



Mary Decker Tabb waves to crowd

By DOUG SPECK

February 19, 1982. San Diego.

On Friday evening, February 19, Al Franken's Track and Field promotion expertise headed south as he presented his sixteenth annual "Jack-in-the-Box" Invitational Indoor Meet at the San Diego Sports Arena. As a Los Angeleno myself, it is a bit of a hassle to get two hours south on a Friday evening, but myself and the other smog city-ers who I see down here every year have never been disappointed. 1982 was no exception. Whether it's the fact that most athletes have a number of indoor competitions under their belt or that mid-February is pretty close to the spring outdoor season (I have a feeling it's a bit of both) athletes generally go crazy here.

Three world bests and a fourth one they are probably still debating about highlighted an evening of exciting competition. Mary Decker continues to run faster, her 4:20.5 in the mile here lowered her own 4:21.47 World Best. Field eventers Billy Olson (pole vault) at 18-9½ and local hero (he prepped in nearby Oceanside) Willie Banks (triple jump) at 57-1¼ also broke World Records. A women's 60 yard dash featured as much immediate controversy as ever surrounded a track event that this writer has seen. Evelyn Ashford raced to a 6.48 World Best in a confusing race where half the field never got out of the blocks. The usually exciting men's mile and two mile were that way again, as Doug Padilla took care of the American Record in the longer race at 8:16.8, and John Walker rocketed away from the field in the mile during the last lap to win in 3:52.8.

16th Annual San Diego Jack-in-the-Box Invitational

It is unfortunate when controversy gains most of the headlines, but the women's 60 had it here. Remember we are now dashing for cash here—no longer running for the tough-to-figure-out under-the-table money. As part of the Jean Nate series of races the winner here received \$3000, second \$1400, and third \$800. While the athletes were taking their marks in a top field that included Evelyn Ashford, Jeanette Bolden and Alice Brown, they were suddenly called to the set position in a shockingly short time. It appeared Alice Brown took a deliberate false start to shut the thing down, but there was no second gunshot fired after the starter's pistol cracked the first time. Ashford, her strange sprint style making it tough to figure if she was even going all out, romped to a three yard win over Diane Williams, with neither Brown nor Bolden getting more than ten yards down the track. UCLA/Wilt's AC sprint coach Bob Kersee was a bit miffed, to put it mildly, and even Wilt Chamberlain himself came out of the stands to join the debate. The possibility of a re-run was considered, then the announcement that Ashford had run 6.48 and broken Bolden's 6.60 World Best fueled the fires more. Mr. Franken, with his "the shoe must go on" attitude, said to let the results stand. It seems that under TAC rules, as unpopular decision as it was, as the situation occurred that was the correct judgment to make.

Mary Decker continues to let no one down, as she chipped away further at her mile time. Going against the clock, as usual, she raced 64.4-2:08.4-3:15.1 quarter splits on the way to a super 4:20.5 (4:03.0 1500m). Back near the end of the pack, prep Polly Plumer (unattached from University

photo by Richard Lee Slotkin



John Walker wins the mile

High School in Irvine) tried to hang on through 68.2-2:17.9-3:31.2 quarter posts before recording an excellent 4:45.9.

Willie Banks has the potential to be America's most popular track and field athlete. Be-bopping to a pocket stereo between jumps the very animated Athletics West star's every movement shows the absolute delight and enjoyment he gets from his triple jump event. Here he spanned 54-10¼ and 55-10 before sailing out to an astounding 57-1¼ World Best.

As the evening wound down Billy Olson had the crowd's attention as he continued to edge the indoor pole vault best towards 19 feet with an 18-9½ clearance. The Texan had a couple of good jumps at 19 feet.

Doug Padilla looked "out of this world" powerful during the two mile. After plenty of company through a 4:10.7 mile, at which time Thom Hunt put in a burst which kept the pace honest through a 5:13.5 fifth quarter post, Padilla said good-by. Building up steadily during the final three-quarters of a mile (covered in 3:03.3) Padilla sailed in an easy winner at 8:16.8 (lowering Steve Prefontaine's 8:20.4 American Record). Padilla's last mile was 4:06.1, his last quarter mile 58.4.

