

CALIFORNIA Relays '73 Powell, Luke, Stones Outclass Wind Swirled Runners

Modesto, Calif., May 26 /by Jon Hendershott/—Exceptional throwing by Fred Luke and John Powell and PR high jumping by Dwight Stones stood out from a host of fine field event performances at the 32nd California Relays, as brisk breezes aided sprinters and high hurdlers but hindered other oval performers.

Rangy Luke's shortest javelin throw measured 263-1 and his longest 270-7, which outdistanced Bill Schmidt by exactly 10ft. Luke put together a masterful series of 265-4, 263-7, 269-9, 268-0, 263-1 and 270-7 for a 6 throw average of 266-8⁵/₈, a mark only 4 other Americans have bettered all year. "I'm happy with my series but I wish I could have gotten a real big one," Luke said. "I really had the snap on the last one; if I had had that snap earlier, the javelin would have flown." Luke showed a couple of new technical wrinkles, keeping his left arm higher for better balance and to keep the point level as well as an underhand drop-back a la Janis Lusia. National leader Cary Feldmann didn't make the meet due to sore ankles resulting from the Bakersfield meet where he threw 298-4 a week ago.

Powell, discus world leader at 219-0, saw Jay Silvester hit 216-9 in the 6th frame to best Powell's opening-round 214-3 leader. While Silvester accepted congratulations from some throwers, Powell took an extra long pre-throw concentration before his last effort, and then skipped 218-8, his and the globe's 2nd-longest throw of 73. Powell also hit 213-7 in the 5th round, while Silvester matched his 207-0 seasonal top in the 3rd. Mac Wilkins kept up his fine throwing, spinning 3 efforts beyond his 202-9/ PR and hitting a top of 209-7. Only Randy Matson's 213-9 is longer in collegiate history.

Al Feuerbach continued his hot shot putting, punching the ball 70-10 to match his 2nd longest effort ever and history's 5th longest (only his 71-7 record, Randy Matson's 71-5¹/₂ and 71-4¹/₂ and Brian Oldfield's indoor 70-11¹/₂ are longer while Al hit 70-10 the throw before his world record). "I



John Powell's last-throw 218-8 won the California Relays. /Chip Gane/



Hammer leader Peter Farmer won at Modesto with 219-1. /Don Chadez/

trained through this meet" Feuerbach enthused. "Think what I should do when I peak for a meet." He said he threw hard "about 25 throws" the day before. Peter Farmer continued his own hot throwing; spinning the hammer 217-2 and finally 219-1 for the win. Surprising Bill Shuff reached 209-9 to bump George Frenn to 3rd (205-1).

Stones needed 3 jumps to clear 7-2¹/₂ in the high jump, while both Rey Brown and Tom Woods needed just 1. But Stones arched over a PR 7-4 on his initial attempt while the other 2 failed thrice. Stones wasn't his usual hand-clapping, jump-up-and-down, go-bananas self, merely thrusting both arms over his head with clenched fists in what seems to be the Pacific Coast Club victory sign (also displayed by Feuerbach and 17-6¹/₂ vault winner Steve Smith). Among Americans, only Pat Matzdorf (7-6¹/₄), pro John Radetich (7-4¹/₄), Woods (7-4¹/₂) and Dick Fosbury (7-4¹/₄) have jumped higher while Brown is equal.

James McAlister pulled out a 26-7¹/₂ legal long jump for the last jump of the competition to best the 26-5 Randy Williams reached 1 jump earlier. McAlister now leads their duel 2-1 in 73, rebounding after Williams' windy 27-9 victory last week in the Pac-8 meet. Milan Tiff rode the wind to a 53-5 triple jump win over James Butts (52-10w).

On the track, the 100m was billed as a world record attempt for Steve Williams, but his customary ragged start left the latest sprint recordman behind snappy starters Herb Washington and Ivory Crockett. Williams

seemed to get together around 70m, but then leaned at the wrong finish line. Little matter, for Washington led from the gun for a 10.1 win over Crockett and Williams, both 10.2. Said Williams later, "The race started in shade, went into bright sunlight from 20-80m, then went back into shade. When it got dark so suddenly at the end, it was just a reflex to lean for the finish. By the time I realized what had happened, it was too late." Rod Milburn had a cold but didn't seem slowed a trifle as he sliced over the highs for a 13.4 heat and 13.3 final win, both windy. Tom Hill shadowed Hot Rod closely in the final until a bad clearance of hurdle 10 gave Rod a clear win. But Hill's 13.6 seemed disproportionate as he appeared much closer. Don Quarrie powered the curve and surged to a legal 20.5 220 win, while Grant McLaren tacked a 57.9 last lap onto a 1:59.4 final 880 for an 8:36.4 2M triumph.

