

ATHLETICS WORLD

Complete coverage of Track and Field Athletics

Vol. 3.

DECEMBER 1955

No. 1.

THE GREATEST WORLD RECORD YET!

Iharos' 6th World Mark

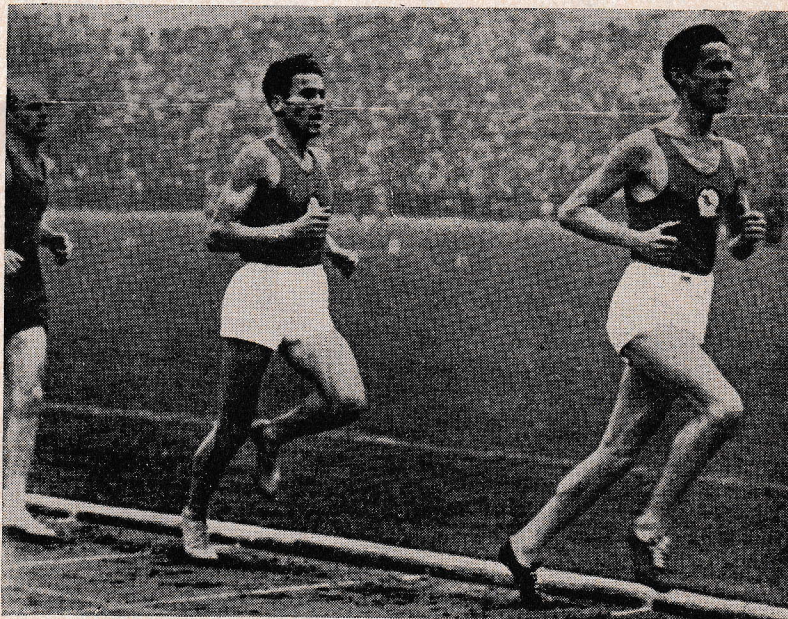
13:40.6

Sándor Iharos, the 25-year-old Hungarian Army lieutenant, established himself as the "Athlete of the Year" at Budapest on October 23 with a revolutionary 13:40.6 world record 5,000 metres—his sixth world mark this year.

Iharos is now bound for Australia for an undress rehearsal on the Olympic location. His performance on the red Népstadion track before a crowd of 60,000 football fans ranks with such other revolutions in athletic history as Bill Carr's 46.2 400 metres at Los Angeles in 1932, Forrest Town's still-doubted 13.7 secs. hurdles run at Oslo in 1936, Glenn Hardin's 50.6 secs. 400 metres at Stockholm in 1934, Rudolf Harbig's 1:46.6 800 metres in Milan in 1939, and Zátopek's still standing world one-hour record.

The scene was set in a 15-minute interval between two football matches with drizzle descending from low grey clouds. Because the normally lightning fast track had a tendency to cling, Iharos rubbed oil into the sole of his spikes. Despite the fact that the race had been planned by Mihály Iglói for three weeks with a target in view of 13:44.0, both Iharos and Tábori had been maintaining their 1,500-metre training and had made no special preparations to recapture the record from Kuts. The wizen-faced 47-year-old Iglói, who had himself run 3:52.2 for 1,500 metres at Budapest in 1937, planned the race à la Chataway—Ibbotson, with alternate pace-making lap by lap.

Tábori went out into the lead for the first lap, covered in a brisk 63.5



Sándor Iharos seen breaking away from Tábori and Szabó in the final stages of what many think is the finest piece of running yet achieved when at Budapest on October 23 he set new world records for three miles and 5,000 metres. (International News Photos.)

secs., and was relieved soon after by Iharos who reached the 800 metres in 2:10.0.

The 1,000 metres was passed in 2:42.0 with Iharos still in the lead and it was again his turn to take over through the 2,000-metre post in 5:28.0. The alternating scheme so worked out that Iharos was again in front when it came to the 3,000 metres, this time in 8:16.0. Soon after this juncture the bald-headed 27-year-old economist, Miklós Szabó, made a brilliant re-entrée to lead at the two-mile mark in an unofficial 8:52.0. Tábori, whose turn it was now to lead, threw in his last reserves to

finish the ninth lap in 9:58.0. At this juncture he "blew up" (relatively speaking) and Iharos, who had been suffering a crisis for nearly a lap, suddenly found himself able to surge away. The crowd began a crescendo which seemed to cause the incredible Hungarian to run faster and faster, and when he heard his 4,000-metre time of 11:07.0 (dead on schedule) he was encouraged to tour the next lap in an extraordinary 63.4 secs.—a tenth faster than Tábori's impish opening gambol. Still keeping up his astounding sustained finishing drive, Iharos, who was now over 50 yards

(Continued in column 1, page 3)

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Athletics World

Lloyds Bank Limited

222 Strand W.C.2

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Sand and Cinders

WE have long had in mind the desirability of having *Athletics World* published as a printed monthly. It was started in its familiar typewritten form in March, 1952, and now, in its 44th month of life, the plunge has been taken. It might truly be said that the gestation period has proved to be twice as long as that even of the Indian Elephant.

It is our earnest hope that the "new look" magazine will be more readable and more worthy of the now wider athletics public. Nonetheless with our more professional appearance we shall wish to preserve our intimate and individual treatment of the sport which has brought us over the last four years a steady and often exacting correspondence from subscribers in over 50 countries.

At times of particular stress we are encouraged by the evidence that our efforts of the past have at least been appreciated in far off quarters. On a recent visit to the Continent copies were in evidence in a little Swedish town, which boasted an almost rectangular track; in a cafe in Prague; and even in a little room under the great stands of the Dynamo Stadium in the west quarter of Moscow.

Ahead of us we have the 1956 season culminating in the XVIIth Olympic Games opening in Melbourne, Australia, on November 22. Before that time there will be

all the national championships, trials and try-outs. With a full coverage of these we hope that readers will be primed ready to enjoy the more fully our detailed eye-witness accounts from the track-side.

Despite the welter of intense pre-Olympic activity we intend to carry on our various "documents" of records such as our 5th British annual rankings, British Junior rankings, the annual feature comparing national and world's standards and the summary of each season's crop of world records. We shall also continue our whimsical and sometimes inconsequential "Short Takes", which we find have a distressing habit of being quoted back at us.

In the past we have eschewed publishing readers' correspondence. This was not because we did not receive any, in fact we have to spend many hours a month replying to readers' letters. Our New Year issue will now be open to readers' correspondence so we would henceforward ask those who correspond to make it clear if they do *not* wish their query or opinion to be published.

Finally, may we wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and, if they are no longer active athletes, a prosperous New Year—the proviso is made because, as Paavo Nurmi so wisely said, "It takes a poor man to run fast."

THE EDITORS.

. . . a selection of good wishes from some of our well-known subscribers . . .

"I am very interested to learn that *Athletics World* will be published in future as a printed magazine, and am especially glad that you intend to give women's events a proper coverage. Looking forward to receiving the first issue, and wishing you every success for your magazine."

Yours sincerely,

DIANE LEATHER.

"Since its first number in 1952 *Athletics World* has met the needs of the track and field enthusiast

whose interest lies not only in domestic sport but in what is happening in other countries. For those like myself, who require factual and accurate reporting of world athletic events and up-to-date news of world records, the publication is most valuable and I look forward to it in its new form."

DON PAIN

(Hon. Secretary/Treasurer,
International Amateur Ath-
letic Federation).

"Delighted to hear that *Athletics World* is blossoming out . . . it is the only athletics magazine I get and I read it avidly."

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER CHATAWAY.

"Best wishes for this big step forward in your venture."

Yours sincerely,

ROGER BANNISTER.

(Continued from page 1)

clear of Tábori, passed the bell in 13:11.5 and the three three-mile time-keepers in 13:14.2. A last lap of 59.6 secs. with a last 200 metres of 29.1 secs. brought him home in a prodigious 13:40.6 secs., so to recapture his own world record (13:50.8) which had been taken back from him after a tenure of only eight days by Vladimir Kuts at Belgrade on September 18 (13:46.8).

Iharos did not look particularly exhausted after this superhuman feat and Iglói menacingly commented that he saw no reason why his charge should not be turned loose on the world 10,000 metres record.

Iharos finished 80 metres ahead of Tábori who was showing signs of fatigue, doubtless from his great 1,500-metre fight with Rózsavölgyi less than 24 hours before in which he had got the verdict in 3:43.0! Tábori's time of 13:53.2 would, however, have been a world record prior to the Kuts-Chataway classic in London in October, 1954. Szabó finished third in a magnificent 13:59.0, with Kovacs 4th in 14:07.2, and Béres bringing up the rear in 14:21.8.

This race has obviously had great repercussions in the jockeying for positions in the Olympic tests now only 12 months hence. It has now been confirmed that Chromik will return definitely to the steeplechase, while it is highly probable that Kuts will stay up in the 10,000-metre bracket.

LAP BY LAP

Lap	Leader	Lap Time	Total Time
400m.	Tábori	63.5	63.5
800m.	Iharos	66.5	2:10.0
1,200m.	Tábori	65.5	3:15.5
1,600m.	Tábori	66.3	4:21.8
2,000m.	Iharos	66.2	5:28.0
2,400m.	Tábori	66.3	6:34.5
2,800m.	Tábori	67.5	7:43.0
3,200m.	Szabó	66.0	8:49.0
3,600m.	Tábori	69.0	9:58.0
4,000m.	Iharos	69.0	11:07.0
4,400m.	Iharos	63.4!	12:10.4
4,800m.	Iharos	61.1!	13:11.5
5,000m.	Iharos	29.1	13:40.6

Last 400m. 59.6 secs.

