passed 6th trial. Veteran Klics was second at 53.00 (173'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2).

Szecsényi had thus stolen the European record from his arch rival Piatkowski. The two were scheduled to meet in the Kusocinski Meet at Warsaw, June 14, but Szecsényi, still suffering from his injury, did not make the trip. The European champ from Poland was there though, and he chose the occasion for his greatest ever performance. After initial throws of 52.17 (171'2") and 54.64 (179'3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "1/4), he got off the long one -- 59.91 (196'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2). This was the feat that brought the world discus record back to Europe! Italian coach Giorgio Oberweger, who saw the meet, said there was a nice quartering wind blowing at the time of this throw. But many good discus marks have been positively influenced by the wind, a factor the I.A.A.F. ignores completely as far as this event is concerned. Then it will be remembered that Piatkowski had four marks in the range 188'/190' in May. His other throws on June 14 were anti-climactic: foul - foul - 56.49 (185'4"). Manfred Griesser of Germany was second at 54.68 (179'4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "1/4), Zenon Begier of Poland third at 53.96 (177' "1/2) and Kees Koch of Holland fourth at 53.48 (175'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "1/2). Piatkowski made his first appearance of the season outside Poland on June 24 at Paris' Charléty Stadium. Here he was

pitted against the former European discus king, 42-year-old Adolfo Consolini. Piątkowski, who may be physically unimpressive as 190'-plus discus men come but who possesses an amazing speed, won there too, with 57.77 (189'6"1/2), and had three other throws in the 184'/186' range. Consolini had his second longest mark of the season -54.45 (178'7"3/4). Pierre Alard was third with a new French record of 52.25 (171'5").

(July 1959)

Kansas Wins NCAA

by Cordner Nelson

Lincoln, Nebraska, June 13— Decimated by injuries, illnesses, and mishaps, the 38th annual National Collegiate Athletic Association championships nevertheless provided outstanding competition and four meet records. Bill Easton's powerful Kansas University team used brilliant individuals and reliable depth to win the team title.

Burly John Lawlor, a pink-cheeked ex-Dublin policeman, led off the record-breaking with a 207'5" meet mark in the hammer trials on Friday. New Mexico sophomore Dickie Howard shattered the 400 meter hurdles record with 50.6 in the first event on Saturday. A third record fell to Paul Whiteley of Kansas State Teachers, who pattered impressively through a 13:59.1 3-mile. The only regularly-contested record to be touched was a 13.6 tie in the high hurdles by Hayes Jones, who also ran the 220 lows in 22.5 around a curve but lost a world record because of excessive wind aid in the home stretch.

Jones, a junior at Eastern Michigan, was the only double winner, but he barely beat Charlie Tidwell for that honor, nipping the Kansan by mere centimeters in the low hurdles after Tidwell had won the 100 in a wind-blown 9.3. Kansas captain Ernie Shelby equalled Tidwell's 18 points by scoring in three events. Other high point men were John Macy of Houston and Bob Poynter of San Jose with 16 each, and Willie May of Indiana with 12.

The horde of Kansans, clad in bright blue and brilliant pink, put on an all-out effort to win their first title, and theirs was a smashing 73 to 48 victory in spite of San Jose's great second-place showing. San Jose saw Ray Norton disqualified in the 100.

Kansas' well-deserved triumph required unexpected points by Jim Londerholm (6) and Bill Tillman (8), near-miraculous luck with the sore leg of Shelby and the sore elbow of Bill Alley, and Norton's failure.

(July 1959)

Tidwell 22.6 on Turn

by Cordner Nelson

Boulder, Colorado, June 19 & 20— Four AAU meet records fell and the Southern California Striders won an overwhelming team victory in a meet which served mainly as the Final Trials for the two international meets this summer.

One American record (unofficial world record) fell, to Charlie Tidwell in the 200 meter low hurdles. His 22.6 bettered his own curve record of 22.7 set last year over the 270 yards distance. Other meet records were Al Oerter's 186'5" in the discus, Parry O'Brien's 62'2 1/4" in the shot, and Dyrrol Burleson's 3:47.5 for 1500 meters.