Probably the closest finish of the day came in the 440 relay when the unheralded Bay Area Striders turned back such units as Southern Cal, Memphis State and world leader Philadelphia Pioneers (minus Hasely Crawford) for a 40.1 surpriser. Norbert Payton, John Pettus and Adrian Rodgers got the stick to Ralph Ligons a smidge behind but Ligons inched ahead and then held off the likes of Don Quarrie, Ed Hammonds and Ivory Crockett. A bad 2nd pass between Fred Newhouse and Ed Roberts probably blew the race for the Pioneers, who later copped a 1:22.9 880 win. The UCTC made the 2M baton race no contest, winning in 7:22.4 as Rick Wohlhuter covered



(L) Dwight Stones starts for a high jump at Modesto where he won with a 7-4 PR. /Chadez/

(R) Herb Washington (1) wins the Modesto 100m in 10.1 from visibly irritated Steve Williams (3rd) and Ivory Crockett (2nd). /Chadez/





(L) Ken Popejoy hits the tape to win the Vons Classic mile in 3:58.4 from a top-notch field (l-r): Dave Wottle 2nd (3:58.6), Bob Wheeler 4th (3:59.3), Mike Boit 5th (4:00.2) and Marty Liquori 3rd (3:58.7). /Don Chadez/



(R) Although Wes Williams (l) trails Jim Bolding (c) approaching the 8th intermediate hurdle at Vons, Williams closed fast for a 49.8 win, fastest of 73, from Bolding (50.0) and Ralph Mann (50.1). /Chip Gane/

the 3rd segment in 1:48.8.

A note of some significance (how much is not quite determinable): UCLA did not drop the baton in any relay. Of course both its 440 and mile teams were scratched. 440 member Gordon Peppers stepped in a hole and turned an ankle (not seriously) while warming up and Benny Brown (a member of both teams) was, according to coach Jim Bush, "sicker than a dog" after a 46.6 flat quarter win, a hard run into the backstretch wind.

/Afternoon hot and sunny, evening cool, gusty winds/ 100(4.47), Breddell 9.4. 100m(4.0), Washington 10.1; 2. Crockett 10.2; 3. S. Williams 10.2; 4. Deckard 10.3. 220(ok), Quarrie' 20.5; 2. Breddell 20.9. 440, Brown 46.6. 880, Smith 1:50.7. Mile, Puttemans' 4:03.6. 2M, McLaren' 8:36.4. HH(5.6), Milburn 13.3; 2. Hill 13.6; 3. Davenport 13.7; 4. White 13.8; 5. Tinnin 13.8. Heats: I(4.0)-1. Hill 13.5: II(6.7)-1. Milburn 13.4; 2. Tinnin 13.8; 3. White 13.8. IH, Primeaux 51.9. 2MWalk, Weigle 14:06.6; 2. Kitchen 14:11.8.

HJ, Stones 7-4; 2. tie, Brown & Woods 7-2½. PV, Smith 17-6½; 2. tie, Richards & Roberts 17-0. LJ(ok), McAlister 26-7½ [2.7] (20-7½, 25-7½, 25-10½, 25-1½, 26-1½, 26-7½); 2. Williams 26-5 [1.5] (f, 25-8, f, 25-6¼, f, 26-5); 3. Jackson' 25-7½. TJ, Tiff 53-5w (52-7½w, 53-5w, 52-4¼w, f, 51-7¼w, f); 2. Butts 52-10w (52-7ok); 3. Terry 51-1¼w. SP, Feuerbach 70-10 (69-8¼, f, 70-3¼, 70-10, 69-6, 69-5); 2. Woods 67-1; 3. B. Wilhelm 65-11½; 4. Hoglund' 65-9½; 5. tie, Marks & Shmock 62-5½; 7. Born 61-9¼.

DT, Powell 218-8 (214-3, f, f, 211-5, 213-7, 218-8); 2. Silvester 216-9 (198-6, 192-3, 207-0, 200-4, f, 216-9); 3. Wilkins 209-7 (203-1, f, 209-7, 205-3, f, 195-1); 4. Vollmer 208-10 (204-11, f, 206-2, f, 208-10, 207-4); 5. Penrose 201-2; 6. Ordway 197-11; 7. Stadel 198-7; 8. Pecar' 195-0; 9. Gunzel 194-6; 10. Roost' 191-10; 11. Tsiaris' 191-4; 12. Gordon 190-10. HT, Farmer' 219-1 (f, 203-9, 217-2, f, f, 219-1); 2. Shuff 209-9; 3. Frann 205-1; 4. Arcaro 198-2; 5. DeAutremont 195-6. JT, Luke 270-7 (265-4, 263-7, 269-9, 268-0, 263-1, 270-7); 2. Schmidt 260-7.