The men's mile was very interesting. Rabbit Eddie Davis moved out through a 56.6 first quarter mile, but let things drag as the big pack came by the 880 together at 1:57.8. Steve Scott, with his new "dictate from the front" strategy, then took over and pressed through a 2:56.1 1320. He stayed in front until one lap to go, where his close company, John Walker, Ray Flynn, and Tom Byers, closed in for the kill. At the start of the last backstretch Walker was the first to charge by, then Byers and Flynn edged past Scott. Walker seemed to be taking out recent frustrations during that last lap as ended up at 3:52.8, with Byers 3:53.6, Flynn 3:54.1, and Scott 3:55.0.

In other women's events UCLA/Wilt's AC LaShon Nedd and Debbie Brill were winners. A Coach Scott Chisam recruit out of Dallas, Nedd looks as if she can do a super job from the sprints up through the quarter. Here she held off her teammate, Arlise Emerson, in impressive style as the duo moved to near the top of the all-time 500 yard list at 1:03.5-1:03.6. The World Best is 1:03.3. Brill continued her high jump string of wins with a 6-2¼ triumph on misses over Colleen Rienstra.

In other field events Dwight Stones and Larry Myricks jumped to wins. Stones was domineering over the field here with a 7-5½ high jump, while Myricks was an easy long jump winner at 26-7¼.

In the 880 Don Paige handled Mark Belger and the field in an instant replay of the LA Times 1000. Following pacer Duane Wycoff through a 54.0 440, Paige sat on Belger until a lap to go before pulling away to a fine

1:48.6 win. Randy Wilson edged past Belger for second in a fine 1:49.0.

Arizona State's Ron Brown handled USC frosh, Darwin Cook, and the field in 50 and 60 yard dashes. A 5.2 took the 50, while only .02 separated Brown and Cook (6.13-6.15) over 60 yards.

Indoor vet Tony Darden (Philadelphia Pioneer) edged Scott Poehling 62.7-62.9 in a 500 meter race.

One note this writer feels compelled to add. I wonder what Willie Banks, Doug Padilla and Tom Byers would be achieving were it not for the support of Nike through Athletics West? The shoe company's support has really raised the stock of American track and field.

Results

Women

60 Yards:
 1 Ashford(Medalist TC) 6.48
 2 Williams(La Naturite) 6.76
 3 Akimoto(Japan) NT

500:
 1 Nedd(UCLA/Wilt's AC) 1:03.5
 2 Emerson(UCLA/Wilt's AC) 1:03.6
 3 Gardner(LA Mercuertes) 1:04.5
 4 Gutowski(UCLA/LA Merc) dnf

Mile:
 1 Decker(Athletics West)World Best 4:20.5
 2 Larrieu(New Balance TC) 4:32.7
 3 Hansen(Athletics West) 4:33.9
 4 Twomey(Athletics West) 4:34.7
 5 Joyce(SD State) 4:38.4
 6 Plumer(un/Univ HS, Irvine) 4:45.9

High Jump:
 1 Brill(PacCstClub) 6-2 1/4
 2 Reinstra(Wilts AC) 6-2 3/4
 3 Huntley(PCC) 6- 3/4
 4 Fukumitsu(Japan) 5-10 7/8
 5 Stafford(SD State/Vita Plus) 5-8 1/4

Men

50:
 1 Brown(Ariz State) 5.2
 2 Cook(USC) 5.3
 3 McTear(Wilts AC) 5.3
 4 Brown(UCLA) 5.4
 5 Shields(SD State) 5.4

60:
 1 Brown(Ariz State) 6.13
 2 Cook(USC) 6.15
 3 McTear(Wilts AC) 6.20
 4 Okodogbe(Ariz) 6.30
 5 Shields(SD State) 6.35
 6 Brown(UCLA) 6.42

500 Meters:
 1 Darden(Phila Pioneers) 62.7
 2 Poehling(PCC) 62.9
 3 Wiley(un) 63.9
 4 Henley(Ariz State) 64.0
 5 Blaylock(SD State) 65.2

880:
 1 Paige(Ath Attic) 1:48.6
 2 Wilson(Ath West) 1:49.0
 3 Belger(PCC) 1:49.9
 4 Paez(Spain) 1:50.4
 5 Theriot(un) 1:51.0

Mile:
 1 Walker(New Zealand) 3:52.8
 2 Byers(Athletics West) 3:53.6
 3 Flynn(Ireland) 3:54.1
 4 Scott(Sub-4) 3:55.0
 5 Gonzales(Sp) 3:56.8
 6 Nemeth(Austria) 3:57.4
 7 Wessinghage(W Germany) 3:59.5
 8 Maree(Athletics Attic) 4:00.1