BRITISH JUNIOR RANKING LIST — 1955

Owing to the sparseness of published data on junior performances these lists are unlikely to be exhaustive. Additions will be most gratefully received and, if verified, published.

Notation: * = straight track, n = non-winning time, y = youth (under 17)

100 YARDS

Best Ever Junior Mark: (Championship Conditions) 9.9n G. S. Ellis (Keswick School) White City, July 14 1951, 9.9 J. A. N. Railton (Liverpool College) St. Helens, July 3 1954, and 9.9 J. R. C. Young (Bishop Vesey G.S.) as below.

9.9	J. R. C. Young (Bishop Vesey G.S.)	Leicester	July 2
10.0	E. McKeating (George Heriot's School)	New Goldenacre	June 18
10.0	A. C. Thomas (Mill Hill School)	White City	July 15
10.1n	I. R. Smith (Blackheath H.)	Hurlingham	July 2
10.1n	W. T. Dennis (King Edward VI School)	Leicester	July 2
10.1	D. W. Needham (Millfield School)	Manchester	July 16
10.2	K. Williams (Slough)	Halton	June 4
10.2	T. Heppell (Jarrow)	Ashington	June 4
10.2	J. G. W. Utting (Aldenham School)	Southgate	May 14
10.2n	T. C. A. Jenkins (Whitchurch G.S.)	Leicester	July 2
10.2	P. G. Fearnside (Winnington Park)	Chesterfield	July 2

220 YARDS

Best Ever Junior Mark: 21.8 G. S. Ellis (Keswick School) Southampton July 21 1951 (Wilkinson ran 21.3m at Cologne (16/8) and Paris (7/9) in 1947).

22.3	D. H. Segal (T.V.H.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
22.3	D. W. Needham (Millfield School)	Reading	July 23
22.4n	C. H. Rogers (Small Heath H.)	Reading	July 23
22.5	P. A. Anwyl (Liverpool)	Manchester	June 4
22.5n	P. G. Fearnside (Winnington Park)	Chesterfield	July 2
22.6	B. Rider (Woodford Green A.C.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
22.7	J. R. C. Young (Bishop Vesey G.S.)	Leicester	July 2
22.7	P. Hodges (Middlesex Schools)	Carshalton	Aug. 20
22.8	G. C. Plumbly (Carshalton)	Motspur Park	June 4
22.8	A. W. Shreaves (Orpington A.C.)	Reading	July 23
22.0*	D. H. Segal (T.V.H.)	Hurlingham	July 2

440 YARDS

Best Ever Junior Mark: 48.8 D. J. N. Johnson (Fairburn H.) Port Sunlight July 29 1949.

50.8	H. R. Smith (Halesowen H.)	Reading	July 23
51.2	N. W. Smith (Rowtrees A.C.)	Yorks. Chps.	—
51.3y	C. G. Turnham (Acton T.C.)	Hurlingham	April 30
51.5n	A. J. Gordon (R. G. S. High Wycombe)	Reading	July 23

880 YARDS

Best Ever Junior Mark: 1:53.9n R. Scott (Ashby de la Zouch G.S.) White City, July 13 1934.

1:54.7	A. T. Day (Cheshire Schools)	White City	July 30
1:55.0	M. Berisford (Manchester)	White City	Aug. 13
1:55.0n	D. A. Haith (T.V.H.)	White City	Aug. 13
1:55.3n	A. R. Batchelor (Brighton)	White City	Aug. 13
1:55.7n	C. W. Plumpton (Southern G.S.)	White City	July 30
1:56.7	R. A. Beaumont (Shaftesbury H.)	Reading	July 23
1:56.8n	G. G. Batty (Kent Schools)	White City	July 30
1:57.6n	H. R. Smith (Halesowen H.)	White City	Aug. 13
1:58.0	W. Heiberg (Woodford Green A.C.)	Ashton	June 22
1:58.8	D. Robins (Southall)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14

1 MILE

Best Ever Junior Mark: 4:12.8n R. Dunkley (Shaftesbury H.) Cambridge, May 20 1954.

4:16.8	D. A. Haith (T.V.H.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
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SHORT

4:16.8n	S. R. Langridge (S.L.H.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
4:21.2	S. E. Eldon (Windsor and Eton)	Reading	July 6
4:21.4	B. Grubb (S.U.H.)	Yorks. Junior Chps.	—
4:22.4n	C. W. Plumpton (Southern G.S.)	Hurlingham	July 2
4:23.0	D. Stearns (Woodford Green A.C.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
4:23.2	A. A. Cocking (Bramley and D.H.)	Reading	July 23
4:23.4	L. D. G. Reed (S.L.H.)	Chiswick	June 18
4:24.0	C. Crump (Woodford Green A.C.)	Ashton	July 14
4:24.4	E. A. Earl (Hercules)	Motspur Park	June 4

120 YARDS HURDLES

Best Ever Junior Mark: 14.8 J. A. Frampton, Birmingham, July 28 1951.

15.3	M. Robinson (Yorkshire Schools)	Manchester	July 16
15.4	M. R. Harvey (Kelly College)	White City	April 23
15.5	R. Woodland (Wimbledon)	Hurlingham	July 2
15.6	G. J. Manning (Dorking St. Pauls A.C.)	Carshalton	Aug. 20
15.7n	M. Hackett (Leicestershire Schools)	Manchester	July 16
15.8n	D. R. Parry (Ipswich)	Hurlingham	July 2

200 YARDS HURDLES

Best Ever Junior Mark: 23.3 J. B. Duffy (Poly H.) Birmingham July 28 1951, H. Kane (Grafton A.C.) Motspur Park, July 26 1952 and D. T. Cook (as below)*.

23.3*	D. T. Cook (H.H.H.)	Hurlingham	July 2
23.4	B. Wearmouth (Dingwall)	New Goldenacre	June 18
23.4	A. Hannah (Preston Lodge)	Reading	July 23
23.5n*	R. Woodland (Wimbledon)	Hurlingham	July 2
23.6n*	W. D. Clark (Walton)	Hurlingham	July 2
23.9n*	K. J. Ashman (Coleridge A.C.)	Hurlingham	July 2
24.2n*	C. W. E. Surety (Ilford A.C.)	Hurlingham	July 2
24.4	C. J. Woodley (Ouse and K.)	Leicester	July 2
24.5n	J. S. Hine (Notts)	Leicester	July 2
24.5n	T. Southall (Wolverhampton G.S.)	Leicester	July 2
24.6	L. Fox (Airedale H.)	Yorks. Junior Chps.	—

HIGH JUMP

Best Ever Junior Mark: 6' 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " A. S. Paterson (Victoria Park A.A.C.) Antwerp, July 7 1946.

6' 0"	B. Jacobs (Doncaster P.W.)	Sheffield	—
5' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	P. Davis (Wellingborough G.S.)	—	May 14
5' 11"	M. F. Thatcher (R.A.F.)	Reading	July 23
5' 11"	M. G. A. Day (Radcliffe College)	Reading	July 23
5' 11"	D. W. G. Hanns (Portsmouth A.C.)	Reading	July 23
5' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	B. C. Bowskill (Leicestershire Schools)	Manchester	July 16
5' 10"	J. Billington (St. Albans School)	White City	April 23
5' 10"	C. Fairbrother (Neilson's)	New Goldenacre	June 18
5' 10"	R. W. Sharp (Gosforth)	Chesterfield	July 2

POLE VAULT

Best Ever Junior Mark: 12' 6" G. E. Broad (H.H.H.) White City, May 12 1951; G. M. Schmidt (John Fisher School) White City, May 23 1953.

12' 0"	M. E. Nugent (John Fisher School)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
11' 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	P. B. Ball (Fettes Collège)	New Goldenacre	June 18
11' 3"	J. McManns (Northumberland Schools)	Manchester	July 16
11' 0"	W. J. C. Worth (Acton C.S.)	White City	April 23
11' 0"	R. P. Hallam (R.A.F. Halton)	Reading	July 23
10' 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	G. Coles (Bridgend A.C.)	Abertillery	July 2
10' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	R. G. Reynolds (Felsted School)	White City	April 23
10' 9"	R. J. Walmsley (Bancrofts School)	Hurlingham	July 2
10' 9"	R. L. Tiltman (Meden)	Hurlingham	July 2

LONG JUMP

Best Ever Junior Mark: 23' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " G. E. Broad, Chiswick, May 5 1951.

22' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	R. J. A. Powell (Seaford College)	Manchester	July 16
22' 4"	J. B. Woolley (Grove Park G.S.)	Reading	July 23
21' 11"	D. L. Tart (Shropshire Schools)	Manchester	July 16

Beyond the Ultimate.—Though it might be reasonable to suppose that the world record for knocking down hurdles is 10, this is not so. The proud record of 11 is however held by William Clark, Sir Anthony Eden's newly-appointed Public Relations officer. In a race for Oriol College at Oxford in 1938 he flattened not only all 10 of his own hurdles but yawed out of his lane to prang an eleventh.

