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Editors: Norris D. McWhirter

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A. Ross McWhirter

JOHNSON ADDS 96 PTS. TO MATHIAS DECATHLON WORLD RECORD AT 7,983! HELD THROWS JAVELIN 268'2 1/2"

By NORRIS McWHIRTER

Four more world records toppled in the three weeks before mid summer's day.

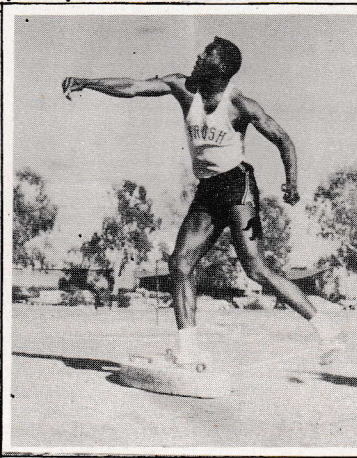
On the hot balmy Californian night of May 21st at the 13th Modesto Relays, made famous by Warmerdams unapproached 15ft. 7 3/4 in. pole vault in 1942, Bud Held added nearly 5 feet to his 1953 javelin record (263'10") with a titanic throw of 268' 2 1/2". Owing to the marker lines being 10 feet out he did not know he had broken the record until the final measuring operations were begun. In the same programme the Texas Longhorns clamped down on the ancient 1938 world 4x 110 yard relay record of 40.5 with a tornado 40.2 secs. to beat Houston (40.4) by two yards.

Dean Smith, the Helsinki finalist, set the pace with a tremendous lead-off leg. Alvin Frieden and Jerry Prewitt protected the margin with sweet baton-passing and great fire while Bobby Whilden held off Larry McBride of Houston in a powerful last anchor stage to win by two yards.

In many ways the season's ninth world record at Kingsburg, California on June 10/11 by the big 19 year old negro Rafer Johnson was the greatest, for Bob Mathias's almost sacrosanct world decathlon total of 7,887 point became a back number.

The scene of this extraordinary feat of strength and versatility was in a little town in the San Joaquin Valley only 25 miles from Mathias's birthplace of Tulare.

Johnson fired his opening shot with a 10.5 secs. to equal Milt Campbell's all-time decathlon 'record' and so gain 1,125 pts. He was now 179 pts. ahead of Mathias's opening score for a 10.9 secs. 100 metres at Helsinki and never looked back. Johnson now added a 24'6 3/4" (also a personal best) long jump, a 45'3 1/4" shot putt, a 6'0 3/4" high jump and a 49.7 sec. 400 metres for the greatest 1st. day total on record- 170 more than Mathias's at Helsinki. After a 14.5 hurdle gambol, Rafer got within 1/4" of his discus best, then that with best in the pole vault and javelin. He needed a 5:18.0 1,500 metre for the record and his best was a depressing 5:23.0. When it came to it he turned in a great 5:01.5.



The world's greatest all-round athlete RAFER JOHNSON, the University of California 19 year old freshman (see left)



BOB SEAMAN, 19, the U.S. 4:01.4 miling sensation-another U.C.L.A. freshman.

SANTEE JUST WINS IN 4:01.2, SEAMAN 4:01.4 & DWYER 4:01.8 AT COMPTON'S GREATEST.

In the words of statistician Don Potts writing in our famous contemporary "Track & Field News" -"U.S.A. 1955-even before the N.C.A.A. and A.A.U. meets-has already clobbered U.S.A. 1954". Dreamers in Russia, or anywhere else for that matter, who think that they will win gold medals at Melbourne in the traditional American preserves will have to return to stark reality.

World class marks were legion on June 3 at the 16th and greatest yet Compton (California) Invitational meeting. Wes Santee continued his battering at the brass bound door of the four minute mile without success. As it was his 4:01.2 headed by only a yard the greatest mile race yet seen in the United States. Bobby Seaman, who is still just in his teens, (see below) coming very fast from the back was a short yard down in 4:01.4 (remember the record set by that chap Hagg way way back in Sweden in 1945), with Fred Dwyer, one of Franz Stampf's pupils by correspondence, who led at the bell (3:03.6), third in 4:01.8. Sid Wing was fourth in 4:08.8. Seaman's 1,500m/mile differential was a sensational 15.5 seconds. Compare that with Landy's 16.2 at Turku and Bannister's 16.4 at Oxford.