200 METER LOW HURDLES: Main casualty of the heats, which qualified 12 to the semi-finals, was Rex Stucker of Kansas State. Stucker, who had hit seven hurdles in his heat of the highs, took a hard spill in the middle of the curve and was out. The first heat of the semi-finals was undoubtedly the fastest heat of all time. Hayes Jones won in 22.9, closely followed by a wide-shouldered, flat-topped high school boy in blue, Rex Cawley. Spike

Arlt ran 23.2 in third place.

Cawley drew the sharp-curved inside lane for the final, with Arlt in 2, Elias Gilbert in 3, Tidwell in 4, Jones in 5, and Willie May in 6. Running in the rain, Tidwell was off fast and gained around the curve on the inexperienced Jones. But Jones, a yard and a half back into the stretch, almost caught the great Kansan, losing by less than half a foot in world record time of 22.6. Four yards back, running like some kind of demon, was Cawley, beating out Gilbert for the third spot.

(August 1959)

Martin Lauer Runs 13.2

The 110 meter hurdles of July 7 at Zurich will be remembered as one of the most incredible races of all time. First, the result (in parentheses, each man's previous best):

1. Martin Lauer (Germany)	13.2* (13.5)	
2. Willie May (USA)	13.6 (13.8)	*World record
3. Walter Pensberger (Germany)	14.0 (14.3)	**Swiss record
4. Giorgio Mazza (Italy)	14.2= (14.2)	=Eq. Ital. record
5. Walter Tschudi (Switzerland)	14.4** (14.6)	
6. Georgios Marsellos (Greece)	14.5 (14.4)	
7. Nereo Svava (Italy)	14.7 (14.4)	

So, 4 of the 7 men improved by margins ranging from 0.3 to 0.2, one (Mazza) equaled his best ever (and he had a relatively poor start, as will be seen later), one (Marsellos) was one-tenth shy of his 1958 best but still produced his fastest time for the present season. Svava of Italy was the only one who did not join the feast.

Conditions were described as "exceptionally favorable" in the leading Swiss sport paper. The newly-laid Letzigrund track had proven hyperfast in local meets held earlier in the season. The wind during the race averaged 1.9 m/s, assisting (maximum allowed is 2 m/s). Swiss and German papers said nothing particular about the start, obviously the point we were most anxious to know about. But an authoritative Italian source reported that the starter was very fast in firing the gun. Lauer well knew the starter's ways, for he had run a sensational 13.5 there on May 16 (at a time of the season when he still had to duck under 14 seconds in German meets). However, the July 7 field was quick to react to the fast gun. Only May and Mazza appeared to be taken by surprise. Prior to that there had been a false start, by Lauer. In the race proper, Tschudi, the local boy, and Lauer were soon in the lead. The German, undoubtedly "in the form of his life" as his countrymen say, ran a fast, aggressive race from start to finish. He knocked down the sixth hurdle but this did not seem to bother him much. Willie May was impressive too. According to German accounts, all 3 watches caught Lauer in 13.2, two-tenths under Jack Davis' world record. Of course we realize that Lauer is a great hurdler, certainly in a class with America's best right now. But the question to be answered is this: is he really as fast as his Zurich mark would indicate? The marks of May and Pensberger also look incredibly good.

This is not the first time that the world's 110 meter hurdles record is beaten in somewhat mysterious circumstances. Two classic examples occur to our mind:

(1) In the dual meet Sweden vs Norway at Stockholm, Aug. 25, 1929, a 20-year-old Swede, Eric Wennström, amazed the track world with a sensational 14.4 --three tenths under the then listed Swedish record. The mark also constituted a new world record for 110 meter hurdles. Swedish oldtimers are still raving about Wennström's mark.