Thrice Blessed.—In this column some time ago we digressed upon the subject of twinhood in athletics. Twins occur in one in every 90 or so births, while triplets occur only once in every 88,000 births. Despite this we are now able to present details of probably the world's only track triplets. They were Czechoslovakia's SUOBODA brothers, Alois, Jiri and Joseph, born in Turany, near Brno. In 1927 all three of them were in the national team. Their best performances were:—

Alois: High jump, 1.85m. (6ft. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.)
Jiri: Javelin, 58.16m. (190ft. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.)
Joseph: Discus, 43.13m. (141ft. 6in.)

Joseph's discus throw made at Brno on June 26, 1927, was a Czech record.

Miss Margaret Lucas (now Mrs. Birtwistle), a discus thrower in Great Britain's 1948 Olympic team, is a triplet. Her brothers were not keen on athletics.

Last of the Few.—How many 1896 Olympians are there still living? It is unlikely anyone knows the answer, but our guess is two. They are Sweden's John Svandberg, who ran in the marathon, and Britain's Sir Grant Robertson, who was fourth in the shot and sixth in the discus but who got a gold medal for composing the best Greek ode.

Hernandez's Hideaway.—If you look at the official results of the 1955 A.A.U. Championships you will find a guy named "Paredes" from Cuba won the hop, step and jump title, with 50ft. 4in. We now learn nearly six months after the dust has settled at Boulder, Colorado, that the triple jump victor was in fact Victor Hernandez, a 51ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. performer

TAKES

coached by the world's No. 1 pole vault coach Dick Ganslen. Ganslen, who has a 14ft. 5in. vault to his credit, says that Hernandez did 51ft. 7in. for the photographers at Boulder and is good for 52ft. Considering Hernandez had not previously done even 48ft. before last Christmas there is going to be a lot of low whispering.

Owens is the Greatest.—A poll among the world's leading track nuts conducted by America's famous *Track and Field News* has given the nod to James Cleveland Owens. "Jesse", who now holds the oldest masculine world record (that 26ft. 8½in. long jump which comes of age next May), got a 49 per cent poll. Cornelius "Dutch" Warmerdam, another of the old "unapproachables", got the field event palm with 64 per cent. from Parry O'Brien. Britain's Dr. Roger Bannister secured the award as "favourite trackman".

Unfair Wear and Tear.—While in Moscow your senior (20 minutes) Editor had an encounter with Mlle. Galina Zybina at a British Embassy reception. Despite a nutcracker handshake he had the temerity to ask for her autograph. The fountain pen proffered unfortunately was a little dry. After some excruciating deep etching the tortured nib buckled and the pen became a total write-off. Some interesting correspondence with the income tax inspector may ensue on the subject of fair wear and tear.

Cordner Nelson, of California, the Editor of *Track and Field News*, bet us last year that Uncle Sam's top 10 milers of 1955 would be better than John Bull's. It was a close-run thing but we shall enjoy potted shrimps, Dover sole, fillet steak with mushrooms, orange soufflé and coffee at Melbourne—but more especially his company again. For the record:—

G.B.		U.S.A.	
Chataway	3:59.8	Santee	4:00.5
Hewson	3:59.8	Seaman	4:01.4
Wood	4:01.6	Dwyer	4:01.8
Driver	4:04.8	Dellinger	4:04.6
Dunkley	4:05.8	La Pierre	4:06.6
Pirie	4:06.0	Tidwell	4:07.4
Brasher	4:06.8	Coleman	4:08.0
Cameron	4:07.0	Wing	4:08.2
Barrett	4:07.6	Hunt	4:09.5
Law	4:07.7	Montgomery	4:09.8
average	4:04.7	average	4:05.8

21' 10½"	D. R. Bell (Blackheath H.)	Farningham	June 4
21' 10"	B. J. Bale (Southgate H.)	Hurlingham	July 2
21' 7"	B. Francis (Middlesex Schools)	Manchester	July 16
21' 6"	J. B. Macdonald (Whitgift School)	Motspur Park	June 4
21' 4½"	J. Medlyn (Cornwall Schools)	Manchester	July 16
21' 4"	K. Holloway (Wolverhampton)	Cannock	June 4

HOP, STEP AND JUMP

Best Ever Junior Mark: 47' 3½" M. F. Eggleton (R.A.F.) Uxbridge, June 11 1952.			
44' 1½"	W. C. Nuttall (Grimsby W.G.S.)	Chesterfield	July 2
43' 8½"	D. R. Bell (Blackheath H.)	—	May 14
43' 6"	I. McClune (Kirkcudbright)	Cowal	Aug. 31
43' 3"	J. A. Mitchell (Peterborough A.C.)	Leicester	July 2
42' 10½"	D. C. Smith (Hove G.S.)	Manchester	July 16
42' 10"	D. Chesworth (Mold G.S.)	Reading	July 23
42' 10"	J. McCleave (Kirkcudbright)	Scots. Jnr. Chps.	July 2
42' 9½"	R. M. Fisher (Halifax H.)	Reading	July 23

SHOT PUTT

Best Ever Junior Mark: 53' 2" G. A. Carr (Wanstead County G.S.), 1954.			
52' 7"	M. R. Lindsay (Q.P.H.)	London	Nov. 13
51' 7"	D. Edelman (Q.P.H.)	London	Nov. 13
51' 6"	D. R. Harrison (Sherborne)	White City	April 23
51' 2"	D. C. Hackman (T.V.H.)	Uxbridge	May 14
49' 10"	L. Chinnery (Woodford Green A.C.)	Ashton	June 14
49' 3½"	N. Morgan (Croydon)	—	Aug. 10
49' 1"	C. J. Woodmansey (Pocklington School)	Chesterfield	July 2
49' 0"	A. Rowe (Barnsley G.S.)	Yorks. Jnr. Chps.	—

DISCUS THROW

Best Ever Junior Mark: 170' 3½" G. A. Carr (Wanstead County G.S.) Wanstead, June 29 1954.			
152' 3"	B. R. James (Westcliff H.S.)	Southend-on-Sea	June 4
149' 11"	J. A. Pullinger (Gosport A.C.)	Reading	July 23
145' 2"	G. M. Laimbeer (Bradfield College)	White City	April 23
143' 8"	G. M. Edwards (Richmond and E.S.)	White City	April 23
141' 9"	A. Hooker (Ilford C.H.S.)	White City	April 23
141' 9"	C. R. Keeler (Lancing)	Hove	June 4
139' 7"	Stracy (Raynes Park)	—	June 15
139' 5½"	P. Yaxley (Cambridge H.)	Cambridge	May 14
139' 1½"	M. R. Lindsay (Queens Park H.)	Paddington	July 19

HAMMER THROW

Best Ever Junior Mark: 195' 1" M. J. Ellis (as below): formerly 185' 8" M. J. Ellis (T.V.H.) Alperton, June 7 1954.			
195' 1"	M. J. Ellis (T.V.H.)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
179' 4"	J. A. Pullinger (Gosport A.C.)	Hurlingham	July 2
159' 8"	J. Deane (A.A. School)	Hurlingham	July 2
156' 1"	P. G. Saunders (Eton Manor)	Eton Manor	Sept. 14
154' 10"	L. F. Rigamonti (John Fisher School)	Reading	July 23
149' 11"	R. Bacon (A.A. School)	Caerleon	July 2
143' 8"	J. Graham (Watford G.S.)	Southgate	May 14
141' 3"	P. T. Jackson (Preston Manor G.S.)	Eton Manor	Aug. 6

JAVELIN THROW

Best Ever Junior Mark: 215' 2½" M. Lanning (Hampton G.S.) Chiswick, July 7 1954.			
202' 5"	M. F. Johnson (Sutton C.G.S.)	Motspur Park	June 4
196' 11"	B. D. Whitaker (Derby)	Chesterfield	July 2
189' 6"	B. Lewis (Whitchurch G.S.)	Abertillery	July 2
189' 3"	A. F. Whiston (Hanley)	Cannock	June 4
182' 6"	J. Clayton (Culford)	Manchester	July 16
181' 11"	G. M. Edwards (Belgrave H.)	Reading	July 23
181' 1"	C. R. Keller (Lancing College)	Hurlingham	July 2
180' 7"	K. F. Horder (Vale of Aylesbury)	Reading	July 23
180' 4"	J. R. H. Sale (Repton School)	White City	April 23

PIRIE BEATS HIS IDOL

Zátopek third to Pirie and Norris

The latest edition of the *Evening News* sponsored end-of-season floodlit meeting, this time between "London and Prague", on Wednesday, October 12, was another great success. Even the Hogarthian mixture of bright lights and fog could not dim the excitement of the huge crowd who were drawn by the name and personality of Emil Zátopek making his third visit to England, but his first for over seven years.

The highlight was the 10,000 metres. Both Britain's television channels were opened for the big event. The B.B.C. and the Associated-Rediffusion cameras and scanners were cheek by jowl and your joint editors (Norris, Channel 1 B.B.C., and Ross, Channel 9 A.-R.) temporarily not on speaking terms.

Zátopek was determined not to be left at the start and in fact led until half way, when both Norris and Pirie passed him and led for a few moments. Zátopek's tactics, although designed to aid his own chances, in fact helped Pirie greatly. This was because an analysis of Pirie's previous six miles races shows that he lets the plateaux of performance fall away in the middle of a race. Zátopek, for all his tactical bursts, builds his great times on strategic even pace running. This guidance from the maestro and Norris's taking the lead in the final mile undoubtedly helped Pirie. After 17 laps Zátopek was in the lead again. With a mile to go Ken Norris took the lead for two laps and then Zátopek wagged his way to the front amid a mounting frenzy from the great crowd. With 300 yards to go Pirie let drive with a finishing burst that would have made even Vladimir Kuts raise an eyebrow. Norris responded well but too late, while Zátopek was clearly beaten. As Pirie came up the home straight for the sweetest victory of his career (in 1948 at Wembley as a 16-year-old boy he took the vow to become Britain's Zátopek) hats were literally thrown into the air. Pirie's time of 29 mins. 19 secs. was personally his second best (29:17.2) in the G.B. v. Sweden international at Stockholm in 1953), but the best 10,000 metres ever done on British soil and an excellent performance under the conditions. Ken

Norris, not letting the initial gap open, finished in 29 mins. 21.4 secs., and the popular Zátopek was third in 29 mins. 28.6 secs.

