

Brother Aids Jimmy Rogers In 54th Municipal Games

Balt. Sun 4/25/66

By JACK DAWSON

Because the legs that once propelled him to victory in schoolboy crosscountry races belong forever to a Viet Cong land mine, 23-year-old Eugene Roberts must be content to coach his twin brother Jimmy from the sidelines at track meets like yesterday's 54th annual Municipal Games at Northwestern High.

Well, not exactly from the sidelines. Although he couldn't run in the two-mile like his brother, Eugene stationed himself in the middle of the track after the first lap and called out encouragement to Jimmy around the oval.

In high school it had been different. While Eugene was a winner at Forest Park, Jimmy never finished better than 15th for Carver in a major Maryland Scholastic Association race and admits he never bothered to train much for the meets.

TIES Boston Marathon

However, that changed seven months ago when he decided to run in the Boston Marathon. He started running several miles a day, sometimes 10 or 15 miles to prove he was serious.

Miraculously, Jimmy actually finished the 2y-mile torture test five minutes inside the time needed to win a certificate for the accomplishment. It now has a treasured spot on his bedroom wall.

In yesterday's competition, which featured two record-breaking and two record-equaling performances, the running of Jimmy Roberts stole the show.

Now Pair Of Shoes

Frist, he entered the grueling six-mile run. Wearing beaten-up basketball shoes and a makeshift track suit, he stayed with the leaders for three miles and fought off the leaden feeling in his legs to finish sixth in a respectable 35 minutes and 40 seconds.

"Look son, you can't run like that," coach Alex Woodley of the Philadelphia Pioneers said later.

"Come to the next meet and I'll bring you a pair of track shoes," (Woodley confided, "I don't care who he is. "It's pure torture to run in shoes like that.")

and Lou Clark, unattached, were also inside Davenport's time.

Eric Howard, of the Chesapeake Track Club, broke the meet high jump record with a 6-9½ effort, erasing the 6-8 mark shared by David Morris and Bruce Springer of the BOC.

Ralph Jones, of Sports International, burned to a 9.4 clocking in the 100-yard dash after three false starts to equal Dave Johnson's 1964 mark. Sarah Callaway, of Dave's Speedsters, earlier matched the 11-second record of Kathy Corwin (Long Island Mercury Club) set in 1963.

Billy Neely, a grade 11 student running for the Pioneers, took the 440-yard run in 48.9, prompting at least one critic to question why there were only a couple of Baltimore area prep athletes entered in a fine meet. Fred Leidig was meet director.

Team standings—1. BOC, 79; 2. Pioneers, 35; 3. Sports International, 33; 4. Ft. Meade, 17; 5. Unattached, 14; 6. Chesapeake, 8; 7. Cumberland Valley, 8; Galaudet, 6; 9. Bruce Track Club, 5; 10. Cross City, 5; 11. Scott, 2; 12. Long Island, 2; 13. Towson State, 2; 14. Penn. A.C., 2; 15. Bethlehem Center, 1.

Hammer—1. Ed McCommas, BOC; 2. Eric Hoyt, Sports International; 3. Ed Rosenberg, BOC; 4. Luther Pruitt, Ft. Meade—1:48.

Javelin—1. Steve Stahovic, Bruce; 2. Ken Christian, BOC; 3. Harry Schneider, Long Island; 4. David Mack, Ft. Meade—27.5.

Discus—1. Gary Parsons, BOC; 2. Ed McCommas, BOC; 3. Jerry Weinger, Sports International; 4. Henry Davenport, BOC—161.9.

440 intermediate hurdles—1. Nick Lee, BOC; 2. George Washington, Ft. Meade; 3. Gene Williams, unattached; 4. Buddy Jones, Sports International—51.6.

Six-mile run—1. Baxter Berryhill, BOC; 2. Mike Sabino, BOC; 3. Joe Rouse, BOC; 4. James Ebberts, Cumberland—32:27.

Shot put—1. Ernie Howard, unattached; 2. Ed McCommas, BOC; 3. Gary Parsons, BOC; 4. Charles Washington, Pioneers—56:10.2.

High jump—1. Eric Howard, Chesapeake; 2. Mike Parker, BOC; 3. Lloyd Sigler, Towson; 4. Gary Culbertson, BOC—6:9.2.

Mile—1. Jim Kidd, BOC; 2. George Minarik, BOC; 3. Wayne Vaughn, Cumberland; 4. Steve Baldwin, Galaudet—4:18.6.

440-yards—1. Billy Neely, Pioneers; 2. Thad Fletcher, Sports International; 3. Gordon Fauntleroy, Pioneers; 4. Mike Bell, Ft. Meade—48.9.

120-yard high hurdles—1. Handsome Wearing, Pioneers; 2. Tyrone Brown, Sports International; 3. Lou Clark, Unattached; 4. Ken Moore, Pioneers—13.7.

A few minutes later, Jimmy came back to compete in the mile against the likes of eventual winner Jim Kidd of the Baltimore Olympic Club, a beautiful-conditioned, trained veteran. To his credit, Jimmy did not get discouraged when everyone in the field passed him but hung in the finish in about five minutes.

Finishes Race

The two-mile field was assembling at the starting point when Jimmy decided to enter. Although lapped by the eventual winner, veteran Frank Pflaging, of the BOC, he again demonstrated both stamina and courage to finish the race.

Another three-event competitor was Jimmy's buddy, 25-year-old Alfred Snowden who was running strictly for the "fun of it" but managed a fourth in the mile walk, a 37-minute six-mile, and a temporary lead in the first lap of the two-mile before dropping from the race.

"I'm looking for a coach," Jimmysaid. "You know I felt like jumping off one of those bridges into the water during the marathon but I was so proud when I finished the race I decided to take it up more seriously."

Also on hand offering sideline support was Jimmy's wife Barbara and nine-month-old son James (Butch). "I like to see him run," Barbara said while quieting her son with a bottle. "In fact, I've been running a little too now that he's started."

BOC Wins Team Honors

Teh BOC rolled to a team victory in the meet with 79 points, far ahead of the Pioneers, 35, Sports International, 33, and Fot. Meade, 17.

Handsome Wearing, of the Pioneers, blazed to a 13.7 meet record in the 110-yard high hurdles, cracking Willie Davenport's 13.9 standard set in 1965 as a member of the United States Army team. Tyrone Brown of Sports International

Re: Handsome Wearing's 13.7
in Municipal Games

(add)

1535 Ralworth Rd
Baltimore, Md 21218

Dear Joe, Baltimore 6/21

The South Atlantic Assn does not own an anemometer (naturally). I called weather and wind for that day in question was gusting 6-10 mph "At the airport" which is well outside of town.

~~Wearing's time was, however, very likely wind aided. The 100 went in 9.4 to Tyrone Brown, by far his year's fastest and Dave Jender ran 9.7 in his first meet in a month after an injury. Nick Lee also had a 9.7 and that's his best in years. The 220, run against the wind was 22.4 by Sam Thornton who did 21.6 2 weeks before. I suspect that this evidence, while not empirical, strongly suggests a wind in excess of the limit!~~

Sincerely,
Jay Duns
Baltimore Olympic Club