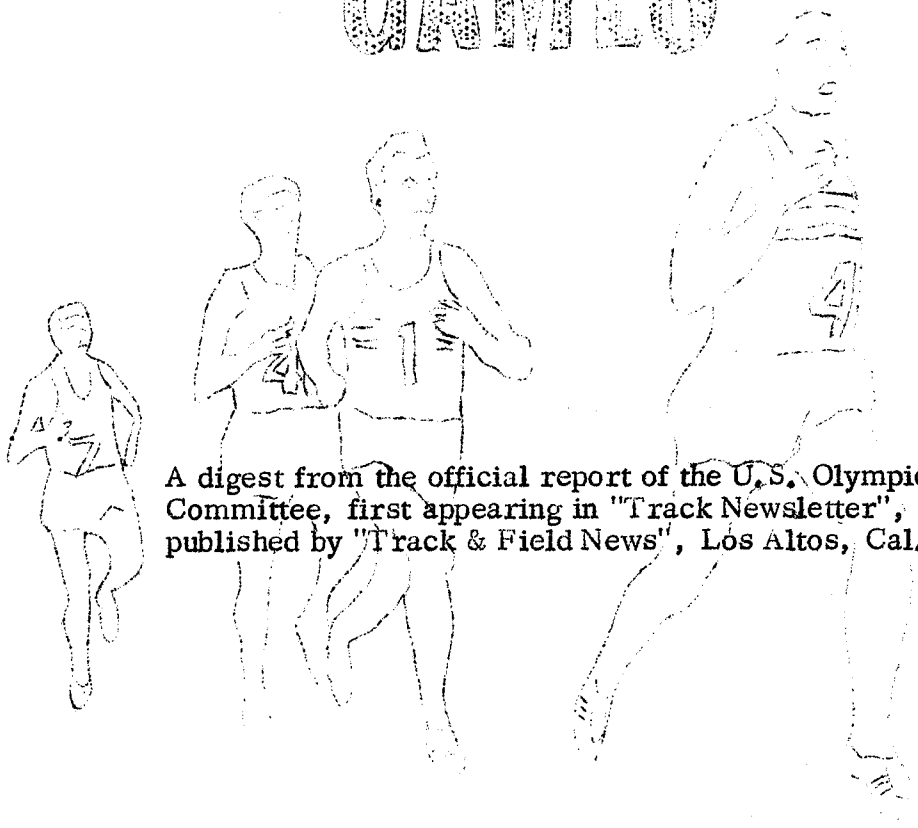


1920

OLYMPIC
GAMES



A digest from the official report of the U. S. Olympic Committee, first appearing in "Track Newsletter", published by "Track & Field News", Los Altos, Cal.

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (from the report of the U.S. Olympic Committee, which is dedicated as a "Souvenir of the pluck, perseverance and athletic prowess which won the world's championship in sport for the American Olympic Team in the Seventh Olympic Games As at the First Olympic Games at Athens in 1896, the Second at Paris in 1900, the Third at St. Louis in 1904, the Fourth at London in 1908, and the Fifth at Stockholm in 1912, so at the Seventh Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920, the competitors representing the USA led the world in track and field athletics by a wide margin, scoring 201½ points as against 121½ for the nearest contender, Sweden.

The first difficulty encountered by the newly reorganized American Olympic Committee was the delay in receiving the detailed general program of the Games from the Belgian O.C. Although the 7th Olympiad had been awarded to Antwerp in April 1919, and although the first events were scheduled to take place in April, 1920, no definite word of the sports upon the Olympic program was received until the middle of February, 1920. It was estimated that over \$200,000 would be needed to send our teams to the Games and bring them home--more than twice the sum required for Stockholm--and quotas were assigned to various cities.