440R, Bay Area Striders 40.1 (Payton, Pettus, Rodgers, Ligons); 2. Southern Cal 40.1; 3. Memphis State 40.2; 4. Philadelphia PC 40.2; 5. Texas 40.5. 880R, Philadelphia PC 1:22.9 (Crockett, Roberts', Hurd, Newhouse). MileR, Texas 3:09.4 (Wright 48.3, Jackson 48.0, Lee 46.3, Sturgal 46.8); ... 3. Arizona State 3:12.0 (Peoples 45.4). 2MR, UCTC 7:22.4 (Bach 1:51.7, Paul 1:50.1, Wohlhuter 1:48.8, Sparks 1:51.8).

VONS CLASSIC Wohlhuter Paces Fast 52.3s for Record 1:44.6y

Los Angeles, May 27, /by John Wenos/—Rick Wohlhuter zipped back-to-back 52.3 440s for a 1:44.6 half-mile clocking, blitzing Jim Ryan's 7-year-old record by 0.3 to highlight the Vons Classic. South African Danie Malan ran 1:45.1, his PR, in the runner-up slot.

The race was a rerun of their previous Bakersfield meeting with one important difference. This time they had Mark Winzenried to pull them through a 52.0 1st quarter, more than 4sec faster than Bakersfield.

Wohlhuter was appreciative of the faster pace. He said, "Winzenried and Malan pushed the pace, it was just a matter of staying in contention. They did most of the work."

Winzenried and Malan made sure it would be a fast race from the starting gun. Winzenried led at the 220 in 25.5, with the South African 0.1 back.

Wohlhuter was in 4th, a comfortable 0.2 behind Malan. At the quarter, Winzenried still led, Malan 2nd at 52.2, and Wohlhuter right on his shoulder.

The 2 passed Winzenried and opened up daylight on the backstretch, Malan hitting the 660 in a super-swift 1:18.4 and Wohlhuter sticking to him like glue. The 24-year-old Olympian made his move around the final curve and his noticeably longer stride pulled him away easily in the run for the tape. Malan's time rates as the fastest non-winning mark ever.

Wohlhuter knew he had the record when he "looked at the clock a few yards from the finish and saw 1:42". The record was not a planned effort, but then, not entirely unexpected, either. Wohlhuter said later, "The good split at Durham (1:44.8) gave me confidence. I wanted to run in the 1:45s here today. I trained hard for the 800 trials [last year, 2nd in 1:45.0], this just kind of happened."

You can bet Wohlhuter broke the 800 record (1:44.3) in the process, but, unfortunately, there were no official watches at that mark. An unofficial watch caught Wohlhuter at 1:44.0 for the shorter distance.

As good as Wohlhuter's mark was, it didn't entirely detract from other good competitive efforts. The 2M was announced as a world record effort by Emiel Puttemans and for half the race he had a shot at it. Fullerton State's Dave White played "rabbit": the first 880 with 58.6 and 2:01.0 splits. Puttemans stayed close at 59.1 and 2:01.5, then took over when White walked off the track. The rest of the field was already more than 40y to the rear and the Belgian gardener continued to add to the lead. He reached the mile in 4:08.5, but successive 64.2, and 65.3 laps put the record out of reach. However, he still finished in 8:26.6; the fastest outdoors in the world this year and excellent time under any conditions.

Rod Milburn and Charles Rich staged a fast and competitive metric hurdles duel, Milburn getting the nod, 13.3 to 13.5. The Olympic champion caught Rich by the 4th hurdle, but the UCLA star stayed surprisingly close the rest of the way and appeared to be much closer at the finish than the time would indicate.

Collegiate fans got a preview of the NCAA mile as 3 top contenders all ducked under 4:00 in that race. Ken Popejoy held off Dave Wottle's closing rush with a good sprint of his own, winning in 3:58.4. It was the 4th consecutive week of sub-4:00 miling for the small Michigan State standout. Wottle came from more than 10y back to overhaul Marty Liquori, 3:58.6 to 3:58.7. Duke's Bob Wheeler also showed a kick with his 1st sub-4:00 of the year at 3:59.3. Mike Boit faded to 5th in the final "hot" 440, crossing the line at 4:00.2. Popejoy and Wottle both did 54.2 for the last lap, Liquori 54.9, Wheeler 55.3 and Boit 56.4.