Santee did not win the "Outstanding Performance Trophy" -that went to Horace Ashenfelter, Olympic steeplechase champion, for his American record of 8:49.6 for the two miles. Ferando Ledesma of the University of Southern California was second in 8:56.4 the fastest ever collegiate 2 miles ever.

Mal Whitfield, now in the 7th year of his Olympic reign as monarch of two laps, set his second fastest 880 yards with 1:48.9. Iang Stanley pushed Mal all the way returning 1:49.0-another Collegiate best of all-time.

J.W. Mashburn ran a No 5 of all-time 440y in 46.5 just holding off a thrilling stretch drive by Russ Ellis caught in 46.6-the fastest "n" mark of all time.

As if all this were not enough, Ernie Shelton only brushed off the high jump bar at 7' 0 3/8" after clearing 6'10"; Rafer Johnson, the Decathlon "wonder boy", turned in a 22.9 second 220 yards low hurdles; and for the first time three men cleared 14' 9" in the pole vault -Richards (15'0"), and Ron Morris and Don Laz both 14'9".

Quite a meeting! American report p.150.

Iharos Runs 8:33.4

White City, London May 30. Hungary's 25 year old Sándor Iharos ended the "After you Gaston" era here today with a pulverizing 8:33.4 two miles. After being towed to a record 6:31.1 1 1/2 miles (64.0, 63.7, 63.1, 66.4 (4:17.2), 67.3 and 66.6) by Tábori, Iharos piled on an amazing 2:02.3 last half (61.1, 61.2) to run away from Ken Wood who finished second in the British Empire record time of 8:34.8.

This was the highlight of the two day Whitsun British Games. No 3,000 metre time was taken due to the timekeepers being on station a lap too early. Third in the race, behind Wood who had never beaten 9:00.0, was Tony Barrett with 8:45.8, 7th of all-time.

JOHNSON-MATHIAS COMPARED				
100 Metres	1,125	10.5s.	10.9s.	948
Long Jump	960	24' 6 3/4"	22'10 3/4"	779
Shot Putt	750	45' 3 1/4"	50' 2 3/8"	912
High Jump	829	6' 0 3/4"	6' 2 3/4"	900
400 metres	868	49.7s.	50.2s.	828
1st Day Total	4,533			4,367
110 m. Hurdles	953	14.5s.	14.7s.	894
Discus Throw	849	154'10 3/4"	153'10"	838
Pole Vault	681	12' 8 1/2"	13' 1 3/8"	745
Javelin	713	193'10 3/8"	194' 3 1/8"	715
1,500metres.	251	5:01.5s.	4:50.8s.	328
Total	7,980*			7,887

(N.B. Extra 3 pts. probably due to wrong 100m.pts) CONT. Inside.

SURVEY OF THE "MAN-KILLER" EVENT

AMERICA DOMINATES THE 400 mtrs.-440 yds. HURDLES

By Ross McWhirter

For our fifth survey of an event I have chosen the 400 metres/440 yards Hurdles. My only reason is that I am genuinely intrigued to see what happens when it is thoroughly analysed. This is the event dubbed by Dean B. Cronwell, the well known U.S.A. Olympic and Southern California (University) coach, "the man-killer of track and field". Its history has an important bearing on this survey.

Until comparatively recently the 400 metres hurdles (10 flights at 3 feet) could -although a standard Olympic event since 1900 (except 1912)-fairly be classed with the hammer throw and hop, step and jump as an unusual event. It seems that organisers of meeting did not favour it for one reason or other. Most important also is that in common with the two field events already mentioned this event is not on the usual American University and College schedule. The 220 yards low hurdles are favoured. If the Olympic event had been a regular one in the United States it would be fair to assume that their dominance would be much more overwhelming than it already is. It is just because it is so tough that athletes in their teens rarely have an opportunity to try their hand at it.