The Navy cooperated in many ways, including sending the many Navy members of the team to Antwerp in the armored cruiser Frederick. Army aid made it possible to transport the rest of the team to Belgium. The US Army of Occupation on the Rhine had its base at Antwerp so had regular schedules of army transports to that city. Many of the staterooms were not being used. On the other hand, the condition of commercial trans-Atlantic shipping during all of 1920 was chaotic--steamers had been destroyed by the war, some had been removed for other trade, many were tied up by strikes, sailing were being cancelled, embargoes placed on shipping and fresh difficulties arising daily in foreign countries as well as our own. All lines were greatly overbooked. It seemed then that the only reliable hope of getting the team to Antwerp and back was in obtaining passage on the army transports. A strong point in favor of this was the saving over \$70,000. A special resolution of Congress was necessary to allow the army transports to be so used, and it was obtained.

The boat selected to carry a majority of the team was the Northern Pacific, as fine and fast as any trans-Atlantic passenger steamer, making the voyage in 7 or 8 days. Unfortunately, the Northern Pacific loosened a plate on her hull beneath the waterline on the preceding voyage (before schedule departure) and was laid up. This most unfortunate and unforeseen happening produced a condition as serious as it was unexpected. First of all it practically left stranded the 254 members of the team who were to sail on the Northern Pacific. In order that these athletes might not break training and be kept together it was arranged for the majority to be housed at Fort Slocum where they had the daily use of the NYAC track across the bay. Whereas this added burden taxed the resources of Fort Slocum so that such luxuries as privacy and special food were lacking, to the disgust of certain athletes who preferred to pay their own expenses in NYC, most of the men found the food adequate and the accommodations as good as could be expected under the circumstances.

But far more serious than this temporary discomfort, the removal of the Northern Pacific left a gap in the transport sailing schedule which could not be filled. To obtain transportation on passenger steamers would have been impossible for at the best all which could have been done would have been to send over the teams, a few on one boat and a few on another with many changes due to trans-shipments and the like and with practically no care nor attention from coaches or trainers, but with constant exposure to the unusual temptations of present ocean travel. It would also have entailed an expense which the funds in the treasury did not warrant.

The Army did all that it could. It first of all offered the Buford, but it would take not less than 16 days and was too small for training, so the team could not be landed in good condition. So it was decided to keep the team at Fort Slocum an extra week (original departure was scheduled for July 20), and the Princess Matoika was ordered to hasten to New York, unload and get ready for the return voyage as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, the Matoika was not the Northern Pacific; one was an up-to-date, fast going ocean steamer, the other slow and of ancient vintage. Moreover, not only did the loss of the Northern Pacific mean sending on the Matoika the members of the Olympic team, but also placed on board her both the officers and government officials who were supposed to have sailed on the Northern Pacific as well as those on the Matoika herself, and it must be remembered that under the law, officers and their wives, federal officials and their wives must have stateroom accommodations. It therefore followed that the bulk of the men were forced to cross troopship. (cont.)

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (continued from the report of the U.S. Olympic committee):

To be certain that accommodations on the Princess Matoika were fit for the athletes the embarkation officer was approached, and he gave positive assurance that no extra provisions were needed, and the troopship quarters were large, adequate, clean and comfortable with each man being allotted the space given three soldiers during the war. When informed of the conditions, some team members said they did not want to go except under different conditions, but when given the opportunity of resigning from the team they all elected to go. A farewell meeting was held at the Manhattan Opera House on July 26 and all those sailing marched directly from the Opera House to the 34th street dock and were transferred to the Matoika.

Final disposition put 44 in staterooms, of whom 20 were women; 38 in a large room on the boat deck, 12 in another room, 108 in troopship quarters in four hatchways. All meals were served in the main dining room, consisting of an abundance of good food with menus especially prepared for the athletes. There were times when the service was poor and the cooking unsatisfactory. The trip was hot and uncomfortable, due to the climate and a more southerly route than usual. The members of the team protested in a signed statement that the transport was dirty; that it was vermin-ridden, especially with rats; that the service both in the staterooms and troopship quarters and at the table was from poor to bad and that sanitary arrangements were insufficient. Apparently they overlooked the emergency and the many little conveniences which had been installed for their comfort.