The final event was the 3,000 metres steeplechase in which there was the double surprise of the eclipse of the guest runner, Jerzy Chromik of Poland, holder of the world's best performance at 8 mins. 40.4 secs., and the victory of Eric Shirley (8 mins. 47.6 secs.) over John Disley (8 mins. 50 secs.). Chromik went out and led and Disley shadowed him. Shirley, who has improved with every appearance, hung back until with a lap to go it became obvious that the 23-year-old Pole was strug-

gling. Before Disley could take command Shirley struck and toured the last lap in impressive and relentless style. Chris Brasher, who now has a 4 mins. 6.8 secs. mile to his credit, also passed Chromik (8 mins. 56.6 secs.) to record 8 mins. 52.6 secs.

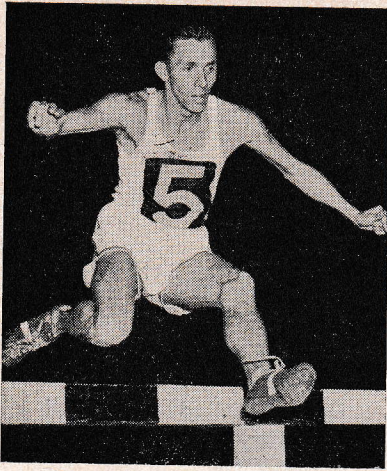
The Prague team won the men's match by 110 points to 106 and the London women's team beat the Czechs by 39 points to 27.

Thelma Hopkins, 19, of Belfast, cleared 5ft. 6in. but although she had the spring was not quite tidy enough to leave the bar up at 5ft. 8in.

Shirley Hampton, who has since announced her engagement to Gordon Pirie, won the 220 yards in 25.2 secs. and anchored the successful London sprint relay team. Dana Zatopkova won the javelin by over 20 feet with 155ft. 5½in.



Eric Shirley (G.B.) in the last lap of the 3,000-metre steeplechase in which he beat John Disley (G.B.), Chris Brasher (G.B.), the world record holder Jerzy Chromik (Poland) and Vlastimil Brlica (Czechoslovakia) in 8:47.6 at the White City Stadium on October 12 for a British All-Comers' record. (Action Photos, H. W. Neale.)



Jerzy Chromik, the 23-year-old Pole who has twice beaten the world record for the 3,000-metre steeplechase, seen in the race in London on October 12 in which he was surprisingly beaten by the three British runners, Shirley, Disley and Brasher. (Action Photos, H. W. Neale.)

LATE SEASON MARKS

Late season marks at Oxford University include a shot putt of 53ft. 1in. on November 7 by Canadian-born Barclay Palmer, which is still 25 inches short of John Savidge's British (National) record.

Despite absence of their President, Derek Johnson, 4th in the European Championships 800 metres, five Oxford half milers beat 1:55.0 in trials for the relays against Cambridge on November 24.

A. D. Gordon won in 1:53.4 with D. C. E. Gorrie second in 1:53.8. The next four home were Ian Boyd, 1:54.0; L. Critchlow, 1:54.3; P. Abrahams, 1:54.6; and M. Spankey, 1:55.0.

J. Metcalf won the 220 yards low hurdles in 25.1 from D. J. N. Johnson, 25.4.

Cambridge University who have lost the Sports against Oxford on the last eight occasions show signs of a comeback by winning the Inter-University Freshmen's Sports on November 14 at Iffley Road by 72 points to 54. Six best performances for this comparatively modern event were set—all by Cambridge men. 220 yards: J. R. A. Scott-Oldfield, 22.6; 880 yards: D. Thornton, 1:55.5; Mile: R. Dunkley, 4:15.6; Two Miles: R. J. Forster, 9:15.2; Pole Vault: M. G. Nugent, 11ft. 6in.

ATHLETES' OXYGEN CONSUMPTION

As well as skill, judgment of pace, and willpower, athletic performance depends on the ability of lungs and heart to supply oxygen to the muscles—that is, on the rate at which oxygen can be absorbed in breathing while taking all-out exercise.

Measurements of this rate have been made in Stockholm on John Landy, the Australian runner who holds the world record for the mile, on two Swedish runners, and on the six members of the Swedish national ski-team. They were made by Dr. P.-O. Astrand of the Department of Physiology of the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics and are reported in today's issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

The Swedish skiers came best out of the test. Three of them beat the previous world record for measured rate of oxygen consumption. This was established in 1937 in measurements made on D. R. Lash, an American runner who at the time was the world record holder over two miles. The three runners and the first three members of the ski team were placed in each case in their correct order of racing performance.

RATE ABOVE NORMAL

All the male athletes tested consumed oxygen at a rate appreciably higher than the average for 42 normal but well trained men students. The highest figure—that for the skier S. Jernberg—was 5.88 litres a minute. Landy's figure was 5.04, compared with the previous record of 5.35, and the students' average was 4.11.

Measurements on the skiers were made while skiing uphill during the final minute of a four-minute run done after warming up. Measurements on the runners were made during the last minute of a six-minute run on a treadmill set at an angle of one degree so that they were running uphill and at a speed of 20 kilometres (about 12½ miles) an hour.

Although the earlier measurements on Lash were made under slightly different conditions, the fact that Landy's rate of oxygen consumption was lower both than Lash's and than all the male skiers, suggests that Landy's performances over a mile

and 1,500 metres have owed more to improvements in the way of running these distances and in training for them than to superiority in his natural equipment compared with that of earlier generations of milers.

An interesting speculation is thus raised about how far times on the running track may yet be improved.

[Reprinted from *The Times* of November 12]



Nina Otkalenko, the blonde Russian 800-metre world record holder (2:05.0), (Zagreb, September 25) who, although the "woman athlete of the year", has at present no event in which to run at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. (Action Photos, H. W. Neale.)

THE YEAR'S CROP OF WORLD RECORDS

39 MEN'S, 18 WOMEN'S (see page 9)

Event	Performance	Name and Nationality	Place	Date
100 yards	9.3	James J. Golliday (U.S.A.)	Evanston, Illinois	14/5
400 metres	45.4	Louis Jones (U.S.A.)	Mexico City	18/3
800 metres	1:45.7	Roger Moens (Belgium)	Oslo, Norway	3/8
880 yards	1:47.5	Lawrence Spurrier (U.S.A.)	Berkeley, California	26/3
1,000 metres	2:19.0	Audun Boysen (Norway)	Göteborg	30/8
	2:19.0	István Rószavölgyi (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	21/9
1,500 metres	3:40.8	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	Helsinki, Finland	28/7
	3:40.8	László Tábori Talabercsuk (Hungary)	Oslo, Norway	6/9
	3:40.8	Gunnar Nielsen (Denmark)	Oslo, Norway	6/9
2,000 metres	5:02.2	István Rószavölgyi (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	2/10
3,000 metres	7:55.6	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	14/5
2 miles	8:33.4	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	London, England	30/5
3 miles	13:23.2	Christopher John Chataway (G.B.)	London, England	30/7
	13:14.2	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	23/10
5,000 metres	13:50.8	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	10/9
	13:46.8	Vladimir Petrovich Kuts (U.S.S.R.)	Belgrade, Jugoslavia	18/9
	13:40.6	Sándor Iharos (Hungary)	Budapest, Hungary	23/10
15 miles	1:14:01.0	Emil Zátopek (Czechoslovakia)	Celakovice, C.S.R.	29/10
25,000 metres	1:17:34.0	Albert Ivanov (U.S.S.R.)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	28/9
	1:16:36.4	Emil Zátopek (Czechoslovakia)	Celakovice, C.S.R.	29/10
4 × 110 yards Relay	40.2	Texas University Team (Finis Dean Smith, Alan Frieden, Jerry Prewitt, Robert Whilden)	Modesto, California	21/5
4 × 800 metres Relay	7:26.4	U.S.S.R. Army Team (Oleg Ivanov Ageyev, Sergey Sukhanov, Gennadiy Modoy, Georgiy G. Ivakin)	Riga, Latvia	2/8
4 × 1,500 metres Relay	15:14.8	Hungarian Honved Team (Ferenc Mikes, László Tábori, István Rószavölgyi, Sándor Iharos)	Budapest, Hungary	29/9
3,000 metres Steeplechase	8:47.8	Pentti Karvonen (Finland)	Helsinki, Finland	2/7
	8:45.4	Pentti Karvonen (Finland)	Oslo, Norway	15/7
	8:45.4	Vassiliy Vlassenko (U.S.S.R.)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	18/8
	8:41.2	Jerzy Chromik (Poland)	Brno, C.S.R.	31/8
	8:40.2	Jerzy Chromik (Poland)	Budapest, Hungary	11/9
Hop, Step and Jump	54' 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Ademar Ferreira da Silva (Brazil)	Mexico City	16/3
Hammer Throw	211' 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Mikhail Petrovich Krivososov (U.S.S.R.)	Warsaw, Poland	4/8
	211' 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Mikhail Petrovich Krivososov (U.S.S.R.)	Belgrade, Jugoslavia	19/9
Javelin Throw	268' 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Franklin W. Held (U.S.A.)	Modesto, California	21/5
Decathlon	7,983 points	Rafer Johnson (U.S.A.)	Kingsburg, California	10 & 11/6
5 miles Walk	35:00.0	Josef Doležal (Czechoslovakia)	Stará Boleslav	14/5
	34:49.8	Lasse Hindmar (Sweden)	Göteborg	30/8
	34:32.8	Josef Doležal (Czechoslovakia)	Manchester	15/10
20,000 metres Walk	1:30:02.8	Vladimir Golubnitchi (U.S.S.R.)	Moscow	2/10
25,000 metres Walk	1:56:43.0	Josef Doležal (Czechoslovakia)	Stará Boleslav	14/5
2 hours Walk	25,701.86 m. (15 miles 1,708 yds.)	Josef Doležal (Czechoslovakia)	Stará Boleslav	14/5