The pattern of this survey follows the previous ones exactly except that to add to the interest each competitor's best time is also given for the period under review. If he subsequently improved it the fact is noted. The qualifying marks for "world class" are 53.0 secs. for the full 440 yards event and 52.6 secs. for the metric event. Most authorities accept the differential at 0.3 secs. instead of my 0.4 secs. I prefer the longer interval because, although to use 0.3s may be sound mathematics, in actual practice 0.4s is the more usual actual differential. When a performer qualifies over a quarter of a mile the fact is indicated by a "*" after the time.

The position at the end of the 1948 Olympic season was as follows :-

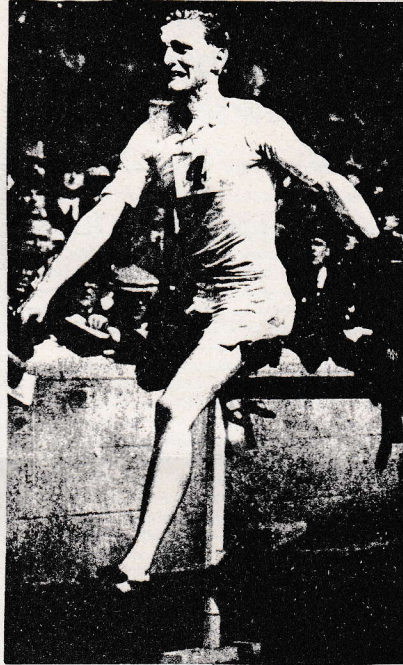
U.S.A.	26	Hardin(50.6), Cochran(51.1), (Joseph) Patterson(51.6), McBain(51.6), Ault(51.7-later 51.4), Schofield(51.7), Smith(51.8), Kirk(51.9), Walker(51.9) * Taylor(52.0), Simmons(52.0), Riley(52.1), Saling(52.1), Cuhel(52.2), Benke(52.2), (Estel) Johnson(52.2), Cummins(52.2), Meanix(52.6y), (Jack) Patterson(52.3), Erwin(52.3), Hofacre(52.7y), Snyder(52.4), Morrow(52.4), Doak(52.4), Gray(52.4), Gibson(52.6).
SWEDEN	3	(Rune) Larsson(51.9), Pettersson(52.4), (Sixten) Larsson(52.4).
GERMANY	2	Halling(51.6), Glaw(52.0).
FRANCE	2	Arifon(51.6), Cros(52.5).
EIRE	1	Tisdall(51.7)
CEYLON	1	White(51.8)
Great Britain	1	Burghley(52.2)
Finland	1	Storskrubb(52.2)
Italy	1	Facelli(52.4)
Canada	1	Loaring(52.9y)

Thus the all-time list after the first post war Olympic Games season shows 10 countries contributing 39 men. The United States had exactly twice as many world class men over this distance as the rest of the world put together. The rather poor development of the long hurdles race in shown by number of the above performances actually achieved in Olympic competition.

The elapse of four more seasons shows the arrival of 20 new world class performers of which less than half are Americans-so the rest of world is just beginning to start catching up.

ADDITIONS DURING THE FOUR SEASONS 1949-1952.

U.S.A.	35	+Moore(50.7), Yoder(51.4), Devinney(51.7), Blackmon(51.7), Frazier(52.0), Halderman(52.2), (William) Johnson(52.6y), Rauch(52.4), Gourdine(52.5).
SWEDEN	5	+Ylander(52.2), Ericksson(52.4) (later 51.9).
U.S.S.R.	3	=Lituyev(51.2 later 50.4), Lunyev(52.0 later 51.7), Yulin(52.1 later 50.5).
GREAT BRITAIN	3	+Gracie(52.3), Scott(52.4)
GERMANY	2	-



Left. Great Britain's first world class 400 metre hurdler Lord Burghley (David George Brownlow Cecil), who won the 1928 Olympic title at Amsterdam. His best ever performance was his 52.2 secs. at the Los Angeles Games in 1932 in fourth place behind his fellow Cambridge "Blue" Bob Tisdall (Eire) and the Americans Glenn Hardin and Morgan Taylor.