A cork track 65 yards long and wide enough for two men to run abreast was constructed for the sprinters. A canvas tank about 15 feet in length by nine in width was filled daily with ocean water to allow the swimmers to practice. Deck Shuffleboard, quoits and other forms of amusement helped to pass the days.

The Matoika arrived at Antwerp August 8, and while many desired to disembark that evening it was thought best to wait until next morning. This was probably a mistake and was not only a great disappointment to the members of the team who were all packed and ready to go, but also brought physical discomfort and inconvenience because the crew, many of whom had been allowed to leave the ship, had gathered up the bedding, including blankets, so that no beds were made for the night and little breakfast was served the following morning.

The bulk of the team was quartered at a schoolhouse on the Rue Oudaen. It was by all odds the best and largest school in town, having 13 large airy rooms, each accommodating 10 to 30 men, adequate toilets, a gym, and an interior courtyard, 60x60 feet, containing trees, walks and benches. The Belgian Committee agreed to turn the gym into a kitchen and a large room adjoining into a mess-hall, to remove the school benches and place in the rooms army cots, bedding and suitable furniture, to reserve one room for gymnastic apparatus, and to install a dozen shower baths off the courtyard.

They also agree to provide food at the rate of 28 francs per day per man as follows:
 Breakfast--bacon and eggs, coffee, milk, sugar, bread and butter; or cold meat, tea, sugar, bread and butter; or preserves, milk, sugar, bread and butter.
 Lunch--Eggs, beefsteak, vegetables, bread and butter, desert, fresh or stewed fruit.
 Dinner--Soup, meat and vegetables, b&b, desert, coffee.
 This was to be supplemented at cost with cereal or any other additional food possible to be obtained.

Training was arranged on the track and field of the stadium, on a football field, on a large aviation field, and at the swimming stadium.

Unfortunately, the team arrived in the midst of a 3-day holiday when offices were closed and not a workman stirring. The ill-feeling aroused over conditions on the Matoika was aggravated during the first few days by the incompleteness of the schoolhouse. The number of cots was less than the number of athletes, and the food was far from satisfactory. The Belgian contractor had evidently tried to feed the men with the continental breakfast of coffee and rolls rather than with oatmeal, (cereals being practically unknown as a breakfast food on the continent) eggs, bacon and other hearty food to which we are accustomed, and which had been promised. By cooperation of the Army, Navy and YWCA the menu was changed so that the athletes had proper food, especially sugar, white (! Ed.) flour, and butter beyond that which could be obtained in any of the hotels of Antwerp, the city being then and during the Games upon a sugar and white flour ration. (to be continued)

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (part three from report of the U.S. Olympic committee):

The attention of the Belgian Committee was at last called so pointedly to the unsanitary state of the toilets that they were made proper for use--in this connection it must be remembered that Antwerp has no sewerage disposal other than cesspools from which the refuse is pumped and carried away in tanks, and that during the Games all departments of the city were working overtime. The members of the committee took up immediately the question of what rules and regulations should be laid down for the better discipline of the team, and it was felt that everyone should be in the schoolhouse not later than 10, with lights out at 10:30, and that all who were not in by that time should report the reasons for tardiness.

- As a result of such measures, the spirit of discontent was laid. Except for a few trouble-makers the team conducted itself properly and was in good shape for the opening. Despite all drawbacks, when our competitors met the final tests in the arena, few showed any deterioration or lack of form. There seems to be a general feeling that the U.S. by comparison with other nations and former performances is being pressed for superiority. In track and field athletics this is somewhat justified, but in considering the subject it should be remembered that now as never before are other nations of the world taking part in track and their coaches and trainers include many of America's former competitors and coaches. Moreover, it must be remembered too that some of the events, such as the standing jumps, in which America has excelled, are no longer on the Olympic program, and that many of the events not won by America were won by those who, while American champs, were ineligible to represent America by reason of lack of naturalization.