WOMEN'S WORLD RECORDS

Event	Performance	Name and Nationality	Place	Date
100 metres	11.3	Shirley Strickland-Delahunty (Australia)	Warsaw, Poland	4/8
220 yards	23.9	Christa Stubnick-Seliger (East Germany)	Erfurt, Germany	29/5
400 metres	54.4	Ursula Donath (East Germany)	Warsaw, Poland	6/8
	53.9	Maria Leontivna Itkina (U.S.S.R.)	Bucharest, Rumania	1/10
800 metres	2:06.4	Nina Grigorievna Otkalenko (U.S.S.R.)	Belgrade, Yugoslavia	19/9
	2:05.0	Nina Grigorievna Otkalenko (U.S.S.R.)	Zagreb, Yugoslavia	25/9
80 metres Hurdles	10.8	Galina Yermolenko (U.S.S.R.)	Leningrad, U.S.S.R.	6/7
4 x 100 metres Relay	45.6	U.S.S.R. Team (Porlinithenko, Vinogradova, Safronova, Maria Leontivna Itkina)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	11/9
3 x 800 metres Relay	6:32.6	Moscow Dinamo Team (A. Lapchina, Ludmila Lysenko, Nina Grigorievna Otkalenko)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	17/7
	6:27.6	Moscow, U.S.S.R. (A. Lapchina, Ludmila Lysenko, Nina Grigorievna Otkalenko)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	11/9
Long Jump	20' 7½"	Galina Mikhailovna Vinogradova (U.S.S.R.)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	11/9
	20' 8⅝"	Galina Mikhailovna Vinogradova (U.S.S.R.)	Tblisi, U.S.S.R.	—
Shot Putt	53' 5¼"	Galina Ivanovna Zybina (U.S.S.R.)	Leningrad, U.S.S.R.	5/9
	53' 6½"	Galina Ivanovna Zybina (U.S.S.R.)	Stalinabad, U.S.S.R.	24/10
	53' 11½"	Galina Ivanovna Zybina (U.S.S.R.)	Stalinabad, U.S.S.R.	8/11
	54' 8⅞"	Galina Ivanovna Zybina (U.S.S.R.)	Tblisi, U.S.S.R.	14/11
Pentathlon	4,747 points	Nina Martynenko (U.S.S.R.)	Leningrad, U.S.S.R.	6&7/7
	4,750 points	Aleksandra Georgievna Chudina (U.S.S.R.)	Moscow, U.S.S.R.	6&7/9



The Magyar Magicians who hold seven individual world records (left to right): László Tábori, István Rózsavölgyi and Sándor Iharos. Tábori, one of the five sub-four-minute milers is co-holder of the 1,500-metre record at 3:40.8. Rózsavölgyi is co-holder of the 1,000-metre record at 2:19.0 and holder of the 2,000-metre record at 5:02.2. Iharos has no less than five records to his credit, as follows: 1,500 metres (3:40.8); 3,000 metres (7:55.6); two miles (8:33.4); three miles (13:14.2) and 5,000 metres which he lowered from 13:50.8 to 13:40.6. Together with Ferenc Mikes this trio set a new world record for the 4 x 1,500-metre relay of 15:14.8, wearing the colours of the Honved Club on September 29. (Associated Press.)

SOUTH AFRICAN REPORT

A 10-strong team from Western Germany has arrived in South Africa for a six weeks tour including two international meetings scheduled for December 3 at Bloemfontein and December 10 at Pretoria. The German team is as follows:—

Men.—100 and 220 yards: Heinz Germar (10.4m. and 21.0m.). 220 and 440 yards: Karl Blümmel (21.7m. and 47.6m.). 440 and 880 yards: Friedel Stracke (48.0m. and 1:49.2m.). 1 mile and 3 miles: Werner Lueg (3:43.0m., 3:44.4m. in 1955). 3 miles and 6 miles: Herbert Schade (14:06.6m. and 29:24.8m.). Long jump, hop, step and jump: Heinz Oberbeck (24ft. 6¼in.). Shot, discus and javelin: Hermann Rieder (232ft. 7in.).

Women.—100 and 220 yards and 80 m.h.: Anneliese Seonbuchner (11.1, hurdles). High jump, long jump and shot putt: Maria Sturm (5ft. 3in., 19ft. 7½in.).

Early season marks among South Africans include a 9.8 100 yards by Ivan du Preez; 440 yards in 48.5 by Pieter Van Zyl at Middleburg, Cape, on October 8; 120 yards hurdles in 14.8 by Kaas van der Merwe; shot putt, 48ft. 4in. by Elfranco Malan on September 27; and discus throw, 164ft. 2½in. by Feanie du Plessis, and 155ft. 2½in. by Malan on October 8.

MELBOURNE OLYMPICS PROGRAMME CHANGES

The Melbourne Olympic programme takes the by now traditional form. It will be noted that as at London in 1948, and unlike the Helsinki Games in 1952, the inter-

vening Sunday (November 25) is a blank day.

The disputacious 10,000 metres walk is out, and the rarely contested 20,000 metres walk now has Olympic

status. A 50 lap walk may prove easier to judge but it is likely to prove even more unpopular with the crowd.

The 1,500 metres will be run off without a second round, thus obviating the 1952 schedule which involved three races in three days.

The pole vault is the only field event with the final on a day later than the qualifying competition. Many feel this practice should have at least been extended to the high jump.

In the women's programme it will be noted that no provision is made for the reintroduction of the now popular 800 metres only previously held in the 1928 Games at Amsterdam.

One of the main concerns about the Games is that weather in a typical Melbourne November is not conducive to top class athletics; the wind often being troublesome and at times the heat being too great for the long distance events.



An aerial view of the cricket stadium at Melbourne which will be used for the first-ever celebration of the Olympic Games in the Southern Hemisphere in November and December, 1956. (Planet News.)

OLYMPIC PROGRAMME, Melbourne, 1956

MEN	Friday, Nov. 23	Saturday, Nov. 24	Monday, Nov. 26	Tuesday, Nov. 27	Wednesday, Nov. 28	Thursday, Nov. 29	Friday, Nov. 30	Saturday, Dec. 1
100 m.	Round 1 & 2	Semi-F. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
200 m.	—	—	Round 1 & 2	Semi-F. & F.	—	—	—	—
400 m.	—	—	—	—	Round 1 & 2	Semi-F. & F.	—	—
800 m.	Round 1	Round 2	FINAL	—	—	—	—	—
1,500 m.	—	—	—	—	—	Heats	—	FINAL
5,000 m.	—	—	Heats	—	FINAL	—	—	—
10,000 m.	FINAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marathon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	FINAL
4 x 100 m. R.	—	—	—	—	—	—	Heats	FINAL
4 x 400 m. R.	—	—	—	—	—	—	Heats	Semi-F. & F.
110 m. H.	—	—	—	Heats	Semi-F. & F.	—	—	—
400 m. H.	Round 1 & 2	Semi-F. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3,000 m. S/C.	—	—	—	Heats	—	FINAL	—	—
20,000 m. W.	—	—	—	—	FINAL	—	—	—
50 km. R.W.	—	FINAL	—	—	—	—	—	—
H.J.	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P.V.	—	Qualifying	FINAL	—	—	—	—	—
L.J.	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
H.S.J.	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—
S.P.	—	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—
D.T.	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—
H.T.	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
J.T.	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—	—
Decathlon	—	—	—	—	—	100 m., L.J., S.P., H.J., 400 m.	110 m. H., D.T., P.V., J.T., 1,500 m	—

Following his double defeat by Gordon Pirie over 10,000 metres (London, October 12) and 5,000 metres (Manchester, October 15) Emil Zátopek went home and on October 29 at Celakovice improved on his own world's record for 15 miles and recaptured his 25,000 metres mark. Zátopek at Stára Boleslav-Houstka on October 26, 1952—some 12 weeks after his unique Olympic triumph at Helsinki—ran 15 miles in 1 hour 16 mins. 26.4 secs. and went on to set new world's records for 25,000 metres (1 hour 19 mins. 11.8 secs.) and 30,000 metres (1 hour 35 mins. 23.8 secs.). This time Zátopek went for the 25,000 metres distance to beat the new figures of 1 hour 17 mins. 34.0 secs. set on September 28 by the Russian 10,000 metre man Albert Ivanov at Moscow.

