

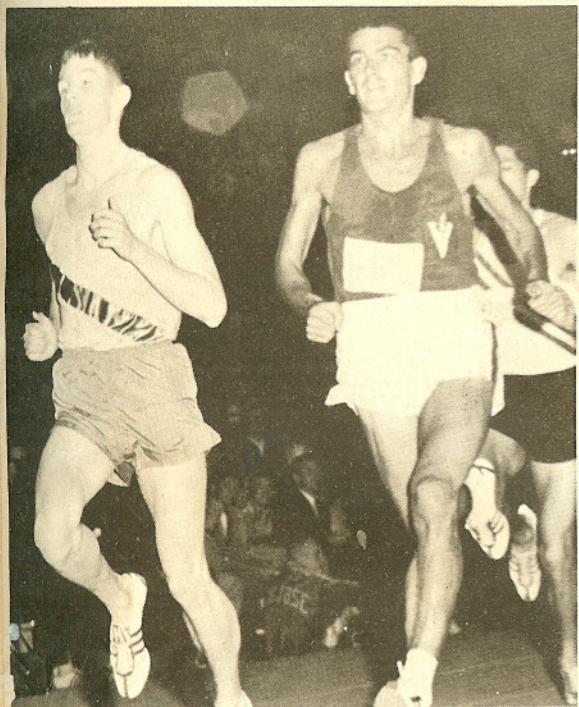
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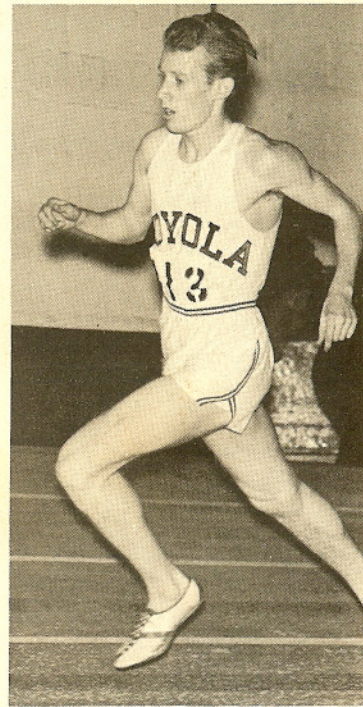
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GERRY LINDGREN (left) leads RON CLARKE and CHRIS WILSON in the two-mile run at the Golden Gate Indoor. Clarke beat Lindgren by 3.1 seconds, in 8:36.9. (Ken Yimm photo)



RON CLARKE (left) and GERRY LINDGREN take a victory lap. Clarke and Lindgren were voted co-athletes of the meet. (Ken Yimm photo)



TOM O'HARA broke Jim Beatty's mile record at the NYAC Games with an amazing 3:56.6. (Turk)

Gerry Does it Again

San Francisco Cow Palace, Feb. 15 - Incredible Gerry Lindgren, a 7-year-old high school senior, ran two miles in 8:40.0 to share the Outstanding Performer Award with the veteran Australian Ron Clarke, who ran 8:36.9.

Jeff Chase vaulted 16'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to press the two-milers for the favor of over 3,000 fans, and bald Darel Newman showed class with a three-foot victory over Herb Carper in a 6.1 sixty.

Lindgren set the pace, quick-striding through quarters of 61.7, 2:06.4, 3:12.7, and 4:19.7. The personable Clarke, who later said, "I kept trying to take the lead to share the work with him," took over briefly, but Lindgren would have none of that. His stride never faltered as he regained the lead to clock 5:25.3 and 6:30.7. Clarke, showing a beautifully even tempo all the way, displayed his power by moving into the lead with three laps to go. Looking as if he could run another mile, he ran his last 440 in 60.4 to Lindgren's 63.3.

Both runners broke 3000 meter records. Clarke's 8:05.4 is a new indoor mark, while Lindgren's 8:06.3 is a citizen's record.

Lindgren Olympics-Bound?

By RON REID
Times Sports Writer

They saved the best for the last in the second annual Golden Gate Invitational track meet at the Cow Palace Saturday night.

And as a result, America's distance running hopes took a prodigious step forward and an enthusiastic sellout crowd went away drained of emotion in wonder and astonishment.

Chief cause for both these developments was pint-sized 17-year-old Gerry Lindgren, the fantastic high school runner who may be one of the youngest members of this year's U. S. Olympic team.

Lindgren, running a faster two-mile race than ever believed possible for a high school lad, battled Australia's Ron Clarke shoulder to shoulder up to the gun lap and finished second to the Aussie star in an amazing eight minutes and 40

seconds.

Clarke, rated the greatest distance runner in the world, won the race in 8:36.9, utilizing experience to carry him to the wire ahead of the heart-swelling effort of the Spokane stripling.

Gerry's performance, which had heads shaking in disbelief and throats hoarse with pride, made the little whiz kid a co-winner of the meet's Most Valuable Athlete award with Clarke.

And today, track experts are not speculating so much as to whether Gerry can make the Olympic team, but whether or not he can win a medal in the Tokyo competition. After Saturday night, few will bet against him.