It was a brave and splendid thing for war torn and all but prostrate Belgium to hold the 7th Olympiad and that her efforts succeeded as well as they did shows a power of recuperation, of application and of perseverance to be commended and applauded. But to ignore mistakes and shortcomings on the part of the Belgian management and of even more glaring ones on the part of international federations which laid down the rules and provided the officials for the contests would be mere pretense. There was much fault to be found and the specific reports upon the different sports deal therewith, but from these faults none suffered more than the Belgians themselves. Poor local transportation, worse advertising, counter attractions, high priced seats, kept many thousands from the contests.

And yet through, and mainly by reason of, the Games all the representatives of the nations of the world got to know each other as in no other manner they could or would. In the days of a generation back, bloody war would have been fought over less, but there at Antwerp, while they stormed and swore, thousands who offended learned--and some for the first time--that you can compete without hate, lose and yet smile, win and still be gracious; that to cheer for the other team is better sportsmanship than to cheer for your own, and that to hiss and boo opponents because you are beaten is to be held up to ridicule and contempt in the eyes of sportsmen.

After the actual Olympic competitions the American team was given every reasonable opportunity for entertainment and enjoyment, many taking a two-days excursion to the battlefields, entirely at the expense of the American Olympic Committee. Competition was arranged in several countries. The all-important point of keeping teams together for proper training and coaching did not apply to the return trip. Moreover, the subscriptions paid into the treasury made it possible to send home the athletes under more comfortable circumstances. Athletes were returned home on 10 different liners, as well as several transports. Since the chief complaint against the Prince Matoika had been against troopship quarters and against the incompetance of the crew of this particular ship, it was felt that if athletes could be placed in staterooms, though it were on transports, they would have the comfort which they desired. Upon investigation, the committee was positively informed by the embarkation officer at Antwerp that he would set aside for members of the team accommodations for 60 in staterooms on the transport Antigone. The trip on the Antigone narrowly escaped being a second Matoika voyage. On the eve of sailing plans were changed and the team ended up in troop quarters. But they were solemnly promised that changes would be made when the ship unloaded part of its cargo in France. The promise was not kept, and when the team cabled from France that their quarters were still jammed, the ship dirty, sanitary conditions poor, and staterooms overcrowded, they were transferred to the liner Mobile, (to be continued).

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (part four from report of the U.S. Olympic Committee.)

The difficulties and mistakes of the last Olympiad were largely due to lack of time and to early uncertainty. With a permanent, continuing organization, sufficiently financed, not only should the U.S. be able to prepare a superteam for the next Olympiad, but the public should be educated as to the purpose and wider significance of Olympic Games so that athletic prowess may be real and lasting.

Now, as never before, is it necessary to bring new blood into the teams. Our Hercules are growing old; our Mercurys are becoming slow of foot. Future Olympic champions must be found amongst our schoolboys and girls. Throughout the length and breadth of this land, the younger generation not alone must be trained for athletic supremacy, but should have the stimulus for clean living, physical efficiency, and preparedness for the defense and progress of their country which comes from the wonderful opportunity open to them of representing America in the greatest of all athletic contests--an international gathering through which differences of thought and action may be more readily ascertained, understood and adjusted than upon the field of battle or behind the closed doors of diplomatic conferences.

(The following is from the report of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern OG, and at that time President, International Olympic Committee.)

The athletes have made good and the public is becoming more enlightened; a two-fold statement summing up my impression of the Games of 1920. The second point is to be especially noted. For the first time upon taking up my pen after the Games, I do not feel the necessity of explaining, in the form of an introduction, why and how the Games came to be reorganized, etc. In spite of the efforts of a certain press serving personal interest, first to discredit the Olympiad by its silence, and then to break the silence with a series of lies, the Olympiad has succeeded through repeated successes and growing importance in implanting itself in the very heat of international life.

