

TOMMIE SMITH & JIM RYUN, 1966

(A rebuttal to Bert Nelson's case for Ryun as athlete of the year)

1. You attempt to overshadow Smith's four world records by claiming that Ryun's two world records came at different distances. But when comparing two athlete's performances at difference events, world record performances are really only significant in relative value. Smith's 19.5yst is worth 1060 and Smith's 43.8r=44.5 is 1032, both better than Ryun's 1:44.2 (1011) and 3:51.3 (1022).

2. The portuguese Tables were not considered at all. As an all-round performer, Smith rates considerably better off his 1966 performances.

SmithS:	10.1 (987)	19.5yst (1060)	43.8r (1032)	=3079
(Even Smith's 45.3 (worth 3047) to substitute for 43.8r				<del>3047</del> 3047
Ryun	1:44.2 (1011)	3:51.3 (1022)	8:25.2 (1005)	=3038

3. The margin of superiority of Smtih and Ryun over the previous record in their best events is overwhelmingly in favor of Smith: 20.0 to 19.5=2.5% compared to 3:53.6 to 3:51.3=0.98%--which is an incredible difference as a feature we have prepared for TN indicates.

4. You completely ignore Smith's entire relay circuit. And most importantly you forget his 43.8 relay leg, a race of fantastic stature made even more incredible by the fact that it was completed as strictly a "solo" in a most pressuresome silitation of record seeking. In addition, probably no one has ever seen such incredible or devastating relay legs as Smith consistently displayed in the 440, 880 and mile relays at Mt. SAC, Stanford Relays, Easter Relays, West Coast Relays, California Relays and NCAA. He annihilated two of the world's three fastest sport sprinters in the Modesto meet, in Anderson and Hines. On the same day less than two minutes apart, Smith, still injured, ran his 43.8 relay leg, while the probably second and fourth best quarter-milers of 1966 in the world could only run 44.5 (Evans) and 45.0 (Lewis)--and yet their times were incredible by almost all standards. And don't forget that Smith had trained very little for nearly five weeks in addition to his injury.

5. The two-mile is not an international event such as the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500 are, so Ryun's performance should be compared with all distances from 3000m to 5000m. Of the top 15 distance performances within this range rated by the Portuguese Tables, Ryun only ranks as equal fifth best--and defeated only two of all these athletes. On an all-time basis, he ranks no higher than equal seventh. These are performers, and not performances:

1966: Clarke 13:16.6 (1036), Lindgren 12:53.0 (1024), Norpoth (13:24.8) (1019), Keino 13:26.6 (1019), Ryun, Grelle and Coyle 8:25.2 (1005).

All-time: Keino 7:39.6 (1036), Clarke 13:16.6 (1036), Lindgren 12:53.0 (1024), Norpoth 13:24.8 (1019), Jazy 8:22.6 (1014), Hermann 7:46.0 (1012), Ryun 8:25.2 (1005).

6. Because sprinters ran slower than their best against Smith was due to poor conditions (wind, etc.), not poor form of sprinters. In fact, all four of Ryun's big races were run under virtually perfect conditions, particularly for distance runners. The Berkeley and LA tracks in particular have never been noted as great sprint tracks.

7. You attempt to degrade some of Smith's fastest races by saying that he ran them without ~~the~~ opposition. I hardly find that a discredit but rather a plus point. I'd say it's more difficult to run fast sprint times without the aid of opposition. It's pretty hard to maintain all-out speed without someone pushing you. But Smith seemed to... and with lifetime bests

8. I contend that it is much more difficult to excel at the combination of 100, 220 and 440 than at 880, mile and two-mile. You can really only name McKenley, Seye and Carr as good all-

round sprinters, while Jungwirth, Santee, Rozsavolgyi, Elliott, Waern, Jazy and Burleson were tops at the three long events. Physiologically, you just don't seem to find top flight 100 and 440 talent in the same man.

9. And most importantly is the competitive record, which you seem to have distorted. Between Tommie's relay running and his open races, his competitive record is far superior to what you tried to indicate. In the 220, he beat everyone of consequence. In the 440, he beat Wendell Mottley and recorded faster times than Evans and Lewis on the same day in race where time was important, and took an excellent field at Modesto. He is certain to be ranked number one in both events. In the 100, he lost only to Greene and did in fact beat a good remaining field in that race (Freeman, SMatison, Headlye, Jackson). The bunk that he beat nobody faster than 9.4 has little meaning, since there were only ~~three~~ four other sprinters faster than 9.4 whom he didn't meet. And outside of these, one of whom he soundly beat in a relay, who else should have he met? He met a series of good sprinters in relay legs and gobbled them up. He proved himself superior in the 220 and 440 over the entire world, and he only failed to meet roughly three great sprinters at the short distance. (And Smith's loss to Hermen should be considered a sporting giveaway, not a loss, something Ryun might sometime in the future elect to do for some teammate like Mike Petterson--and would you call that a loss. This fact should strengthen, not weaken, Smith's claim as athlete of the year--a true sportsmanship gesture.) So, he lost only one more race than did Ryun--yet he faced considerably more of the talent available. Ryun failed to meet numerous qualified contenders, having actually run in ~~top~~ many hamburger meets... in terms of the events in question. At a mile or 1500, he did not meet Jazy, Keino, Odlozil, May, Wadoux, Simpson, Tummler or Norpoth. At two-miles or comparable distances, he beat only three good distances runners in Grelle, Keino and Smith, failing to meet the likes of Clarke, Lindgren, Norpoth, Jazy, Tummler, Swaki, Gamoudi, Mecser, etc. At 880, he did not meet Crothers, Kerr, Kiprugut, SKemper, Matuschewski, Clough at his best, Tummler, Carroll, et. al.