Steve Williams scored an impressive sprint double, although the times were slower than expected. He rocketed past Herb Washington at the 50 mark for a 10.3 to 10.4 metric 100 win, then came back 75min later to outduel Don Quarrie, 20.7 to 20.8, in the 220.

Wes Williams hurdled 440y faster than anyone in the world in 73 with his 49.8 victory. Williams came on strongly over the last hurdle to edge Jim Bolding (50.0) and Ralph Mann (50.1), who both recorded seasonal bests.

On the field, Al Feuerbach twice bettered 70ft in the shot, with a best



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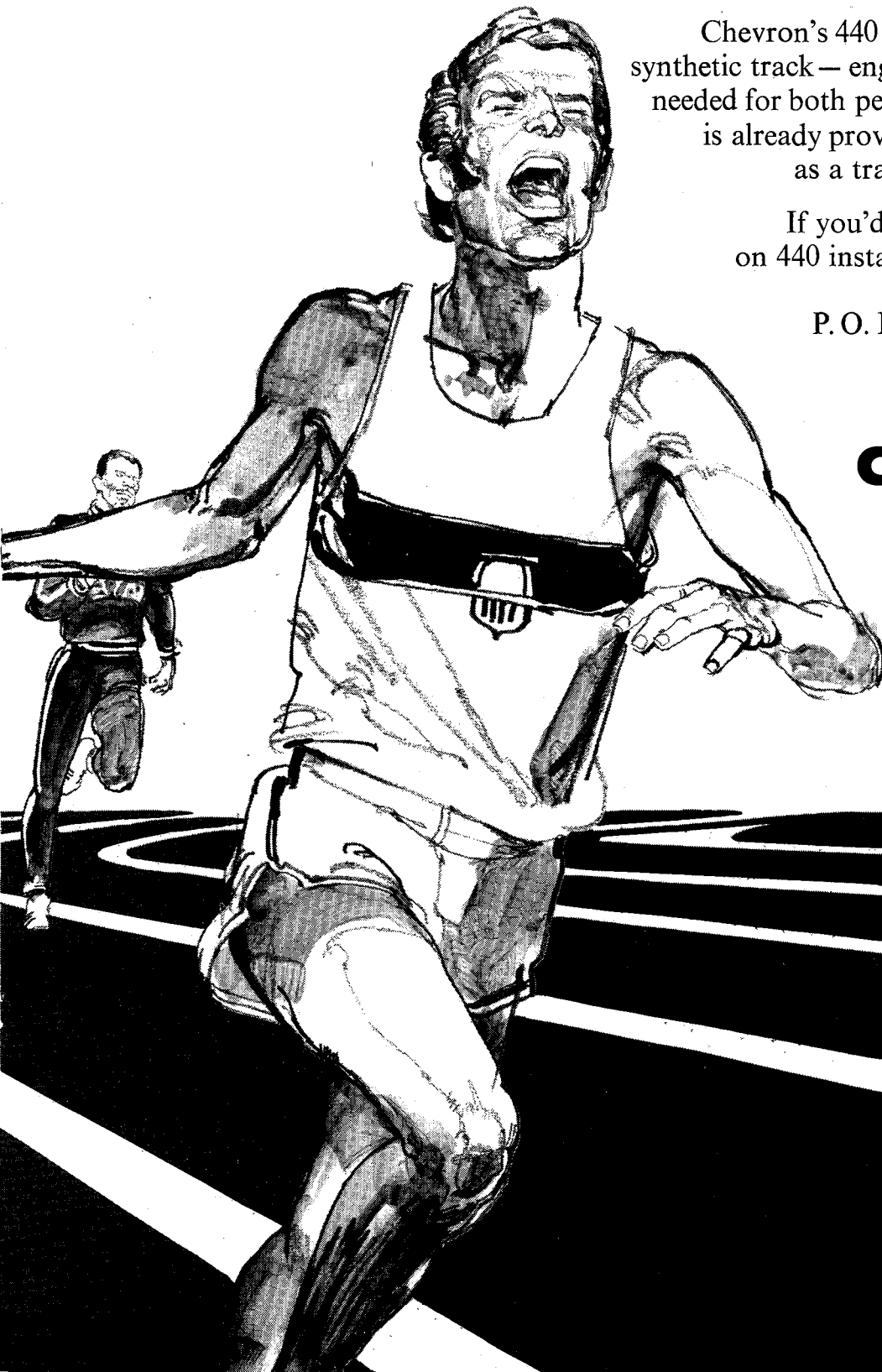
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(L) Mark Winzenried (3) paces Danie Malan and Rick Wohlhuter after 1 lap of the Vons 880. /Chip Gane/