The program of the Games is now classified under five different divisions: athletic sports, gymnastics sports, defensive sports, equestrian sports, and nautical sports, to which must be added the combined sports (old and modern pentathlons), cycling and other games; and finally, competitions in the art field. Athletic Games (racing, jumping, hurdling of the discus, of the javelin) have this characteristic--that the players consider themselves as kings of the Olympic arena and the sole inheritors of the classical period. But when the Olympics were reorganized they were done so on the understanding that each of the five kinds of sports was of equal importance. But some athletes have never ceased to rebel against this "equality". One feels that they are ever on the alert to consider themselves wronged individuals and to form groups among themselves to defend themselves against imaginary persecution.

Special mention is due of the famous marathon race. This race, which covers the historical distance between Marathon and Athens, was re-invented by Michel Breal of France, who informed me that he would donate a silver cup as a reward to the runner able to repeat the classical feat--without dying as a result of it! Everyone knows how the first race was run in 1896 and how the winner, a shepherd named Spiridion Loys, had insisted upon fasting for two days and spending the night in prayer before holy pictures. Since that time never had we seen such fresh, enthusiastic young men enter an Olympic stadium for the races as those who competed in 1920. The first one was from Finland, the second from Esthonia; and thus did the two new republics bear off envied laurels. The third runner, an Italian, after reaching the goal, turned about, faced the astounded onlookers, and made a double somersault to prove to the spectators that his feet were still in good condition. He was followed by a Belgian who made an extra lap, carrying a kind of shield with the national colors. Both of these clever stunts were enthusiastically hailed.

In all sports, the Swedes were much feared; it was said that their neutrality in World War was in their favor, and so too in the case of the Americans, they were believed to have the advantage, because the best of everything was at their disposal. True, both won many laurels, but Finland, on the whole, bore off the palm. This country, swept over by war and revolution, but yesterday uncertain of the morrow, attained an unheard of record. There were barely 60 athletes from Finland in all sports, but they won about 15 first prizes, not to mention the second and third places which went to them. Who was it said that only the big nations could think of having their representatives victorious, that there was nothing for inexperienced men to hope for, that success was in proportion to the money spent? (to be cont.)

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (part five from report of U.S. Olympic Committee)

There were two innovations at the Games. First, the pledges taken by the athletes, spoken aloud by a Belgian athlete holding the flag of his country, in the name of all: "We swear that we are taking part in the Olympic Games as loyal competitors, observing the rules governing the Games, and anxious to show a spirit of chivalry, for the honor of our countries and for the glory of the sport." Thus modern Games go back, little by little, to their illustrious ancestors by the successive restoration of both the ceremonies and the symbolic acts which gave to the former so great and deep a meaning. The second innovation was the appearance of the Olympic flag, with its five entwined circles, multicolors on a white background, evoking the five parts of the world united by Olympism, and at the same time reproducing the colors of every nation. At Antwerp the flag was so popular that a group of athletes sought to bring home this tangible souvenir of the Games. Unfortunately, the police were on guard; arrests, trials and consular interventions followed.

The international comradeship was intensified by the manners in which the athletes were lodged, each large country being quartered in a school. The occupants visited each other, entertained each other, even gave concerts and plays among themselves. The good manners and courtesy found at these gatherings were remarkable, and here was a splendid opportunity to fight against a certain free unrestrained "I don't care" feeling--which sometimes betrayed itself in the stadium in careless attire and uncared for appearance.

America's track team was selected at the final tryouts, which were the National AAU Championships. To qualify for the final trials, athletes competed in preliminaries at Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans and Pasadena, while the Army had try-outs for all divisions, then a final meet at St. Louis.

