

July 3, 1962

Dear Sir,

The United States has pulled another of its famous blunders in allowing an important international track meet to be conducted like a Sunday school picnic.

I am referring to the recent dual meet with Poland held in Chicago, a city which apparently did not realize the importance of this international meeting of track powers. The Chicago press all but ignored the meet, giving it one column coverage. Other cities such as Boston and New York treated it as it deserved to be with four and five column spreads.

The sponsor could not have been overly impressed with the meet since the track was not ready for competition at 4:30 Saturday afternoon, the scheduled starting time. Less than an hour before the meet the lane lines were marked with a white powder which was barely visible from the stands. The sector markings for the hammer and shot put could not be clearly seen from the stands. Competitors in both the broad jump and high jump were hindered in their attempts to warm up by workmen completing a job which should have been done hours before.

Once finally underway, the meet was marred with such things as special invitational events. One of these pitted two Chicago girls in a 400 meter race. An international dual meet is certainly no place for such an event.

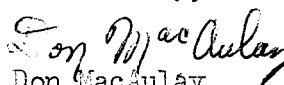
Throughout the afternoon workmen, dressed like bums, continued to get in the way of the competitors. One filthy looking character dressed in a dirty pair of Bermuda shorts and a T-shirt was in charge of maintaining the broad jump runway. He continually got in the way of the presentation of awards to the competitors. Other officials seemed to lack jobs and simply cluttered up the area. This was especially evident in the broad jump area where the official continually told them to clear the runway.

The officiating itself was terrible. The hammer throw and shot put judges apparently knew little about the events. They did not measure correctly, failing to extend the tape through the center of the circle. The broad jump official missed one of the Polish athlete's jumps completely when he was talking to someone away from the takeoff board. The high jump officials counted Gene Johnson's 7 foot $\frac{1}{2}$ inch leap even although the bar fell off immediately after he had seemingly cleared it. When since can the high jump standards have extensions rising above the surface of the bar? They did in Chicago.

Ever since driving 1000 miles to view this fiasco I have been wondering what the Polish competitors think off our international meets.

I know that with the proper promotion the United States can match any country in conducting these dual meets. I am certain we will prove this at Palo Alto with the Russian dual meet, and I am also sure that my 3000 mile trip to see it will be well worth the effort. I'm all for international competition but let's make sure a city that is worthy of putting on a decent meet gets the next one and not have any more Chicago picnics.

Yours truly,


Don MacAulay
Dorchester, Mass.