En route Zátopek passed 15 miles in the excellent time of 1 hour 14 mins. 1 sec. and then recaptured the 25,000 metres record with a timing of 1 hour 16 mins. 36.4 secs.

Zátopek's progress:—

5,000 metres	15:14.8	—
10,000 metres	15:09.4	30:24.2
15,000 metres	15:20.2	45:44.4
20,000 metres	15:22.9	1H 01:07.3
25,000 metres	15:29.1	1H 16:36.4

Zátopek passed 10 miles in 49 mins. 06.4 secs. and ran 19 kilometres 657 metres (12 miles 3 yards) in one hour.

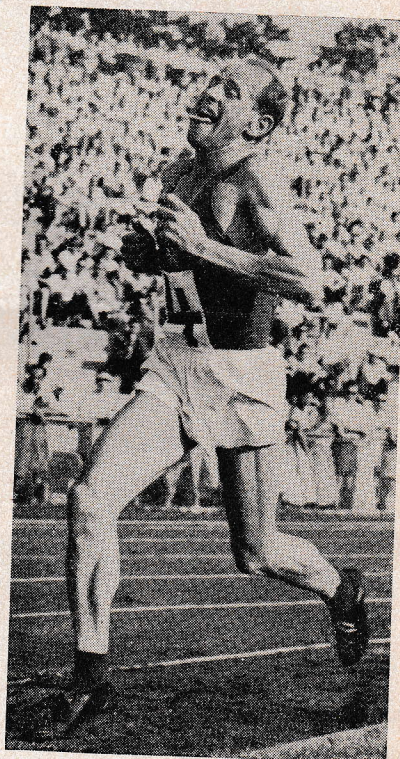
Zátopek now holds again every world mark (8) from 6 miles to 30,000 metres.

His total collection of I.A.A.F. plaques is 18:—

Emil Zátopek's world records:—

10,000 metres	29 mins. 28.2 secs.	11. 6.49.	Czechoslovakia
10,000 metres	29 mins. 21.2 secs.	22.10.49.	Czechoslovakia
10,000 metres	29 mins. 02.6 secs.	4. 8.50.	Turku, Finland
20,000 metres	1 h. 1 min. 15.8 secs.	15. 9.51.	Prague
One hour	19,558 metres (12 miles 269 yds.)	15. 9.51.	Prague
10 miles	48 mins. 12 secs.	29. 9.51.	Stará Boleslav
	(in a 20,000 metre race)		
One hour	20,052 metres (12 miles 810 yds.)	29. 9.51.	Stará Boleslav
20,000 metres	59 mins. 51.8 secs.	29. 9.51.	Stará Boleslav
15 miles	1 h. 16 mins. 26.4 secs.	26.10.52.	Stará Boleslav
	(in a 30,000 metre race)		
25,000 metres	1 h. 19 mins. 11.8 secs.	26.10.52.	Stará Boleslav
	(in a 30,000 metre race)		
30,000 metres	1 h. 35 mins. 23.8 secs.	26.10.52.	Stará Boleslav
6 miles	28 mins. 08.4 secs.	1.11.53.	Stará Boleslav
10,000 metres	29 mins. 01.6 secs.	1.11.53.	Stará Boleslav
5,000 metres	13 mins. 57.2 secs.	30. 5.54.	Paris
10,000 metres	28 mins. 54.2 secs.	1. 6.54.	Brussels
6 miles	27 mins. 59.2 secs.	1. 6.54.	Brussels
15 miles	1 h. 14 mins. 01.0 secs.	29.10.55.	Prague
25,000 metres	1 h. 16 mins. 36.4 secs.	29.10.55.	Prague.

ZÁTOPEK prepares for last season



Emil Zátopek, holder of 18 I.A.A.F. world record plaques, shown in a characteristic agony study in a 5,000-metre race at Karlsruhe in July this year. (Planet News.)

OLYMPIC PROGRAMME, Melbourne, 1956

WOMEN	Friday, Nov. 23	Saturday, Nov. 24	Monday, Nov. 26	Tuesday, Nov. 27	Wednesday, Nov. 28	Thursday, Nov. 29	Friday, Nov. 30	Saturday, Dec. 1
100 m.	—	Rd. 1 & S.F.	FINAL	—	—	—	—	—
200 m.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 x 100 m. R.	—	—	—	—	—	Rd. 1 & S.F.	FINAL	—
80 m. H.	—	—	—	Rd. 1 & S.F.	FINAL	—	—	Heat & F.
H.J.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L.J.	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	Qual. & F.
S.P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D.T.	Qual. & F.	—	—	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—
J.T.	—	—	—	—	Qual. & F.	—	—	—

HUNGARIAN 1500 metres BETTER THAN ANY OLYMPICS

says *R. L. Quercetani*

EUROPEAN REPORT

The closing weeks of the 1955 season in Europe (prior to the USSR Championships at Tbilisi, Georgia, November 12-18) produced more record-breaking performances. The by now fabulous Sándor Iharos of Hungary won the third round of his duel with Russia's Vladimir Kuts by recapturing the world 5,000 metres record with a startling 13:40.6, which, remarkably enough, would have been a world record for three English miles (i.e. a distance about 172 metres shorter) as late as 1940! What really impresses observers in this battle between the two giants of distance running is the fantastic crescendo of their improvement. When Iharos won the first round on September 10 with his 13:50.8, he shaved *four tenths* off Kuts' world mark of 1954. Then Kuts won the second round on September 18 with a great 13:46.8, thus clipping *four seconds* off his rival's latest mark. Now the Hungarian has bettered Kuts' record by *6.2 seconds!* Such being the present incredible state of affairs, one must have lots of courage to talk about human "ultimates" in this or in any other distance event, let alone to compile a scoring table for the comparison of marks made in the various events.

Iharos' latest achievement occurred on the second day of the Hungarian Championships at Budapest, October 23. 60,000 fans watched the race in the huge Népstadion. The temperature was 16°C, but the track was soft because of the intermittent rain! Nine men lined up at the start: most of them had run in fast races only 24 hours earlier, e.g. Tábori 1,500 metres in 3:43.0 and Kovács 10,000 metres in 29:20.0. The man who was shooting for the record, Iharos, was very fresh though. Tábori and Szabó helped Iharos for the greater part of the distance, and it was only with 1,100 metres to go that the would-be record-breaker finally pulled away. Iharos' kilometre fractions were as follows: 2:42, 2:46 (5:28), 2:48 (8:16), 2:51 (11:07), 2:33.6 (13:40.6). In other words, the aid received from Tábori and Szabó earlier in the race paid dividends in the last kilometre. Iharos

ran the final lap (400 metres) in 59.6. Tábori was a brilliant second in 13:53.2, Szabó third in 13:59.0, Kovács fourth in 14:07.2, and Béres fifth in 14:21.8. These place-getters would no doubt have run a few seconds faster without their "hors-d'oeuvre" of the previous day. In fact, coach Mihály Iglói estimates that Tábori, though only a comparative "novice" at this distance, is already capable of about 13:45.

Karel Merta, the big 25-year-old Czech, again shattered the European discus record at Manchester, October 15, with a mighty 186ft. (56.69) effort.

IGNATYEV'S 10.4

Sprints.—An interesting mark was returned by quartermiler Ardalion Ignatyev of USSR at Odessa, October 23, when in a heat of the 100 metres he was timed in 10.4. Of all great quartermilers past and present, only two, Herb McKenley and George Rhoden of Jamaica, have been equal or better over the century. It is possible, however, that Ignatyev may have received some help from Aeolus. The Russian account we read simply said that the following day Ignatyev won the final in 10.8, "with a strong adverse wind". The consistent Bartenyev ran 10.5 at Kiev a few days before the USSR Championships. Manfred Germar, of Germany, closed his European account with a good 10.5 in the match against Italy (Freiburg, October 15). Fütterer did not run: it was later reported that he is to undergo an operation (displaced cervical vertebrae) which will cause him to stay away from training till next Spring.

Béla Goldoványi, one of Europe's most consistent furlong specialists, clocked 21.3 in the Hungarian Championships, same as Václav Janecek of Czechoslovakia at Split, Yugoslavia, on November 6.

Roger Moens, of Belgium, wound up his great 1955 season with marks of 47.3 and 1:48.7 on successive days at Sofia (October 9-10): the former equals his Belgian record.

Middle Distances.—Gunnar Nielsen, of Denmark, won the "Harbig Memorial" race for the third straight year at Dresden, October 9, in 1:49.1. Klaus Richtzenhain, of Germany, was second in 1:50.0, and Velisa Mugosa, of Yugoslavia, was third in 1:50.2, personal bests for both. Edmund Brenner, of Germany, joined the sub-1:50 Club in the match against Italy with 1:49.6 (Freiburg, October 15), beating Friedel Stracke, 1:50.3.

As mentioned earlier in this report, László Tábori won a great 1,500 metres race in the Hungarian Championships at Budapest, October 22. He edged his team-mate Rózsavölgyi by a narrow margin—3:43.0 to 3:43.1. Personal bests were registered for all place-getters: Ernő Béres 3:44.4, Miklos Szabó 3:46.0, László Tanai 3:46.8, József Ceglédi 3:47.0, and Jenő Bakos 3:49.4. Needless to say, this one-country show by far surpasses anything previously seen in Olympic finals, and even the times returned at Bern last year. The 25-year-old Tábori can now be considered the world's No. 1 man of the season at 1,500 metres/1 mile. Any man who can beat the best Englishmen in London and twice edge Gunnar Nielsen deserves great respect for next year's Olympics. Stanislav Jungwirth did 3:45.8 at Ostrava, October 23, one of his best achievements this year.