Olympic track events were held in a new stadium, seating 30,000. In the first track event of the Games, the magnificent performance of Frank Loomis not only gave the U.S. first place in the 400 meter hurdles, but also a new world's record of 54.0. John Norton and August Desch were 2nd and 3rd for the U.S. American sprinters again demonstrated their superiority by carrying off first honors in the 100 and 200. In the 100, Charley Paddock won in 10.8 from Morris Kirksey, USA, and Harry Edward, Great Britain. Jackson Scholz, US(later to be a prolific pulp writer), was 4th and Loren Murchison, US, 6th. In justice to Murchison it was stated that he was left "flat footed" on his mark when the gun was fired, partly through his own fault, and partly due to the clerk of the course calling out instructions to the competitors after the starter had commanded them to get set. Three of the four Americans placed in the 200. In this event, Allen Woodring furnished a big surprise by defeating Paddock for first in 22.0, with Murchison fourth behind Edward of Great Britain.

The Americans fared badly in the middle distance events. Frank Shea of Pittsburgh was the only American to win a place, taking fourth in the 400. Beril Rudd, South Africa won in 49.6, from Guy Butler, Great Britain(now IAAF photographer), and Nils Engdahl, Sweden. Our first real upset came in the 800 in which we were depending upon such stellar performers as Eby, Scott, Sprott and Campbell. However, to our disappointment, England provided the winner in A.G. Hill, 1:53.4. Early Eby and Rudd fought it out for 2nd, Eby receiving the decision on the tape. Mountain of England finished a few yards back in fourth place leading Scott and Sprott. Campbell, the fourth American entry, set the pace a good part of the distance, but collapsed 40 yards from the finish and had to be carried from the field. Hill's time was regarded by a majority of experts as the fastest half ever run. The slow time shown by the watches was due to the very slow track on which the race was run, due to continual rains. The first 440 yards were run in 54.2.

Hill again repeated in the 1500, beating the American champ, Joie Ray, 4:01.8 to 4:02.4. Of course, the injury sustained by Ray while training on one of the nearby fields, which was the only place available at the particular time he desired a workout, killed his chances of winning. The 1500 was the second most sensational foot race of the Games, being just a little short of the thrills of the running of the 800. It was run in a drizzling rain. P. J. Baker, another Englishman, finished 2nd, with Larry Shields of US only a few feet behind Baker. In justice to the winner, it must be admitted that Ray, who did not finish in the first 6, at his best would by no means have been certain of victory. Hill ran a splendid race and deserves great credit. He had already raced four days in succession; on Sunday, 800 heats; Monday, 800 semi-final; Tuesday, 800 final; Wednesday, 1500 heat. Ray took the lead at the start and held it for 1000 meters. He was then passed by Hill and Baker, and 100m further by Shields. Then Hill sprinted, but only in the last few yards did he draw away from Baker and Shields, while Joie finished 8th, Ray said his left leg felt lifeless after half the distance. (cont.)

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (part six from report of U.S. Olympic Committee):

The American distance runners were completely outclassed in the 5000 and 10,000. C.C. Furnas finished fourth in his 5000 heat and made the final, while H.H. Brown and Ivan Dresser also qualified, and Charley Hunter failed. But none of the Americans finished the final, which was won by Joseph Guillemot of France in 14:55.6 from Paavo Nurmi 15:00.0, Erick Backman of Sweden 15:13, and Teodor Koskenniemi, Finland, 15:17.0. In the 10,000, U.S. champ Fred Faller was the only American to qualify, but he failed to figure in the final. Because of his fine 5000 victory, Guillemot was the favorite. The race turned out to be one of the best in the entire program and was won by Nurmi, the 19-year-old Finn. His time was 31:45.8, several seconds slower than the 1912 time, but there was easily that difference in the two tracks. Guillemot ran 31:47.2 and J. Wilson of Great Britain 31:50.8. There was an unusually spirited race between the first five men, with Wilson setting the pace until half a mile from the finish. Guillemot was runningshoulder to shoulder with him. Then Nurmi took the lead. Guillemot followed for half a lap, then sprinted into the lead again up the backstretch. Nurmi waited until the last turn, then sprinted in turn, passing Guillemot, to win by 20 yards.