(R) Wohlhuter's blazing homestretch kick carried him past Malan—and Jim Ryun's 1:44.9 world mark—to a new 1:44.6 record. /Don Chadez/

Rick Wohlhuter: A Soft-Approach Kick to Top

by Don Steffens

The famous words of former President Teddy Roosevelt are easily paraphrased to explain recent world record setter Rick Wohlhuter's style: run softly but carry a big kick. Soft-spoken and slightly-built, Wohlhuter displays an off-track image that is far removed from his titanic competitive spirit.

In the short span of 2 weeks, Wohlhuter has burst onto the US 2-lap scene after partially hibernating since Munich. First at the King Freedom Games in Durham, N.C., on May 12, he anchored his UCTC squad to a 2M relay record with the fastest-ever split of 1:44.8. Then 15 days later on the LA Coliseum's Tartan track, the mustachioed Notre Dame grad hung behind Mark Winzenried's fast pace before outprinting Danie Malan, 1:44.6 to 1:45.1. He rubbed out Jim Ryun's 7-year-old world mark of 1:44.9.

Wohlhuter warmed up for the record run at the Vons Classic by participating in UCTC's 2M relay stint the night before at Modesto. "I wanted to run in the high 1:45s today [Vons] so I took it easy in Modesto. I only ran a 1:48.8 relay leg there in anticipation of this."

He felt confident prior to the race that he would run a fast time. Humidity and heat are two things he has learned to fear in his hometown Chicago area. "There's not much humidity here and the track was not soft as I had feared it might be due to the heat [85°]. And that relay race in Durham gave me the confidence to run fast."

The tactical aspects of the Vons chase didn't seem much different to the 24-year-old insurance claims adjuster than the May 19 Bakersfield Classic. His first confrontation with Malan came in that race. But the anticipated super fast time didn't come as the needed ingredient, a fast pace, was lacking. "I run my best races off a fast pace," Wohlhuter says. "All I had to do today was follow the leaders."

Only the speed, supplied by Winzenried's good 52.0 lead at the 440, made the difference at Vons. Wohlhuter clocked 52.3 at the midway point and the new world record holder expressed his gratitude for the fast pace. "He [Winzenried] did most of the work, he really pushed the pace," Wohlhuter points out. "It was just a matter of staying in contention with the leaders on the first lap."

On the final curve he was still glued to leader Malan's shoulder. The South African, who has a handful of metric 1:45s this year, couldn't handle Rick's mighty kick. "I ran a perfect race," said Malan. "I couldn't have beaten him under any circumstances." Wohlhuter was asked to speculate on the results had 800 record holder Dave Wottle been in the race: "I think the results would have been the same because I'm running better half-miles than he is. Maybe it's because he hasn't run the 880 much this year."

Wohlhuter has developed into the US's quickest-ever 2-lapper accidentally while keeping a low, almost unnoticeable profile. In fact, before bursting onto the international scene with his sprint-finish in the Final Trials 800 last summer, Wohlhuter would surface only occasionally. Even then he would show only a glimpse of talent before resubmerging because of nagging Achilles tendon strains.

Since graduating from Notre Dame in 1971, Wohlhuter has taken a more relaxed attitude toward training and competing. He has also persistently tried to diagnose the Achilles ailment which held his best to 1:48.3 in college after winning the 1969 NCAA indoor 600 title.

When an orthopedic surgeon discovered the problem—Wohlhuter has short Achilles tendons—the pain still wasn't alleviated. "I was still in the same boat, I didn't know what to do about it," Rick says with a smile now. "Everytime I'd go to a meet, I'd ask the trainer what to do. Eventually I picked up enough information so that I don't have any more trouble. I've

of 70-4%. Randy Williams evened his season record with James McAlister at 2-2 with a 25-11½ to 25-4 win. Southern Cal's Bob Pullard took the pole vault with a PR 17-1, edging Hans Lagerqvist and Fran Tracaneli at the same height. Steve Smith took two unsuccessful tries at 17-1 then called it quits for the day.

Dwight Stones had two near-misses at 7-5 (after a PR 7-4 at Modesto the previous day), but settled for a 7-2 high jump win. Oregon's Mac Wilkins scored a significant win over the US Olympic discus squad. Wilkins heaved the platter 205-11 (a good distance in the Coliseum) with John Powell, the year's leader, 22" back at 204-1. Tim Völlmer captured 3rd over Jay Silvester, 202-4 to 199-4, in the small, but select field.