(2) In an international meet at Oslo, Aug. 27, 1936, Olympic champion Forrest ("Spec") Towns cut four tenths off the then listed

110 meter hurdles record with a shocking 13.7. Don Potts and I have counted no less than nine 14.1 clockings for Towns in 1936 (of these, 4 were in USA, 1 in an Olympic semi-final at Berlin, 4 in other European meets). Surely, all those 14.1's suggested that Towns was capable of 13.9. But 13.7?

Readers of "Track and Field News" will also recall Bob Mathias' controversial 13.8 in 1952, incidentally made on the old Letziggrund track in Zurich. No evidence could be found to invalidate the mark, which was considered hard-to-believe even by some Americans.

There can be little doubt that fast guns have been responsible for many "amazing" sprint and hurdle marks. In some cases they can be a more important factor than, say, aiding winds or poor timing. It is not our intention to detract from the acknowledged merits of Messrs. Wennström, Towns and Lauer, but there have been (and there are) other good hurdlers who deserved an even break. We think the I.A.A.F. should pay attention to fast guns. They can cause devastation.

(August 1959)

O'Brien Throws 63'4"

Albuquerque, N. M., Aug. 1--Parry O'Brien broke the world's shot put record and Don Bragg came mightily close to the international pole vault standard in a most auspicious inaugural of what promises to be a fine addition to the track and field scene.

The first annual Albuquerque Invitational drew 7000 fans who thrilled to O'Brien's 63'4" heave, Bragg's near miss at 15'9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and a host of other fine marks. As the country's first big-time mid-summer invitational this meet got off to a brilliant start and would seem to have a wide-open future with summer track just beginning to blossom.

O'Brien's 63'4" came on his first grunt and was two inches over his oft-bettered official mark of 63'2". Parry O followed up with 61'8 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 63'2", 63'1", 62'1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and a foul, then won the discus at 176'10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

(September 1959)

EUROPEAN REPORT

ROZSA'S GREAT COMEBACK: 3:39.3 & 3:38.9 (AND 3:42.3 IN A HEAT!)

30-year-old István Rózsavölgyi of Hungary is producing another great pre-Olympic season (remember his 1955 fireworks?), thus belying the widespread belief that his best days are over. Following his 1:48.4 of July 12 (a personal best), he concentrated on his parade event, the 1,500 meters. In the match against Finland (Helsinki, Aug. 4) he won handily at 3:41.0 from Salonen (3:43.0), Szekeres (3:45.0) and Vuorisalo (3:48.0). Then, like most trackmen visiting Finland, he made a pilgrimage to Turku where on Aug. 7 he ran the first sub-3:40 race of his long career. He took over at the 1,000 meter mark (2:26.4), covered the last 300 meters in 43.9 and was finally clocked in 3:39.3. Back home, he prepared for the National Championships (Budapest, Aug. 21/23). In that meet, "Rózsa" did the following:

8/21: 1,500m heat, 1st in 3:42.3 (1)

8/22: 1,500m final, 1st in 3:38.9 (Hungarian record)

800m heat, 1:55.3

8/23: 800m final, 3rd in 1:51.3 (felt pains in his legs)

He might have smashed his Hungarian mark in the heat if fatigue

had not taken him in the closing stage. In a great solo effort he produced lap times of 58.0, 58.3, 60.1, before dropping to 45.9 in the last 300 meters. The following day, in the final, he received some help from Béla Szekeres, who set the pace in the second lap. Here Rózsa's laps were 57.8, 61.2, 58.8. His time for the last 300 meters was a great 41.1. Szekeres was second in 3:45.6. "Rózsa" now ranks 4th on the All Time List. He will probably attempt to crack Jungwirth's European record (3:38.1) before the end of the season. The Hungarian also ran 2,000 meters in 5:08.8, beating his old rival and friend Iharos (5:09.8).

KAUFMANN BOWS TO SEYE, THEN RUNS 45.8!