Lord Burghley, who will be known as the Marquis of Exeter when he succeeds his father, has served as a Member of Parliament (1931-1943) and as Governor of Bermuda (1943-45). He is President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and the (British) Amateur Athletic Association.

Among his other athletic achievements Lord Burghley won a 120 yards High and a 220 yards low Hurdles double for Cambridge against Oxford in 1925, 26 and 27. He won no less than eight A.A.A. titles: 120yH. 1928, 29 & 30(14.8); 440yH. 1926, 27, 28, 30(53.8) & 32.

ITALY	2	+Filiput(51.6)
France	2	-
South Africa	2	=Lubbe(52.4y), Wilkie(52.9y)
Eire	1	-
Ceylon	1	-
New Zealand	1	=Holland(52.2y)
Finland	1	-
Canada	1	-

Thus 39 becomes 59 and three new countries-U.S.S.R. with three top class men, South Africa with 2 and New Zealand with 1-open their accounts. * * * * *

The position mid way between the Helsinki and the Melbourne Games, i.e. at the end of the 1954 season, was as follows:-

ADDITIONS DURING 1953 and 1954.

U.S.A.	37	+Culbreath(51.3), (William) Johnson(52.9y).
GREAT BRITAIN	6	+Kane(51.8y), Whittle(52.7y), Shaw(52.3).
U.S.S.R.	5	+Ilin(51.9), Zhivotyagin(52.6).
SWEDEN	5	-
GERMANY	4	+Bonah(51.5), Ulzheimer(52.6).
FRANCE	3	+Cury(51.7)
Hungary	3	=Leppay(52.4), Lombos(52.5), Botar(52.5).
Finland	2	+Mildh(51.5) Italy 2 -
South Africa	2	-
Eire	1	- Rumania 1 =Savel(52.0)
Ceylon	1	- Columbia 1 =Aparicio(52.2)
New Zealand	1	- Chile 1 =Gevert(52.4)
Brazil	1	=Carneiro(51.9) Canada 1 -
Australia	1	=Lean(52.3y)

Our total of world class performers now stands at 78, an increase of 19, drawn from 18 countries. The 6 new-comers were Hungary (with 3 men), Brazil, Australia, Rumania, Columbia, and Chile with one apiece. The United States only found 2 new men.

THE AVERAGE OF THE TOP TEN OF THE THREE BEST COUNTRIES :-

U.S.A.		U.S.S.R.		G.B.	
Hardin (1934)	50.6	Lituyev (1953)	50.4	Kane (1954)	51.4*
Moore (1952)	50.7	Yulin (1954)	50.5	Burghley (1932)	52.2
Cochran (1948)	51.1	Lunyev (1953)	51.7	Gracie (1952)	52.3
Culbreath (1953)	51.3	Ilin (1954)	51.9	Whittle (1953)	52.5*
Yoder (1952)	51.4	Zhivotyagin (1954)	52.6	Shaw (1954)	52.5
Ault (1949)	51.4	Bulantchik (1949)	52.9	Scott (1952)	52.4
Patterson (1936)	51.6	Kumushka (1954)	53.0	Hardy (1953)	52.7*
McBain (1940)	51.6	Bogatov (1954)	53.2	Simpson (1930)	53.9
Schofield (1936)	51.7	Yushchenko (1954)	53.2	Dangerfield (1954)	53.9
DeVinney (1952)	51.7	Popov (1952)	53.4	Livingstone-	
Blackmon (1952)	51.7	(+ = 440y time)	-0.4s	Learmonth (1928)	54.0
AVERAGE	51.31		52.28		52.74

Germany comes a very close fourth with an average of 52.76 secs.

