

by R.L. Quercetani

Record

Olympic silver medallist Claus Schiprowski of West Germany highlighted the 17th "Fest der Sportpresse" in Dortmund, January 18, with a new European indoor record in the pole vault: 5.21 (17'1"1/4). To the delight of the 14,000 spectators who filled the Westfalenhalle (site of the 1st European Indoor Games in 1966), Schiprowski made the record height on his first attempt. (The previous mark, 5.20 (17'0"3/4), was set in 1968 and stood to the credit of East Germany's Wolfgang Nordwig, the man who earned bronze in the dramatic Mexico final.) Apart from their clash in the Olympics, the two German aces never met during 1968 - a sad state of affairs, all too prevalent since the two sections of the country are separate entities in international sports as well.)

2. Engel
16'5"

Another European indoor best was credited to Ian Stewart of Britain: 8:32.2 for 2 miles at Cosford, February 1. Last year, at 19, Stewart topped the European junior ranks in the distance races. But in the English AAA Indoor Championships at Cosford, January 11, he could do no better than third in the 3,000 meters, won by Ian McCafferty in 8:08.4 from Ricky Wilde (8:09.6) and Stewart (8:11.0).

The best event in the early part of the European indoor campaign was probably the high jump. The Russians, apparently stunned as well as stung by Fosbury's Mexico trick, seem to be thirsty for revenge. As of February 5, six of them had gone 2.11 (6'11"1/8) or higher, and the group included neither Gavrilov nor Skvortsov. Anatoliy Moroz cleared 2.15 (7'0"5/8) at Berdichev, Jan. 5, where Rustam Akhmyetov, 19, was second at 6'11"1/8. This Ukrainian town has a famous school of sports for youths and has been lately regarded as the Mecca of young Russian high jumpers. Other marks made elsewhere in the country include: 6'11"1/2 by Herman Kutyanin (Tashkent, Jan. 19), again 6'11"1/2 by Aleksandr Bakumyenko and Jüri Tarmak (Leningrad, Jan. 21) and finally 6'11"1/8 by Vladimir Ryekshan, 19 (Leningrad, Feb. 2). In West Germany, Gunter Spielvogel lost to Hartmut Zacharias, a son of the famous violinist, on the tries' and failures' count, after both had cleared 6'11"7/8 (Dortmund, Jan. 18).

Other marks made in various parts of Europe: 50m - Jürgen Sitter and Michael Sauer (both WG) 5.6 (Mainz, Jan. 25); 800m - Bob Adams 1:51.1, John Greatrex 1:51.3 (Cosford, Jan. 11); 1500 m - Mathias Seidler (EG) 3:46.4, Dieter Fromm (EG) 3:46.5 (Berlin, Feb. 2), Walt Wilkinson (GB) 3:49.3 (Cosford, Jan. 11); 3,000 m - Dieter Herrmann (EG) 8:02.4, Wolfgang Hanschke (EG) 8:03.2 (Berlin, Feb. 2); 5,000 m - Anatoliy Morozov 14:09.6 (Moscow, Jan. 29); 50mHH - Wolfgang Linkmann (WG) 6.8, Horst Beyer (WG) 6.8; 60mHH - Alan Pascoe (GB) 7.8 (Cosford, Jan. 11); PV - Yuriy Isakov (SU) 16'5" (Sverdlovsk, Jan. 12), 16'5" Heinfried Engel (WG) (2nd at Dortmund, Jan. 18), 16'3" Mike Bull (GB) (Cosford, Jan. 11); LJ - Klaus Beer (EG) 25'4"1/4 (Berlin, Feb. 2); TJ - Boris Aleksandrov (SU) 51'8"1/2 (Moscow, Jan. 25), Michael Sauer (WG) 51'8" (Mainz, Jan. 25); SP - Hans-Joachim Rothenburg 60'4", Gerd Lochmann 59'10"1/4, Hartmut Briesenick 59'0"3/4, all EG (Berlin, Feb. 2), Bill Tancred (GB) 57'1"1/2 (Loughborough, Jan. 21).

INDIA

Praveen Kumar, the only good weightman that has so far appeared

in the vast subcontinent of India, continues to improve, albeit slowly. At Bangalore, he threw the discus 180'5" on Jan. 4 and the hammer 215'7", the latter being a new Indian record. This young giant first earned an international reputation at Kingston in 1966, when he placed second in the hammer at the Commonwealth Games. He was 19 at the time.