/upper 80's, attendance 10,003/ 100m(-0.9), S. Williams 10.3; 2. Washington 10.4;

3. C. Smith 10.4; 4. Meriwether 10.6. 220(-2.2), S. Williams 20.7; 2. Quarrie' 20.8; 3. Deckard 21.1. 440, Newhouse 45.9; 2. Singletary 46.3; 3. Randle 46.7. 880, Wohlhuter 1:44.6 WB, WAR, AR (25.8, 52.3, 1:18.5); 2. Malan' 1:45.1 (25.6, 52.2, 1:18.4); 3. Winzenried 1:48.0 (25.5, 52.0, 1:18.8); 4. Baxter 1:48.8. Mile, Popejoy 3:58.4 (59.2, 2:00.7, 3:04.2); 2. Wottle 3:58.6 (59.0, 2:00.6, 3:04.4); 3. Liquori 3:58.7 (59.5, 2:01.1, 3:03.8); 4. B. Wheeler 3:59.3; 5. Boit' 4:00.2; 6. Hilton 4:01.4; 7. Mittlstaedt 4:01.5. 2M, Puttemans' 8:26.6 (59.1, 2:01.5, 3:04.4, 4:08.5, 5:12.7, 6:18.0, 7:24.7); 2. Geis 8:36.4 (4:15.9); 3. C. Stewart 8:39.2. 110mHH(2.2), Milburn 13.3; 2. Rich 13.5; 3. White 13.5; 4. Davenport 13.6; 5. C. Jackson 13.8. 1H, W. Williams 49.8; 2. Bolding 50.0; 3. Mann 50.1.

HJ, Stones 7-2; 2. tie, Cutteli' & Hawkins' 7-0... 6. Matzdorf 6-8. PV, Pullard 17-1; 2. tie, Lagerqvist' & Tracaneli' 17-1;... nh-Smith [17-1]. LJ(ok), Williams



(L) Wohlhuter seems a bit bewildered after the unexpected record. /Chadez/
 (R) Malan appears more than a bit shocked by the race's outcome. /Chadez/

All-Time 2-Lap Performances

Rick Wohlhuter's 1:44.6 880 at Vons rates as the best 2-lap time ever recorded, being worth 1:43.9 for 800m when the commonly-accepted 0.7 differential is subtracted. The metric equivalent of 1:45.0 has now been broken 14 times by 13 different performers. *=880y -0.7.

1:43.9*	Rick Wohlhuter (UCTC) 73	1:44.5	Pekka Vasala (Finland) 72
1:44.2*	Jim Ryun (Kans) 66	1:44.6	Vasala 72
1:44.3	Peter Snell (NZ) 62	1:44.7	Dicky Broberg (S Afr) 71
1:44.3	Ralph Doubell (Aus) 68	1:44.7	Marcello Fiasconaro (Italy) 73
1:44.3	Dave Wottle (B Green St) 72	1:44.8	Ken Swenson (Kans St) 70
1:44.4*	Danie Malan (S Afr) 73	1:44.9	Franz-Josef Kemper (WG) 66
1:44.5	Wilson Kiprugut (Kenya) 68	1:44.9	Walter Adams (WG) 70

learned how to cope with it. I stretch them every day and I'm careful." Though he has to run solely on the balls of his feet to prevent recurrence of the injury, his training schedule has been given a boost.

"Before this year I was never able to train year-round," Wohlhuter explains. But an accident, a tragic fall last summer in the Olympic Games heats, prompted Wohlhuter to keep training. "I've been training over a year straight now. I kept going after Munich, almost every day. I haven't noticed any staleness, because during the fall I put in no more than 6M a day. I don't really concentrate on heavy speed work or heavy distance work. I do a little of each." He has been picking up on speed work during the last month.

Naturally, his fall at Munich, in an apparent easy qualifying race, is still frequently brought up by journalists. He kind of laughs, and says, "I wondered how long it would take you to get around to that topic. But you know it went so fast, I can't even describe it myself. Unfortunately I don't know what caused it. It just happened. I started in the 7th lane, had a good start, and I was looking in at the pole when WHAM, I was sitting down. Even when I got up I still felt confident I could get in.

"I told myself, 'Play it cool, be careful.' I felt tight as soon as I got up, so I stayed as relaxed as I could. With about 15y left I was really tight. I was trying to gain on the others, but I couldn't." Without that fall, perhaps this year's new 880 record wouldn't have happened. Oddly, Wohlhuter is still uncertain about the future. "I have hopes of continuing, but I must also realize that I have to take it a year at a time," says the easy-going Wohlhuter. "I don't like to race too frequently, the travel is tough."