Carl Kaufmann, the 23-year-old German 400 meter champion, ran a sensational 45.8 on the Cologne miracle track, Sept. 19, cracking the European record jointly held at 46.0 by Rudolf Harbig and Ardalion Ignatyev. But it pays to relate first what happened the previous week at Dortmund, Sept. 12. Kaufmann and France's Abdou Seye made an attempt to crack the European 440 yard record (46.8 by Ted Sampson of Britain in 1958). Seye never lost command of the race and finally won comfortably in 47.0, thus failing to beat a seemingly "easy" record. Kaufmann was second in 47.4, and Otto Klappert was third in 47.8. Times at the 400 meter mark were officially given as 46.7 for Seye, 47.0 for Kaufmann, and 47.4 for Klappert. Seven days later, on Cologne's 500-meter track, Kaufmann ran the race of his life. His younger countryman Manfred Kinder had the inside lane, while Kaufmann, in third lane, lay in between two Poles, Kowalski and Swatowski. The race was started at the beginning of the backstretch, so the course included only one turn. Swatowski, the best known pace-setter in the 400 meter department, was off fast, as usual, but Kaufmann, normally a slow mover in the early stages, lost little or no ground. Midway in the race Kaufmann pulled away and soon had a substantial lead. The gap became wider and wider, and Kaufmann was thus able to run smoothly down to the end. 20-year-old Kinder managed to pass the Poles in a hectic finish and took second. Times: Kaufmann 45.8, Kinder 46.7, Kowalski 47.0, Swatowski 47.6. Kaufmann's 200-meter fractions were given as 22.3 and 23.5. Harbig's last European record was thus removed from the list. It will be interesting to note that Harbig's 46.0 was achieved on a 500-meter track at Frankfurt/Main in 1939, after Lanzi had set a terrific pace. Ignatyev's 46.0 at Moscow in 1955 was around two turns. Here are the 200-meter fractions for the three races:

Kaufmann (Cologne, 1959)	22.3 plus 23.5 = 45.8
Harbig (Frankfurt, 1939)	22.0 plus 24.0 = 46.0
Ignatyev (Moscow, 1955)	21.5 plus 24.5 = 46.0

Middle Distances: SCHMIDT 1:46.2, LEWANDOWSKI 1:46.5, ADAM 1:47.0

Within 24 hours, Rudolf Harbig lost his 20-year-old German records for 400 and 800 meters. The day after Kaufmann's 45.8, Sept. 20, Schmidt and Adam of Germany, Lewandowski and Makomaski of Poland used the Cologne 500-meter track to good advantage for one of history's greatest 800 meter battles. Makomaski had shown no glimpses of his 1958 form, so it was decided that he would set the pace for well-conditioned Lewandowski, who had proven so sharp at the distance against Dan Waern. By "sacrificing" Makomaski in this way, it was hoped that "Lewa" would take the sting out of the two Germans. In fact, Makomaski was out in front very early, followed by "Lewa", Adam and Schmidt, and passed the 400-meter mark in 53.2. In the backstretch "Lewa" jumped into the lead. Makomaski began to fade, but the two Germans only managed to pass him round the last turn. It was Adam who first drew closer to Lewandowski from the outside. The Pole had enough left to stave off the attack, but left the inside lane. Schmidt, who was by then in close attendance, lost no time in finding his way through the gap. "Lewa" just could not hold Schmidt, who soon had the inside lane all for himself. It was a ding-dong battle to the end, but positions did not

change. Pictures of the finish show Schmidt about two yards in front, with "Lewa" running on the edge of the third lane, ahead of Adam. The times were announced as 1:46.2, 1:46.5 and 1:47.0. New national records for both Germany and Poland. Estimated 400-meter fractions for Schmidt: 54 and 54.2. Makomaski was fourth in 1:53.8. Peter Adam, 23, ran the 400 in 47.3 and the 800 in 1:50.8 last year. In the present season, he has been Schmidt's master in most of the important races. Schmidt, however, was a 1:46.8 man in 1958. Born in Gross-Nebrau, West Prussia, on Aug. 9, 1931, Schmidt is 1.72 (5'7³/₄) and weighs 64 kilos (141 pounds). He emerged in 1955 when he placed fifth in the German title race in 1:51.2. He has been a sub-1:50 man since 1956.