World best (all time) 3000, 2M, 3M, 5000

Kipchoge Keino	7:39.6	(1036)
Ron Clarke	13:16.6	(1036)
Herry Lindgren	12:53.0	(1024)
Karalcl Norpath	13:24.8	(1019)
<del>Jim Ryan</del>	<del>8:25.2</del>	
<del>Jim Helle</del>	<del>8:25.2</del>	
<del>John Coyle</del>	<del>8:25.2</del>	
Michel Gany	8:22.6	(1014)
Siegfried Hermann	7:48.0	(1012)
Jim Ryan	8:25.2	(1005)
John Coyle		
Jim Helle		
Gaston Brélonz	7:48.6	(1003)
Mike Wiggs	13:33.0	(1001)
Bob Schul	8:26.4	(1000)
Vladimir Kuts	13:35.0	(997)
Murray Halberg	13:35.2	(996)
John Downie	7:51.0	(994)
Keisuke Sawabi	13:36.2	(994)
Mohamed Gamoudi	13:36.4	(994)

World list (1966) 3000m, 2-mile, 3-mile, 5000m

Ron Clarke	13:16.6	(1036)
Herry Lindgren	12:53.0	(1024)
Kabalel Noypath	13:24.8	(1019)
<del>Ripchoye Keen</del>	13:26.6	(1015)
<u>Jim Ryan</u>	8:25.2	(1005)
<u>Jim Gelle</u>	8:25.2	(1005)
John Coyle	8:25.2	(1005)
Keisuke Sawaki	13:36.2	(994)
Mohamed Samoudi	13:36.4	(994)
Lajos Messer	13:36.6	} (993)
	2 7:51.2	
Michel Jarry	13:38.2	(990)
Allan Rushmer	13:08.6	(990)
Kenk Altmann	13:39.0	(988)
Bill Wilkinson	13:39.6	(987)
Anatolij Makarov	13:39.8	(987)
<u>Troy Smith</u>	13:40.2	(986)
George Young	13:40.2	(986)

\_\_\_\_\_ = defeated by Ryan

# Versatile Runners

① 100-200-400

Since 1947 the only athletes to rank in all 3 in one year are:

- 1947 Herb McKenley (10th, 2nd + 1st)
- 1952 Herb McKenley (3rd, 2nd + 2nd)
- 1959 Abdou Djalil (5th, 5th, 7th)
- 1963 Kenes Larr (3rd, 1st, 5th)

~~Maxwell Hill~~

Maxwell Hill said (in 1952) that McKenley was the best 100-200-400 of all time

② 880-mile-2-mile

- ④ Sydney Wooderson (WR at 800, 880y + mile in late '30s  
Eur Ch in 1946 at 5000m)
- ⑤ Herb Elliott (1958 -- 1st WR, 880, 1st WR mile,  
5th WL, 2-mile)
- ⑥ Michel Jazy (1962 -- 4th WR 880, 3rd WR mile,  
1st WL, 3000 meters)
- ⑦ Dyal Burbson (1962 -- 11th WL 880, WR mile,  
15th WL, 2-mile)
- ⑧ Stanislaw Jungwirth (1953 -- 6th WR 880, 6th WR  
mile, 8th WR 2-mile)
- ⑨ Wes Santee (1954 -- 8th WR 880y, 3rd WR  
mile, 16th WL 2-mile)
- ⑩ Istvan Rozsavolgyi (1956 -- 24th WL 880y, 4th WR  
mile, 2nd WR 2 mile)
- ⑪ Don Naern (1959 -- 7th WR, 880y, 2nd WR mile,  
3rd WL, 3000m)

100-200-400

Stiles: (p18 of Book Track) (1941)

~~Lee Orr~~ Lee Orr -- 3rd h 100m, 5th 200m '36 06; beat  
Klemmer at 440 + ran 46.7 (also 9.5+20.8,

Clyde Jeffery -- 9.5, 10.2, 20.5, world's best 38-39, but  
only 47.9

Eric Hiddell -- 47.6, 400 (1924) but not a great sprinter

Mr Kenley -- the best at 100-200-400, 2nd 1948  
06 400 of 1952 06 100+400, 5th 1948 06 200

800 - 1500/mile - 3000/2 mile