He doesn't find all travel exhausting. Take, for example, a 2½ week tour he made of New Zealand in February. He ran in several meets, toured the country and even had the opportunity to train with Peter Snell. Another trip, the US-USSR duel in July, keeps Rick interested. The only thing that might keep Wohlhuter from continuing his tremendous half-miling is the conflict which exists for nearly all amateurs—training schedules and working schedules. Thus far his employers at Continental Insurance Company have been lenient when he has asked for time off. "I don't get paid for days I take off. I can't be sure how long I can put up with it." □

25-11½; 2. McAlister 25-4; 3. Jackson' 24-8. SP, Feuerbach 70-4% (68-0, 68-9, 70-4%, 67-11½, 70-1%, 69-4%); 2. Woods 66-4½; 3. B. Wilhelm 63-7½; 4. Semkiw 62-3%. DT, Wilkins 205-11; 2. Powell 204-1; 3. Vollmer 202-4; 4. Silvester 199-4. 561bWt (AAU championship), Frenn 47-4.

NCAA COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS Riddick Rushes Speedy Triple, Milburn 13.2 Prelim

Crawfordsville, Ind., May 31-June 2 /from Mark Maloney/—The "Wabash Cannonball" isn't around anymore, but Rod Milburn and Steve Riddick took turns barreling down the Wabash College track to highlight the 1973 edition of the NCAA College Division Championships.

The peerless Milburn was, as is so often the case, an easy winner in the highs, turning in a 13.4 win. But his big race came earlier in the day, as the Southern U senior straddled the sticks in 13.2, a legal clocking that 5 others have matched, but no one but Milburn (13.0) has bettered.

As for Riddick, the Norfolk State junior gave his team a big boost toward their winning team total of 54 points by winning the 100, 220 and contributing a good leg to the victorious 440 relay team. Pushed to the wire by Lincoln's James Amerison in both sprints, Riddick defended his 100 title with a legal 9.3 and copped the 220 with a windy 20.6. After the 100, Riddick commented, "I thought I could have run a little faster," but following the half-lapper he said, "Now I'm dead." Double runnerup Amerison, the University division 100m runnerup last year, matched the clockings of Riddick in both races. The Lincoln squad finished 2nd to Norfolk in the team battle with 48 points, and the 2 squads were also 1-2 in the 440 relay, Norfolk a 40.0 to 40.5 winner. In the prelims, Norfolk had matched their own yearly collegiate-leading time of 39.5.

One of the biggest crowd-pleasers (estimated at 1000 for the first 2 days and 3000 the 3rd), was Rey Brown, who rolled over a meet record 7-2, upping the 7-1½ standard he set in 71. "I'm pleased," said Brown. "I really haven't worked on anything I should have."

There was reportedly much dissension among athletes and coaches about the facilities, notably a track that was said to be lumpy and as hard as a highway.

/June 1(a)-2(b); both days sunny and warm/ 100(a, 0.65), Riddick 9.3; 2. Amerison 9.3; 3. Osei-Agyeman' 9.4. 220(b, w), Riddick 20.6; 2. Amerison 20.6; 3. Hardware' 20.7. 440(b), Jones 46.1; 2. Lyles 46.5. Heats(a): Lyles 46.1. 880(b), Couch 1:51.8. Mile(b), Foster 4:06.4; 2. Eashman 4:07.3. St(b), Saunders' 8:55.6; 2. Livesey 9:04.4. 3M(b), Bentley' 13:50.6. 6M(a), Smead 28:28.6; 2. Covert 28:30.8; 3. White 28:31.6. HH(a, 1.0S), Milburn 13.4; 2. Jones 13.8. Heats(a, ok): Milburn 13.2. IH(b), Jackson 51.1; 2. Stevenson 51.5.

HJ(b), Brown 7-2. PV(b), Delaitsch 16-0. LJ(a, ok), Boyd 24-3½. TJ(b, w), Terry 51-6; 2. Roberts 51-2¼; 3. Blockington 51-2; 4. Montgomery 51-1½. SP(a), Arendell 61-1; 2. Turri 59-11½. DT(b), Hjeltmes' 183-0; 2. McCollum 174-8. HT(a), Cramer 191-1; 2. McCollum 190-7. JT(b), Hall 258-7. Dec(5/31-6/1), Fink 6960 (4:24.1). 440R(b), Norfolk State 40.0 (Jackson, Riddick, Colbert, Cuffee); 2. Lincoln 40.5. Heats(a): Norfolk State 39.5. MileR(b), Lincoln 3:12.8. Teams: Norfolk State 54; 2. Lincoln 48; 3. Eastern Illinois 45; 4. Fullerton State 40; 5. Hayward State 32; 6. Cal Poly/Pomona 29; 7. Northridge State 25; 8. tie, Ashland & Northeast Missouri State 22.