CHROMIK beats HERRMANN

Long Distances.—East Germany's Siegfried Herrmann tried the 5,000 metres in the triangular match against Poland and Belgium (Jena, October 16) and ran a fine 14:11.6. But he had to surrender to Jerzy Chromik, who just managed 14:11.4.

As usual, the late season meets saw many good 10,000-metre performances. In addition to Kovács' 29:20.0 in the Hungarian Championships (October 22), one is bound to mention Chromik's 29:23.0 in the Polish Championships (Lodz, October 25)—his previous best, dating from 1953, was 30:39.4—Szabó's 29:28.4 in the International Championships of Bulgaria (Sofia, November 6), and Ivan Ullsperger's 29:29.2 at Kladno on October 16. This last may be something more than a good *aide-de-camps* for his countryman Zátópek at Melbourne next year. Herbert Schade improved on his season's best at Freiburg, October 16, with 29:39.0.

Steeplechase and Hurdles.—Little has happened over the barriers of late. Quite understandably, the heroes of this department decided to call it a day earlier than their colleagues from other events. Even so, Rozsnyói won the Hungarian title in 8:48.4 from László Jeszenszky (8:49.0), and Guy Cury, of France narrowly defeated Wolfgang Fischer, of Germany, at Rome's Olympic Stadium, time for both 52.5, on November 4.

Correction.—Igor Ilian's time behind Lituyev (51.4) at Kiev early in October was 51.6, not 51.5 as first reported.

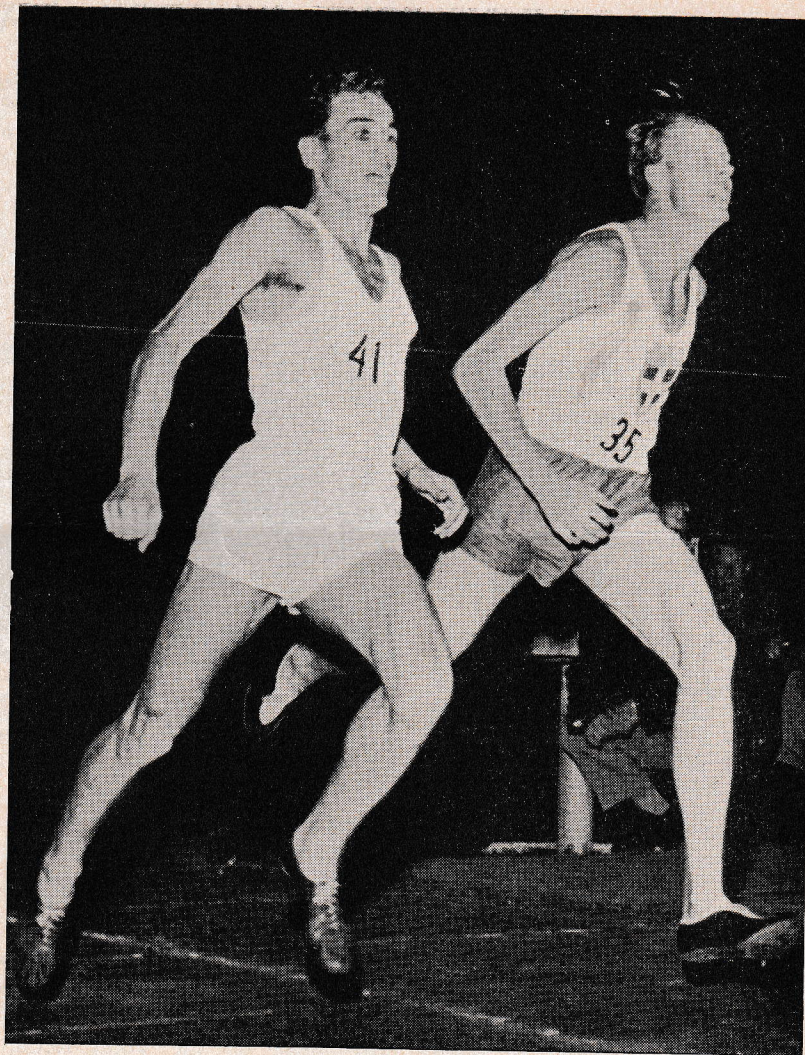
Jumps.—Bengt Nilsson appeared in the Rome meeting of November 4 and even though this was his first competition since October 9, he cleared 6ft. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ in., 6ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and 6ft. 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ in., always on his first attempt, to fail finally at 6ft. 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. This was "Benke's" *fiftieth* meeting for 1955 and his season's average is 2.022 (6ft. 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.), truly amazing if one reflects that in July alone he appeared in no less than *sixteen* meetings, a record in its kind, we would venture to say.

Vladimir Sitkin upped the Russian record first to 2.03 (6ft. 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.), then 2.05 (6ft. 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.) at Odessa on October 23. Earlier in the month a youngster by the name of R. Shavlakadze had joined the USSR 2-Metre Club, which now has five members, with a 6ft. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. clearance. It should be remembered that USSR was awaiting her first post-war two-metre man as late as 1954. Even so, this year's title on the opening day of the USSR Championships at Tbilisi went to Igor Kashkarov (winner also in the GB vs USSR meet) with no better than 6ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Vitaliy Chernobay and Edward Adamczyk were the best late season performers in the pole vault, with 14ft. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Young Dimitar Khlevarov, of Bulgaria, brought his country's record to 14ft. 4in. at Sofia, October 23, between the first and the second half of a GB vs Bulgaria football match.

Nothing outstanding to report from either long or triple jump runways, except perhaps K. Kirchev's 50ft. in the Bulgarian Championships, less than 2in. short of his country's record.

Throws.—Jiri Skobla returned to his best form of 1953-54 late in the



Gunnar Nielsen (Denmark) and László Tábori (Hungary) shown in their thrilling dead heat in the 1,500-metre race at Oslo on September 6 which resulted in them tying the world record of 3:40.8 already set by Iharos at Helsinki on July 28. (Arne Svendsen.)

season. After his return from England he had the following series: 17.01 (55ft. 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.), Znojmo, Oct. 9; 17.25 (56ft. 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.), Ostrava, Oct. 23; 17.45 (57ft. 3in.), Celákovice, Oct. 29; 17.46 (57ft. 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.), Prague, Oct. 30; 17.41 (57ft. 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.), Split, Nov. 6.

The big Czech had six throws over 17 metres in the Prague meet. He may be expected to resume next year his march towards the 18 metres (59ft. $\frac{5}{8}$ in.) mark.

A new excellent prospect appeared in the person of Vartan Ovsepyan, a student at the Erivan Institute of Pedagogics. Competing in his own town (capital of the Armenian Re-

public) at unspecified dates in October, he first did 17.14 (56ft. 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.), then 17.17 (56ft. 4in.), thus coming dangerously close to Grigalka's USSR record.

Two more national records were shattered at Freiburg on October 15, when Dieter Urbach threw 54ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to erase from the German record books Woellke's 19-year-old mark, and Silvano Meconi, of Italy, reached 54ft. 2in., which is the second best mark ever by a Latin shot putter (best is Juan Kahnert's 54ft. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in California this year. This Argentine thrower was for years a 50-footer in his own country, but suddenly

LANCASTER'S WORLD'S BEST

improved by a considerable margin after a few months of training in the Mecca of American track).

Merta's 186ft. at Manchester was a fitting climax to a great season for this consistent Czech. He wound up his season's business with a fine 179ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. at Split, Yugoslavia, on November 6. Even more remarkable was perhaps the late season spurt of Italy's Adolfo Consolini. The man who has won more titles than any other discus thrower of our time will be 39 on January 5, yet he shows no signs of impending decay. To be sure, 1955 was his greatest ever season, at least as regards distances achieved. His autumn account reads as follows: 54.75 (179ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.), Milan, Oct. 2
54.10 (177ft. 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.), Merano, Oct. 9
54.17 (177ft. 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.), Freiburg, Oct. 16
55.75 (182ft. 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.), Teheran, Oct. 23 (extra trial 185ft. 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.)
55.73 (182ft. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.), Milan, Nov. 1
54.20 (177ft. 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.), Rome, Nov. 4
56.31 (184ft. 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.), Catania, Nov. 10
53.72 (176ft. 3in.), Milan, Nov. 13

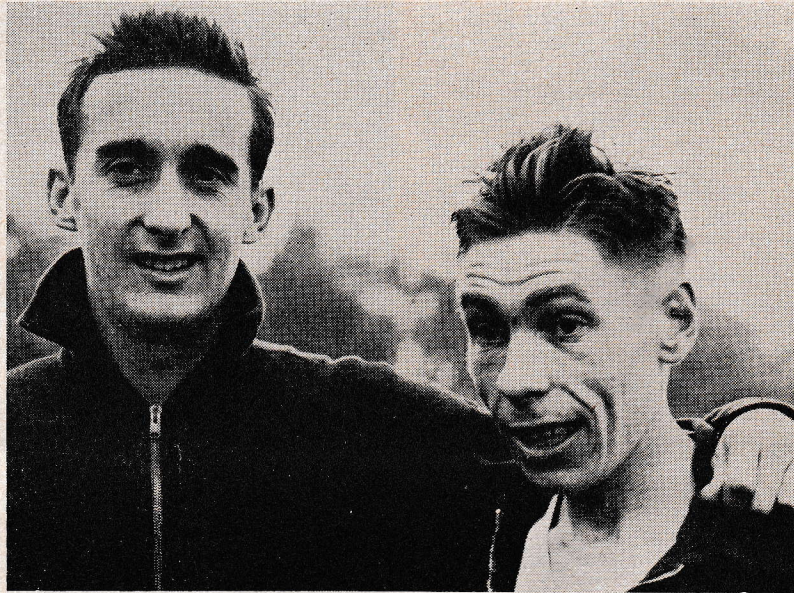
It is curious to note that Consolini travelled all the way from Teheran, Iran, to Milan, Italy, only to find that the difference in latitude and climate was expressed by a mere *two centimetres* (less than 1in.) in terms of discus distances! His Catania mark raises him to fourth on the All-Time List, behind Gordien, Iness, and fairly close to Merta

Another national record was bettered by Thorsteinn Löve, of Iceland, at Reykjavik, around the middle of October with a surprising 54.28 (178ft. 1in.).