Our defeat in the shot was a bitter pill to swallow. In the past America's shot putters have always been supreme, and we probably lost the championship this year because we felt there was no one in sight good enough to question our right to the honors. In Patrick McDonald, the giant policeman of the NYAC, we felt we had a sure winner. But the unexpected happened and we not only lost first, but second place as well. We must take our hats off to the winner, Ville Porhola, a Finnish peasant. He is not a big man compared with McDonald or the late Ralph Rose who were responsible for America's success at Stockholm and London. He is 6 feet and weighs about 200 pounds. He does not carry a pound of superfluous fat but is as hard as nails and has great speed. We had heard of Porhola's achievements in the Finnish championships just before we sailed, and while we figured on him doing around 46' it was never expected that his improvement would be as rapid as it proved to be. The qualifying round was led by Niklander of Finland, McDonald, Porhola, Liversedge of the US, and Nilsson of Sweden. Americans Cann and Bihlman failed to qualify. In the final, Porhola improved to first and Liversedge moved up to third. McDonald was very nervous and his best effort was more than two feet back of the winner's mark, a performance that he has often far surpassed. Porhola did 48'7 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", Niklander 46'5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", Liversedge 46/5 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", and McDonald 46/2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

The achievement of Richard W. Landon of the U.S. in winning the high jump with an Olympic record 6'4.2 was one of the outstanding features of the Games, and brought to the victor royal congratulations. While this event was being held, King Albert of Belgium flew from Brussels in his aeroplane and reached the Stadium in time to see the record made. The tall king was on the field at the time and shookhands with Landon, smilingly informing him that he had jumped higher than the Monarch's head. American jumpers are accustomed to jumping from a firm take-off made from practically the same materials as the track is composed of, but at Antwerp the almost continuous rain which fell during the Games made it impossible to hold the high jump at the place originally fixed and therefore necessary to have the contestants jump from a turf take-off. This became soft after the many competitors had taken their trail jumps and affected some of the jumpers more than others. H. B. "Brick" Muller (California's first all-American footballer) tied with Ekelund of Sweden at 6'2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", but won the jump-off. Walter Whalen and John Murphy of the U.S. won jump-offs for fourth and fifth at 6'2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

The most remarkable performance among the field events was that of Frank Foss of the US, who won the pole vault with a new world's record of 13'5". The competition was held in a drizzling rain accompanied by blasts of wind which chilled the contestants to the bone. The rain made the runway soft and slippery, but despite these unsatisfactory conditions, Foss cleared the remarkable height of 4.09 meters. The fact that his opponents could not come within a foot of this performance under the conditions existing that day, whereas under more favorable conditions they had often come within six inches of it, made it probable that under ideal conditions he might have vaulted much higher. Henry Pedersen of Denmark was second at 12'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Edwin Meyers of US third at the same height, and Ed Knourek, USA, fourth with 11'7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Foss' record improved 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " on the record set in 1912 by M.S. Wright of the U.S. (It was to stand for two years, until Hoff of Norway did 13'6 $\frac{1}{8}$ "--and eventually 13'11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")(cont.)

1920 OLYMPIC GAMES (part seven from report of the U. S. Olympic Committee):

In the American team trials Sol Butler, our best broad jumper, established a new American record with 24'8". This performance was fully a foot better than any of the broad jumpers of any other nation had accomplished, and we all were confident Butler would win. But he pulled a tendon on his very first trial jump and had to withdraw. Wm. Pettersson of Sweden won at 23'5½" with Carl Johnson, US, second at 23'3½", E. Abrahamsson of Sweden third at 23'2¾" and Dink Templeton (later to be Stanford coach) fourth at 22'9⅝". Johnson had been in poor health all during the college season and on account of his ill health the committee was undecided until the last minute whether to select him or not.