GREAT BRITISH GAMES Tábori 3:59.0, Chataway 3:59.8 & youngest of all Hewson 3:59.8

FOUR MINUTE MILE CLUB SIGNS ON THREE NEWLY QUALIFIED MEMBERS.
by Norris McWhirter.

White City Stadium, London May 28th & 30th

The Whitsuntide British Games, sponsored by the "News of the World" - the newspaper with the highest circulation in the world - were set alight twice this year. On the first day - Saturday May 28th there was the first triple sub four minute mile, with Hungary's Laszlo Tábori Talabircsuk setting a new British Allcomers Record of 3 mins. 59.0 secs. followed home by Chris Chataway in 3:59.8 and inches behind Brian Hewson also 3:59.8. Thus Roger Bannister's record of 3:59.4 lasted only a year and 22 days and is now relegated to becoming a British (National) and English Native Record. On the second day - Monday May 30th - another Hungarian ace Sandor Iharos made mince-meat of another of Gaston Reiff's records by hacking it to 8:33.4 - a vicious improvement. A holiday crowd of over 40,000 British fans gave a thunderous reception to this awful performance and also to the 23 year old Sheffield clerk Ken Wood, who although confessing to not being fully trained so early in the season, returned a great 8:34.8 for a British Empire record and an easy No. 2 spot on the all time list.

These were two of the 10 international events. The main purpose of the meeting was to confirm that canary yellow vested Surrey men were to make their county the Champions for the 12th consecutive year (1937-1955) and that Middlesex were next best for the 11th year running.

The highlights of this 20 event affair of motley coloured vests and shorts were a great 3 miles by Derek Ibbotson of Yorkshire in 13:34.6 followed home by Franko Sando, Ken Norris and Mike Maynard all also inside 13:45.0; and the best ever British triple jump with Ken Wilmshurst (Surrey) cutting the sand at 50ft. 8 ins. - just 7½ inches short of the Australian Jack Metcalfe's obstinate old British (National) record of 51'3"½ set way back in the second British Empire Games at the same stadium 21 years ago.

THE INTER-COUNTY EVENTS.

In the 20 events new meeting records were set for seven :- 3 miles; 3,000m Steeplechase; long jump; hop, step & jump; Discus; Hammer; and Javelin - and was equalled in both the 120y and 440y hurdles.

The sprinting was on the whole rather disappointing; but in the 220 yards preliminaries Clay Gibbs' 21.7 and Michael Ruddy's 21.8, if repeated lessons of past experience are any guide, would have been worth 21.2 to 21.3 on a good Continental 500 metre track. The arrival of both M. J. K. Wheeler (48.3) and J. D. Wrighton (48.7) in the sub 49.0 sec. class for the full quarter mile was particularly welcome in view of the constant necessity of keeping our 4 x 400m/440y relay squad, required in five forthcoming International matches, upto full strength.

The evenness of the quality of the halfmilers that rank after Derek Johnson and Brian Hewson was so marked that they were in a bumping, boring and spike flashing huddle well into the second lap. Ron Henderson, the favourite, would have done better than 5th if he had been a little more aloof. Brian Jackson (see page 139) confirmed earlier promise by winning this turbulent race in 1:53.3. Gordon Pirie let it be known that in the mile heats he intended to do something spectacular. This he achieved with a first lap in 58.0. Not in the least suprisingly the lack of opposition soon reduced this 3:52.0 mile pace to a slow puncture performance of 4:09.0. Pirie over the week-end had the misfortune to rick his shoulder when passing someone some training weights and was thus out of the final. Fred Wyatt's strong finish made him a worthy new champion but Sydney Wooderson's 1939 meeting record of 4:07.4 again escaped.

