

Quarrie, Williams ready for duel

Good show for Examiner Games

By Jim Bainbridge

The man who is recognized as the world's greatest sprinter and the man who believes he should be, will be matched at the Cow Palace Jan. 21 in the 14th annual Examiner Games track and field meet. It is Donald Quarrie vs. Steve Williams in a renewal of one of the great rivalries in the sport.

After having won the 200 meters in the Montreal Olympics and earned the silver medal at 100 meters, Quarrie can hardly be denied his place as best in the world. He came within two-hundredths of a second of taking both golds. No one else even got a medal in both races.

It was a particularly noteworthy accomplishment since everyone *expected* Quarrie to win, especially at 200 meters where he shares the world record for hand timing (19.8) and held the No. 1 world ranking at the start of the year.

The only nagging question Quarrie has to live with, of course, is would it have been different if Williams had been in the Games? A hamstring pull kept Williams out of the U.S. Olympic Trials and his absence from the Games deprived the track nuts the showdown they had long awaited and left doubts — even in Quarrie's mind.

"The important thing is to be there for the final," said Quarrie, who was, himself, knocked out of the Olympics by injury in 1968 and 1972. "One can never tell for sure what will happen in a race, but I think I would have beaten Steve. All I can say is that I ran eight races and won two medals and I am satisfied."

Understandably, Williams is anything *but* satisfied. Ranked No. 1 in the world for 100 meters after a brilliant '75 season, Williams competed even better this year, twice equalling the world record of 9.9 seconds, running a windy 9.8 and going unbeaten.

The 200 meters? Williams had twice been ranked No. 1 in the world and was second only to Quarrie in 1975, losing the season series to D.Q. by 5-4. The experts rated him no worse than a silver medalist in each race, gave him an excellent chance to win them both.

Instead he got zip, zilch, nothing and now has the distinction of being the only man in the all-time top 10 not to have won a medal in the last three Olympiads.

"You can't even begin to know how I feel," Williams said at the time. "I ran those (Olympic) races a million times in my head. I was looking for a masterpiece in Montreal. It was something important enough for me to put out from start to finish. Just



Steve Williams and Donald Quarrie in a previous engagement

being there would have triggered an all-out effort.

"I won't die because I didn't make it, because I know the Lord didn't mean for me to die over it. But it's so sad because of all the things I can do and have done. To get as far as I have and then get hurt. I hadn't even had an injury in four years . . ."

So, now Williams is starting over again, getting himself ready to show Quarrie, Hasley Crawford, Houston McTear, Millard Hampton and all the rest what would have happened at Montreal.

And while the indoor 60 he will be running here is not his favorite event, Williams will be going all out to get his crusade off on the right foot.

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