The Lindgren-Clarke competition added needed luster to what previously had been a somewhat disappointing meet for the crowd of 13,217.

With the cast decimated by

injuries, absences and other scratched entries, several publicized battles never materialized.

Prior to the two-mile, the best event on the evening's program was another Cow Palace victory for San Mateo County's Jeff Chase, currently in the throes of his best season in history.

The former Jefferson High School athlete won the Brian Sternberg Pole Vault, witnessed by the tragically injured athlete himself, with a best of life mark of 16 feet, 1½ inches.

Chase's previous best was a 16-foot effort in the Holiday Invitation at the Cow Palace on December 27. In winning the event, Chase beat out a field which included Ron Morris, Phil White and John Kramer, and his own Cow Palace record.

Sternberg, on hand to receive the award bearing his name for

faith, courage, inspiration, sportsmanship, and competitive performance, saw his first track meet since the accident which paralyzed him from the shoulders down last July, and also saw Chase break the meet record which he had set the year before.

The former Washington University star received two standing ovations from the crowd, who cheered him when he said, "I hope some day to win this trophy again, and with God's help, I believe I can."

Other local athletes were also prominent by their performances. Former College of San Mateo runner, Jim Groothoff, won the "Devil Take the Hindmost" mile, a sure crowd-pleaser, in a highly tactical time of 4:22.7.

The San Mateo County Girls' Athletic Association, with five

members entered in the race, slammed the women's 880, with diminutive Suzanne Pflieger scoring a two-yard victory over teammate Pat Daniels Winslow in 2:27.3. Terry Mathews and Cherie Simmons were third and fourth, respectively.

Hylke Van Der Wal, the hitchhiking Canadian, won the mile steeplechase in a record-breaking 4:25.5 and Fresno State's Charles Craig came through with a 50-4 mark in the triple jump in two other top efforts of the evening.

Miler Jim Beatty, making his 1964 indoor debut after being hampered by injuries, was a distant third in the mile in 4:13.4. The race was won by Morgan Groth in 4:07.9.

The meet ended the Bay Area indoor track season, which shows great promise for a solidly established future.

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Rising Star



Gerry Lindgren, the distance speedster from Spokane, Wash., leads winner Ron Clarke of Australia in the two-mile event of the Golden Gate Invitational Saturday night. Behind them is Chris Williamson of East York, Ont., Canada. Clarke won the race in 8:36.9. He and Lindgren were voted the athletes of the meet. The 17-year-old Lindgren's 8:40 clocking is considered outstanding. There is a chance the 115-pound runner could revamp U. S. distance records before the Olympics.

9.

High School Mile Run

8:57

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RECORD: 4:11.2, Tom Sullivan (St. George, Evanston, Illinois)

COW PALACE RECORD: 4:25.0, Mike Ryan (Wilcox, Santa Clara), 1963.

GOLDEN GATE INVITATIONAL RECORD: 4:25.0, Mike Ryan, (Wilcox, Santa Clara), 1963.

| ORDER | NAME | SCHOOL | HT. | WT. | AGE | CLASS | BEST MILE |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Ralph Gamez | Foothill, Hayward, Unat. | 5' 9" | 120 | 15 | So. | |
| 2. | Bert Nicholls | McClachthy, Sacramento, Unat. | 5' 6 ³ / ₄ " | 137 | 17 | Sr. | 4:28.0 |
| 3. | George Weed | Folsom, Unat. | 5' 7" | 125 | 17 | Sr. | 4:21.6 |
| 4. | Ken Howard | St. Ignatius, S.F., Unat. | 5' 8" | 140 | 17 | Sr. | 4:24.2 |
| 5. | Joe Biber | Buchser, Santa Clara, Unat. | 5' 11" | 135 | 17 | Sr. | 4:22.0 |
| 6. | Steve Brown | San Rafael, Unat. | 5' 10" | 145 | 17 | Sr. | 4:35.0 |
| 7. | Joe Singer | Lincoln, S.F., Unat. | 5' 11" | 140 | 16 | Sr. | 4:36.9 |
| 8. | Barry Waugaman | Cupertino, Unat. | 6' 1" | 150 | 16 | Jr. | 4:27.3 |
| 9. | Clyde Lehman | Watsonville, Unat. | 5' 4 ¹ / ₂ " | 118 | 17 | Sr. | 4:42.0 |

A number of the top prep milers in Northern California are entered in the high school mile, including sophomore

distance whiz Ralph Gamez. Pick a favorite and cheer him on.

Quarter Times: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

GERRY LINDGREN. As much attention will be focused on this kid as on any athlete in the meet. Unknown to the track world until Dec. 27, Lindgren was discovered in the Examiner meet when he blazed two miles in nine minutes even. This was 23.5 seconds under the all-time prep record, but the 5'6", 115 pound, 17-year-old was even more sensational three weeks later. Running against the world champion steeplechaser, Lindgren led for half the distance, then finished a sound second in 8:46.0, the best ever for a boy his age, indoor or out. Now an unassuming hero in Spokane, Washington, where he attends Rogers high, Gerry is the brightest young distance prospect this country has ever produced.