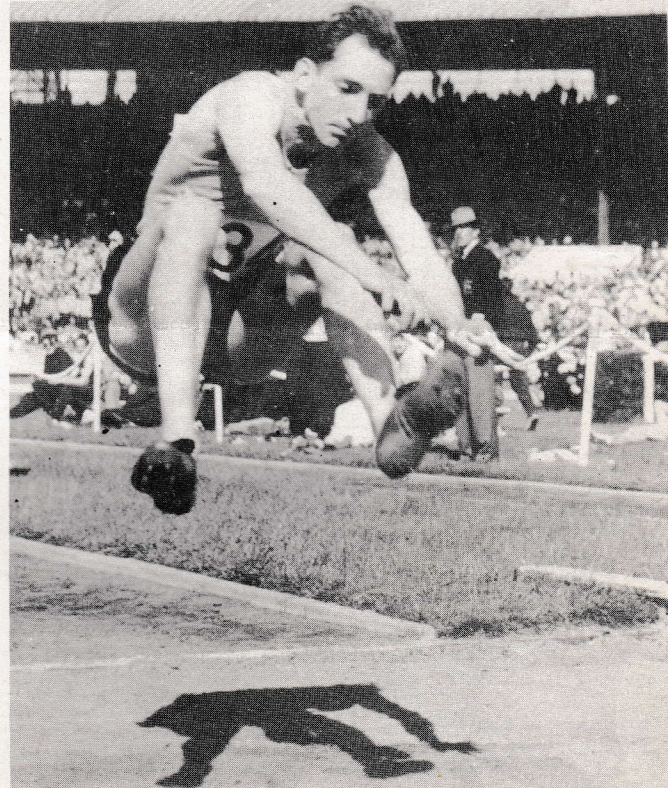
EVEN A LANCASTRIAN WAS IMPRESSED.

For any three miler in the world to beat Messrs. Sando, Norris and Maynard when they all beat a Pirie record of 13:44.3 is highly impressive but Yorkshire's Derek Ibbotson showed a vigour in both arm and leg action that caused much comment. The contrast was most striking with the modern economy shuffle epitomised by Alain Mimoun's leg action and Freddie Green's shrugging arm action. Even a Lancastrian I meet was impressed. The Empire six mile champion kept himself fresh for his speciality so considering their prior exertions Sando's and Ibbotson's efforts were of high quality.

The suprise of the high hurdles was the 14.9 secs. by



TRACK HISTORY'S FIRST TRIPLE SUB FOUR MINUTE MILE. Winning in 3:59.0 is Laslo Tábori (Hungary-No. 9). Left is Chris Chataway (G.B.) 2nd in 3:59.8 and centre Brian Hewson (G.B.-No. 7) 3rd also timed at 3:59.8. (Action Photo. H.W. Neale).



Ken Wilmshurst wins the Inter Counties Hop, Step & Jump title for Surrey at 50ft. 8 ins. in a best ever British Performance. (E.D. Lacey)