(October 1959)

Hungarians Run 16:25.1

A Hungarian quartet lowered the world 4x1 mile relay record to 16:25.1 (which, of course, will be ratified as 16:25.2). Official record is 16:30.6 by an England team (1958), but early this year Australia, with Herb Elliott in the anchor leg, ran 16:25.6. The new mark was posted at Budapest on Sept. 29. Running with no opposition, on a windy and rather cold day, the Hungarians had Lajos Kovács in the lead-off leg, which he negotiated in 4:07.4. Béla Szekeres, 21-year-old comer, ran 4:07.6. But a lifeless Sándor Iharos could do no better than 4:09.2 in the third leg, so hopes of a new world record were cut to practically nil. But István Rózsavölgyi ran one of the greatest races of his career. After fractions of 58.0 (400m), 1:59.4 (800m), 3:01.4 (1200m) he gave all he had and completed his anchor leg after 4:00.9 --fabulous solo running. (Elliott ran 4:04.6 when Australia did 16:25.6 at Melbourne on March 22). The runner-up team, MTK, was clocked in 17:37.2.

An East German team composed of Arthur Hannemann, Rolf Meinelt, Hans Grodotzki, Siegfried Valentin, ran the 4x1500 meter relay in 15:14.2 at Potsdam, Sept. 12. Best-on-record is 15:11.4 by another East German team (1958). The record attempt failed when Grodotzki, a 29:08.8 10,000m man, got off to a hyperfast start in the third leg: 56.0 (400m), 1:58 (800m), inevitably fading to 3:48.8 by the end of it. Valentin ran a great 3:44.2 anchor leg.

Best European times in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays this year are 39.8 by Germany (Mahlendorf, Gamper, Lauer, Germar) at Cologne, Sept. 19, and 3:07.9 still by Germany (Oberste, Klappert, Kinder, Kaufmann) at Cologne, Sept. 20.

(October 1959)

A "Fertig"-Bang Affair

by R.L. Quercetani

Martin Lauer's 13.2 for 110 meter hurdles (Zurich, July 7) is being lively discussed on both sides of the Atlantic, and the Pacific as well. Since our report in the August issue, we've had several eyewitness reports from American and Italian sources, which essentially boil down to the fact that the start was a typical "fertig"-bang affair ("fertig" is the German equivalent of "get set"). Willie May, who was second in that race with 13.6 --two-tenths under his previous best in Germany, and three-tenths

under his fastest mark in the U.S.) is quoted by Hal Higdon as saying that before the race the other runners had warned him about the starter, obviously known to them as one of the "get-set-bang" type. (The circumstance of this sort of pre-race talk among competitors is confirmed by an eyewitness account in the official organ of the Italian Federation). Willie said that if they hadn't told him he would have been lost. So the starter said "fertig" and everybody rolled and the gun went off and Lauer ran 13.2 (as reported in the August issue, three other runners ran from 0.2 to 0.3 faster than they had ever done before, and yet another man tied his best ever). Willie thought that the race was probably worth 13.4. This, as Higdon remarks, would put Willie at about 13.8, which is probably right. May also said that "rolling start or not, Lauer will be a hard man to beat even for us fast Americans in Rome".

Bill Woodhouse, who barely won the 100 meters in the same meet from Müller of Switzerland and Schmidt of Poland (time for all, 10.4) is quoted by the A.C.C. sports news release as saying that he felt he could have run 10.2 on that occasion had he known the starter was so fast. According to Bill, there was no pause between the get-set command and the gun.

For our part, we discussed the matter with some German sports writers in Rome not so long ago. They stressed the point that Lauer had "optimal günstige Verhältnisse" (exceptionally favorable conditions) in Zurich --a strong field, a fast track, maximum allowable back wind (1.9 m/s). But they (one of them had seen the meet) denied the report that --on top of all that-- he also had the advantage of a rolling start.