Two new 60-metres men in the hammer: Yuriy Nikulin, of USSR with 60.05 (197ft. $\frac{1}{8}$ in.) at Moscow in October, and Kresimir Racic with a new Yugoslav record of 60.28 (197ft. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.) at Split, November 6. The Yugoslav thrower beat Czechoslovakia's consistent Milos Máca (196ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

Soini Nikkinen had a rather "spotty" record this season: even so he managed to close with a new Finnish record of 79.64 (261ft. 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.) at Tampere on October 7, less than two inches over his 1954 mark. It is surprising to find that Finland, with her wealth of javelin talent, still has to produce an 80-metres man, a trick already done by USA and Poland.

Janusz Sidlo, undoubtedly Europe's most consistent performer, finished with 78.42 (257ft. 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.) in the Polish Championships (Lodz, October 23).



Gordon Pirie with his arm round Joe Lancaster who beat him in the two-hour race on the Stompond Lane track, Walton-on-Thames, on October 22. Lancaster's distance of 22 miles 418 yards was a new world's best performance. (Associated Press.)

Walton-on-Thames, October 22.

In cold conditions, Joe Lancaster (Manchester A.C.), 28, set a world's best performance for two hours' running by improving on Jose Ribas' (Argentine) once official world mark of 21 miles 698 yards set at Buenos Aires in 1935, by covering 22 miles 418 yards 1 foot 7 inches. This event was struck off the world record schedule in 1938. Second was Gordon Pirie (South London H.) making his first attempt at a near marathon event with 22 miles 278 yards. The third and fourth men, Jack Heywood (Herne Hill H.) and Stan Cox (Southgate H.) also easily passed Ribas' figures with 22 miles 174 yards and 22 miles 107 yards respectively.

Other records that went were George Crossland's venerable English Native Record of 1:51:54.0 for 20 miles set in 1894 at Stamford Bridge; Harry Green's English Native two hours' record of 20 miles 952 yards of 1913, also set at Stamford Bridge; and the 1936 Olympic marathon silver medallist Ernie Harper's British Best two hours' performance of 20 miles 1,604 yards set at Glasgow in 1933. Lancaster's new figures for 20 miles were 1 hr. 47 mins. 53 secs.—

an improvement of 4 mins. 1 sec. on the hoary 61-year-old record.

Lancaster suffered a crushed thigh at 11 years of age in a road accident, and then years later suffered severe head and neck injuries when falling out of an Army jeep.

He has never yet run a full marathon but does the distance five days a week in training by running to and from his work—railway clerk—from his Hollingworth home.

The smooth, economical striding Lancaster will enter the 1956 Polytechnic marathon and obviously stands a great chance of beating 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours by a sufficient margin to lay claim to one of perhaps only 18 places (fare £550 each) in the British Melbourne Olympic squad.

To get things in perspective it would however only be fair to point out that on a road Jim Peters must have been well ahead of the 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile post in his best marathon, and that on a track Zátópek, the holder, would have been well past the 15-mile mark in his recent record-breaking run (admittedly only over 25,000 metres) while Lancaster was still a long way short of having completed 14 miles.

ATHLETIC BOOKSHELF

GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS (Guinness Superlatives Ltd., Ludgate House, London, E.C.4). Price 5s. (208 pp. crown quarto, 77 illustrations, 116,000 words).

This is not another wonder book. It is the first *stop* wondering book—an encyclopaedia of superlatives ranging from the fastest canonized saint, through the longest beard to the slowest traffic lights. Sixty-two sports are covered, including, of course, track and field athletics. Though the compilers are anonymous, your guess is likely to be better than most.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS (Normal Press, 549 Lordship Lane, London, S.E.22). Price 15s. (290 pp., 57 illustrations). By George Pallett.

This manual not merely fills a want; it fills a vacuum. Mr. Pallett has made a fine contribution to the most underdocumented department of the whole sport. It is an invaluable work of reference and record painstakingly mustered over a period of two years.

FRANZ STAMPFL ON RUNNING (Herbert Jenkins, London). Price 15s. (160 pp., 56 illustrations). By Franz Stampfl.

This is a provocative book radiating the author's infectious enthusiasm. The six-mile schedules are not so well thought out as the rest, which have the hallmark of the zealot. The descriptive passages of races from *Athletics World* are rather too breezy for the book medium and should have been re-written. It is a book no broad-minded person can ignore and one from which many could derive greater results.

IN THE LONG RUN (Cassell & Co. Ltd., London). Price 13s. 6d. (216 pp. and 27 illustrations). By J. H. Peters and "Johnny" Johnston as told to Joseph Edmundson, M.C.

A charming and humble account of the career of a human fakir who without physical endowment ran the marathon at nearly 12 m.p.h. Contains much material never elicited by the Press, and is most readably written.

FIRST FOUR MINUTES (Putnam, 42 Great Russell Street, London). Price 15s. (224 pp. and 38 illustrations). By Roger Gilbert Bannister, C.B.E., B.A., B.Sc., B.M., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

This is a pleasantly and warmly written narrative which could usefully have been twice the length. It is an important book and an extremely interesting and well-written one. In giving half the royalties to the A.A.A. the author is making amends for the fact that his innate dislike of competition did not enable him to enrich the sport to the extent of many lesser athletes.

ALL OUT FOR THE MILE (Forbes Robertson Ltd., 226 The Strand, London, W.C.2). Price 15s. (208 pp., and 16 illustrations). By George Smith.

This book is exactly what its sub-title indicates—A History of the Mile Race from 1864-1955. It is an excellent and well-fashioned record written by a professional administrator who has retained all the glee of an amateur enthusiast. It is delightfully full of candour and free of cant. The comprehensive tables in the Appendix are the work of one described by the not unknown initials "J.N.A."

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RUSSIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Full reports of the All Soviet track and field championships, held at Tblisi, in Georgia from November 12 - 18 are not yet to hand. Meanwhile, here are some of the bare results:—

MEN

100m	10.5	B. Tokaryev
400m	47.4	A. Ignatyev
800m	1:51.9	Ossinkine
1,500m	3:46.6	V. Okorokov
5,000m	14:08.6	V. Kuts
10,000m	29:47.0	V. Kuts
Marathon	2h 21:23.8	S. Kuznetsov
20,000m walk	1h 32:56.0	Young
50km walk	4h 07:23.0	Egorov
		(not known whether on track or road)
110mh	14.9	Y. Bulantchik
HJ	6' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Kashkarov
LJ	23' 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	Tcherniak
HSJ	52' 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	L. Shcherbakov
DT	182' 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	O. Grigalka (U.S.S.R. record)
HT	211' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	M. Krivososov
JT	245' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	V. Tsibulenko

WOMEN

100m	11.9	G. Vinogradova
200m	24.0	Z. Safronova
400m	56.2	L. Lysenko
800m	2:05.8	L. Lysenko (Otkalenko beaten)
LJ	20' 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	G. Vinogradova (world record)
SP	54' 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	G. Zybina (world record)
DT	185' 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	N. Ponomaryeva

PRINCIPAL 1956 FIXTURES

The dates of the following 1956 athletics fixtures have been notified.

April 7	Oxford v. Cambridge Sports	White City
April 14	"News of the World" National Road Relay Race—London/Brighton	From Westminster
May 2	Eton Manor Floodlight, 7 p.m.	
May 12	Sward Trophy Meeting	Chiswick
May 19/21	Inter - Counties Championships and Whitsun British Games International Mtg.	White City
May 25/26	U.A.U. Championships	Manchester
June 16	Kinnaird Trophy Meeting (and Southern Marathon)	Chiswick
June 22/23	Southern Senior Cham'ships.	Motspur Park
June 29/30	Army Championships	
June 30	Brockman Trophy	
July 6/7	Southern Junior Cham'ships.	Eton Manor
July 7	Ryder Trophy Meeting (Men)	Southampton
July 9, 10, 11	R.A.F. Championships	Uxbridge
July 13/14	A.A.A. Championships	White City
July 18	Inter-Services Championships	Uxbridge
July 20/21	Schools' A.A. Championships	Plymouth
Aug. 4/6	International Match (White City G.B. v. Hungary)	
Aug. 11/25	A.A.A. Summer School	
Aug. 31/Sept. 1	Great Britain v. U.S.S.R. and British Games	White City
Sept. 19	A.A.A. Floodlight Mtg. (prov.)	White City
Nov. 23/Dec. 1	XVith Olympic Games	Melbourne