EUROPEAN REPORT

by R. L. Quercetani

SPRINTS

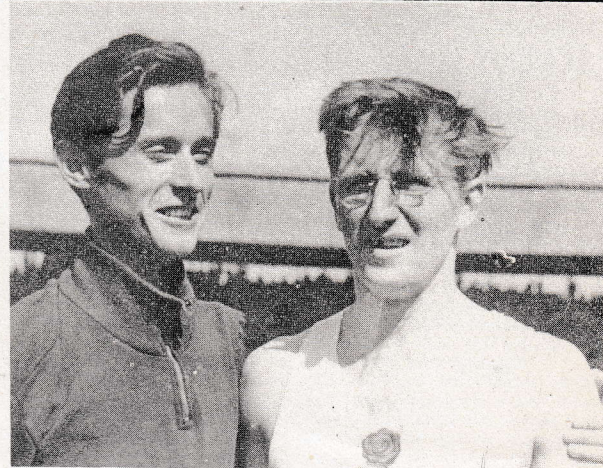
Fastest 100 metre mark so far is 10.4, by Russia's Leonid Bartenyev (Kiev, May) and Yuriy Kononov (Baku, May): the former has beaten most of the Union's fastest dashmen, notably including Ignatyev, on several occasions and the latter will be remembered by English track fans as the fine, tall sprinter who was a rather impressive winner both in London and Manchester last autumn. From the standpoint of competition, however, the best sprint races were at Prague on June 8 and 9 in the Rosický Memorial meeting. (Evzen Rosický, killed in 1942 had been at one time the holder of the Czech 800 metre record at 1:54.6). On the first day Václav Janeczek of Czechoslovakia beat Heinz Pütterer by a scanty margin in a 10.6 100 metres, coming up from behind with a spirited last minute rush. This was the first defeat suffered by the European champion since June of last year. On the second day the German evened the count in the 200 metres, thanks to his speed round the turn, with the fast finishing Janeczek a close second. Times - 21.3 and 21.4. The two had met for the first time this season on May 29 at Erfurt, Pütterer being then the winner in 10.5 from Janeczek, 10.6. The Czech, it will be remembered, had an excellent season in 1953 but was most disappointing in the 1954 European Championships. Now he seems to be in good form as is shown also by his 20.9 for 200 metres on the second day of the Erfurt meeting (May 30). The Erfurt track has a circumference of 500 metres and in the furlong not even one fourth of the distance is run round the turn. Furthermore, the runners were aided by a wind of 1.8 m/s, just under the limit (it is difficult for statisticians to understand why the wind limit must necessarily be the same for 100 as for 200 metres!). Not surprisingly, this race produced many fast clockings: Horst Schulz was second in 21.1, followed by Werner Schneider, 21.2, Walter Erdmenger, 21.3, Emil Kiszka, 21.4 and Lindenlaub, 21.4! All these men, except Kiszka, who is a Pole, are from Eastern Germany. So far 8 Europeans have run the 100 in 10.5 or better: among them are two young Germans, 20-year old Manfred Germar, who has done 10.5 three times, and 22-year old Manfred Steinbach, who ran a close second to Pütterer in a 10.5 race at Heidelberg on May 25. Apart from the above-mentioned Erfurt times, the best 200 metre mark so far is 21.1 by Russia's Ardalion Ignatyev (Minsk, May). This powerful runner also tops the 400 metre list with a 47.4 (Minsk, May 20). On this occasion he beat the holder of the world's 400 metre hurdles record, Yuriy Lituyev, who was timed in 48.4. Voitto Hellsten of Finland promises to be in the sub-47 secs. class this year: he did 47.8 in his opening meet.

MIDDLE DISTANCES

In the 800 metres there is nothing so far to excel Derek Johnson's 1:50.0y (the equivalent of 1:49.3m). In fact, second on the list is another Briton, Brian Hewson, who did 1:49.6 in a solo race at Hengelo, Holland, on June 1. This was the third exacting race in four days for the 22-year old Briton. After his 3:59.8 mile at the White City on May 28, he flew to Germany where he turned in an easy 3:50.4 for 1,500 metres at Cleve on May 30. Roger Moens of Belgium is expected to come dangerously close to Harbig's fabulous 1:46.6: the temperamental Belgian has two sub-1:50 marks already, 1:49.7 at Brussels on June 5 and 1:49.9 at Bergen, Norway, only two days later! One should also mention the fine 1:50.4 halfmile run by Eire's young Ronnie Delaney against America's best runners in the Los Angeles Coliseum Relays of May 20.

From 1,500 to 3,000 metres the Hungarians reign supreme. Sándor Iharos missed his European 1,500 metre record by only two tenths at Budapest on May 21 with a scintillating 3:42.6. His Honvéd teammate István Rózsavölgyi was second in 3:43.2 after setting the pace for most of the distance. László Tábori, who was to become the world's third 4-minute miler the following week in London, had started with a first lap in 58 secs., but even so he managed to finish in 3:46.8. There was another record attempt on the same Honvéd (Army Club) track two weeks later (June 4): in the absence of Iharos the race was won by Rózsavölgyi in 3:42.8. Tábori was second in 3:45.0 and Ernő Béres third in 3:45.8. It should be noted that Iharos, Rózsavölgyi and Tábori are all members of the same Club, the Honvéd of soccer fame. With the help of their companion Ferenc Mikes (who did 3:47.2 last year!) they should be able to create fabulous world records for the 4 x 1,500 m. and 4 x 1 mile relays. Over the metric distance, for example, they should run at least 5 seconds faster than they did last year, (when they lowered the record to 15:21.2) thus becoming the first quartet to average less than 3:50 per man!