All four Americans in the 110 meters won their heats, with Harold Barron making the fastest time of 15.2. Barron also won the first semi-final, with teammate Walker Smith taking the second in the heat. Barron and the second semi winner, Earl Thompson of Dartmouth and Canada, both equalled the world and Olympic marks of 15.0. In the final Thompson (now Navy coach) ran one of his great races and clipped a fifth of a second from the world's record with 14.8. Thompson's performance was one of the most brilliant ever witnessed in Europe. He ran a wonderful race, leading all the way, and won by a scant yard from Barron, with Fred Murray of the US a close third.

America's hopes of scoring heavily in the 56 pound weight and hammer throw went glimmering when Mathew McGrath, the giant hammer thrower, twisted his knee in the 2nd trial throw of the hammer. The injury was directly due to the condition of the ground, and put McGrath out of the Games. But his only throw in the trials put him fifth in the final standings. Pat Ryan of the US won the hammer final but failed by more than six feet to break the Olympic record. He threw 173'5½" to 160'12⅞" for C. Lindof Sweden and 158'3½" for Basil Bennet of the U.S. In the weight throw, Ryan won with 36' for 2nd, and McDonald won for first with 37'. Lindh was third at 33'7½".

The honor of breaking the first world's record in the field events went to Johnny Myrra of Finland who heaved the javelin 215'9¾". The athletes of Finland were far superior in this event to all others. The Americans finished far in the ruck, M. S. Angier leading with a 7th place throw of 191'11⅛". Urho Peltonen of Finland was 2nd at 208'8" and Pekka Johansson and Juho Saaristo of Finland took the next two places. Javelin throwing is in the infancy in this country, but the Americans picked up many valuable pointers from the Finns. The foreign compatriots claim that our javelins are of inferior quality and it is believed that our athletes would improve their performances from 10 to 15 feet with a better grade of implement.

In the team races the Americans split even, taking first in the 400 meters relay and 3000 meters team race, and fourth place in the 1600 relay and cross-country race. In the 400 relay the four American cracks, Loren Murchison, Jackson V. Scholz, Morris Kirksey and Charles Paddock but Germany out of a niche in the Olympic Hall of Fame by winning in 42.2, a new world's record. Hallock Brown, Arlie Schardt, Ivan Dresser, Lawrence Shields and Michael Devaney composed the team which accounted for first place in the 3000 meter team race. Brown won in a close finish with Erick Bachman of Sweden, and a few strides behind Bachman came Schardt. Albert Hill, winner of the 800 and 1500, was 7th. The winning time was 8:45.4, US scored 10 points, Great Britain 20, France 30, Sweden 34. The U.S. 1600 team, which on past records looked good enough to win, made a poor showing finishing in fourth place behind Great Britain (3:22.2), South Africa (3:24.2) and France. The British team had a lead of fully 50 yards when the final American was touched off. The American cross country team also placed fourth, with 36 points, as compared with 10 for Finland. Paavo Nurmi won in 27:15, while P. Flynn of the U.S. was our best at 9th, 28:12.

The palm of all victories in the Olympics goes to that sturdy Finnish-American, Hannes Kohlemainen, who captured the classic marathon in 2:32:33.8, remarkably fast time for the course. It was another triumph over adverse conditions for the race was run in a drizzling rain and over a muddy course. Kohlemainen ran for Finland although at the time he was a naturalized citizen of the US. He finished 70 yards ahead of Lossman of Estonia, with Joe Organ of the US getting 7th in the field of 45. The decathlon went to Helge Lovland of Norway with 6804.35 points, while Brutus Hamilton (California coach) was second at 6770.86, and Gosta Holmer (head Swedish coach) fourth with 6533.15. Lehtonen of Finland took the pentathlon at 14 points, to 24 points for Bradley of the U.S.

(End of Report)