Two Mile:
 1 Padilla(Ath West)American Record (3000 - 7:46.5) 8:16.8
 2 Fell(SD State) 8:22.7
 3 Cummings(New Bal TC) 8:25.2
 4 Royle(Great Britain) 8:25.9
 5 Assuma(UCR) 8:28.7
 6 Hunt(Athletics West) (Hunt's time off my Chronomix) 8:30.6

High Jump:
 1 Stones(PCC) 7-5 1/2
 2 Goode(Coll of Alameda) 7-2
 3 Schieffer(SD State) 7-2
 4 Caire(USC) tie 6-10
 Balkin(UCLA) tie 6-10
 Gonzalves tie 6-10

Long Jump:

1 Myricks(Athletic Attic) 26-7 1/4
 2 Tave(USC) 24-3
 3 Countryman(SD State) 22-9
 4 Brajevich(SD State) 21-4 1/2

Pole Vault:

1 Olson(PCC)World Best 18-9 1/2
 2 Bell(PCC) 18-4 1/2
 3 Hintnaus(SoCalStriders)tie 17-6
 Kenworthy(USC) tie 17-6

Triple Jump:


1 Banks(Athletics West)World Best 57-1 1/4
 2 Marlow(Stars & Stripes TC) 54-4
 3 Benson(UCLA) 52-11

4 Kimble(Bay Area Striders) 52-4 1/4
 5 Mayfield(Ariz State) 51-3 1/4
 6 Gary(SD State) 49-10 1/4
Junior College Mile Relay:
 1 Palomar 3:24.7
 2 Mesa 3:28.0
 3 Grossmont 3:28.1
 4 Southwestern 3:28.8

SALE! chronomix

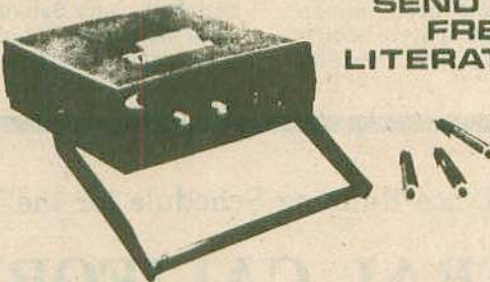
415/341-3119
 Leads the race in electronic sports timing!

\$1845 Includes 9-Lane Cable Complex



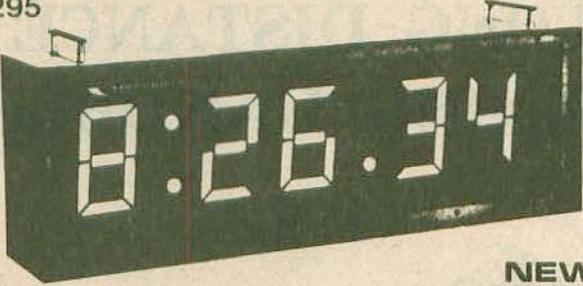
A rectangular electronic device with a digital display showing '8:26.34'. It has several buttons and a dial on the front panel. A cable is connected to the top.

\$845 SEND FOR FREE LITERATURE



A smaller rectangular electronic device with a digital display showing '8:26.34'. It has a few buttons and a dial. Two pens are shown next to it.

\$1295 NEW



A large rectangular electronic device with a digital display showing '8:26.34'. It has a handle on top and a keyboard on the front.

CC721 Nine Lane Printing Timer (Top Photo)
 Portable and battery operated, the Compusport 721 times to 1/100 second for split times, cross country, or time by lane. A built-in memory lets you read intermediate and lap times as well as totals. Features: LCD running time display and battery life indicator.

CC707 Economy Printing Timer (Middle Photo)
 Prints place and time for an unlimited number of runners. Prints splits and gives total; also prints sequential and cumulative times. CC707 times to 1/10 second and operates on rechargeable batteries (charger included).

CC601 Run Time Clock (Bottom Photo)
 This new Run Time Clock has 6" Day-Glo digits that can be seen up to 400' distant. Shows hours, minutes, seconds (or 1/100's in split mode). It operates 75 hours on an internal set of D-size batteries. An easy-to-use keyboard sets all functions and preset times.

JACK'S ATHLETIC SUPPLY
BOX 612 - SAN MATEO, CA 94401