Germany has two improving young men in Olaf Lawrenz, who beat Dohrow twice in a recent Berlin meeting, running the 1,500



Sándor IHAROS (Hungary) 8:38.4 and Ken WOOD (G.B.) 8:34.8 seen a few moments after the greatest two mile race of all-time, at the White City Stadium on May 30th. Action Photo by H.W. Neale.

metres in 3:47.4 (June 4) and the 800 metres in 1:50.3 (June 5), and Klaus Richtzenhain, who also indulged in one of those now so "chic" short-interval "doubles" with times of 3:48.8 (May 29) and 1:50.4 (May 30) in the above-mentioned Erfurt meeting. Richtzenhain is 21 and last year he could do no better than 1:57.0 and 4:01.2!

István Rózsavölgyi also tried to break Reiff's 2,000 metre record (5:07.0) on May 28 at Budapest, while Iharos and Tábori were in London, but had to be content with a fine 5:08.8, one second faster than Gordon Pirie's time at Manchester the week before, these three being eventually the only sub-5:10 clockings in the history of this seldom run distance.

LONG DISTANCES

The incredible Hungarian Rhapsody began at Budapest on May 14: it was a special 3,000 metre event at the Honvéd track that Sándor Iharos, aided as usual by Tábori and Rózsavölgyi, began to put an end to the "After-You-Gaston Era." Iharos' superb 7:55.6, 3.1 secs. under Reiff's record, was achieved after the following intermediate times: 1,000 m 2:37.6, 2,000 m 5:18.4. Iharos ran the first half in 3:58.6 and the second in 3:57.0! Both his first and his last laps were timed in 60.6. Tábori was second in 8:11.6, Ernő Béres third in 8:14.0 and young Hubert Berta fourth in 8:20.8. There have been two other sub-8:10 clockings, both national records: Jerzy Chromik of Poland 8:40.6 and Eero Tuomala of Finland 8:08.8 (watch out for the former if and when he returns to the steeplechase!)

23-year old Ivan Ullsperger of Czechoslovakia has the two fastest 5,000 metre clockings - 14:10.0 at Brno, May 28 and 14:09.8 at Prague, June 9. What is more, in both of these races he beat Old Master Emil Zátopek by convincing margins. In the Brno race Zátopek was second in 14:19.6, reportedly without going all out, but in Prague, though trying as hard as he could, he saw himself out-sprinted by Ullsperger in the decisive stage and finished well beaten in 14:11.8. Øistein Saksvik set a new Norwegian record of 14:16.0 in the Helsinki meet of June 4, beating Ilmari Taipale, 14:17.8.

A notable return to form was that of Aleksandr Anufriyev, who on May 20 at Minsk easily vanquished the phenomenal Kuts, depriving him of his USSR 10,000 metre record with a great 29:10.6, time so far bettered only by Zátopek and Kovacs. Anufriyev ran the first half in 14:26.0 and the second in 14:44.6. Kuts was timed in 29:59.6, but this sufficed only for fourth, behind Vasilii Krivosheyn, 29:34.2, and Grigoriy Basalaye, 29:39.2. Zátopek, who from now on intends to concentrate on this distance (and on longer ones, in preparation for the Melbourne Marathon), clocked 29:33.0 at Stará Boleslav on May 14. Another of his many "pupils," Jiri Santrucek, was second in 30:14.8.

STEEPLECHASE

The steadily improving Vastimil Brlica of Czechoslovakia caused a minor surprise at Prague on June 8 when he beat European champion Sándor Rozsnyói of Hungary with a new national record of 8:53.8. The Hungarian did 8:59.2 for second. The year's fastest time, however, was posted by László Jeszenszky of Hungary at Budapest on May 21 - 8:52.8.

(Report continued, and concluded with the hurdles and field events, overleaf.)