USTFF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bennett, Texas Claim 8040, 3:05.7 as Winds Blow

Wichita, Kans., June 1-2 /from George Grenier/—Jeff Bennett put together 1973's highest decathlon tally and Texas sped the season's fastest mile relay, Rick Wohlhuter continued his superb running—this time over a mile—and strong winds blew sprinters, hurdlers and horizontal jumpers to some class efforts at the USTFF Championships.

Bennett totaled the 3rd highest score of his career, 8040, to claim the 73 global lead and increased his seasonal best from 7889. Fellow US Olympian Bruce Jenner upped his seasonal top by 524 digits as he finished 2nd at 7777. Jim Sobiesczyk, 3rd at 7719, added 269 points to his PR. Bennett led after the 1st 5 events, 4078 to 4004 for NAIA champ Dave Bahr, 4000 for Jenner and 3978 for Soby. As expected, little Jeff lost the lead after the 2 heaviest weights, but a quick 47.2 400 regained the lead after Bahr took over in the shot and a fine 16-5 vault (worth 1052) gave Bennett the lead for good after Jenner assumed command in the discus.

Texas keeps gunning down the opposition in the mile relay, this time combining for a 3:05.7 seasonal leader, eclipsing the San Diego TC's 3:06.0. Ed Wright's 47.7 brought Texas in 2nd behind Michigan and Robert Primeaux then blasted down the backstretch—with the sometimes 15mph wind at his back—to take the lead and hand off well in front after a 45.8 carry. Primeaux subbed for Billy Jackson (resting a sore back) and may have been seeking redemption following a non-qualifying 53.5 in his 440 hurdle heat. John Lee also busted the backstraight in his 46.3 carry and Don Sturgal



(L) Steve Riddick sped 9.3, 20.6w, 40.0 NCAA College wins. /S. Sutton/
 (C) Dennis Schultz dashed a PR 45.8 for the USTFF 440 title. /Tom Pott/
 (R) John Craft is understandably happy after a 55-2w TFF TJ win. /Pott/



(L) Efen Gipson takes the tape in 50.2 for the TFF intermediates. /Pott/
 (R) Bill Schmidt powered a 1st-throw 283-2 PR at Kennedy. /Chip Gane/

(L) Tim Vollmer's 209-4 bested John Powell by 7" at Kennedy. /Chadez/
 (R) Al Feuerbach hit 71-1½ at Kennedy, 4th-longest heave ever. /Chadez/

merely made the victory final with his 45.9. The real battle developed for 2nd between Wisconsin and Michigan; Chuck Curtis' 46.6 put Wisconsin too far ahead for Michigan anchorman Kim Rowe who dashed 45.6 while Skip Kent finished off Wisconsin's 3:08.0 with 46.1.

Wohlhuter and Dave Wottle, Olympic 800 teammates, were expected to hook up in a special half, but Wohlhuter opted for the mile—which was fine with Wottle who didn't want a hard race so close to the NCAA. So Wohlhuter promptly turned in a surprising 3:58.8 mile win, drastically cutting his PR from an early season 4:02.6. For 2 laps, though, the pace dragged and Wohlhuter ran dead last with 60.6, 2:03.7 splits. With 660 remaining, he started to move, was 3rd with 550 left and =2nd at the gun in 3:04.4. Down the backstretch, he burned by Reed Fischer and simply ran away with it all, keeping up his kick even in the homestretch wind. His last lap was a clicking 54.4. "I felt like I was out there all day," Wohlhuter said later about the unfamiliar distance. An odd heat set-up, with the faster runners in 1 heat and the slower in another, eliminated 3:59.7 miler Charlie McMullen; he finished 5th in his heat with the same time as 4th but out of the money as 4 qualified. The other heat was won with over 4:14.

Those strong winds down the finish straight were used to good advantage by the jumpers and runners who benefit most from such breezes. Larry Burton zapped a 9.2 100 to edge Carl Lawson and Mark Lutz; Burton out with quick starts and easy victories in all his races. He clocked a windy 9.3 heat and 9.2 semi, as did Lawson. Lutz triumphed after 3 rounds of the 220 on Friday with a 20.5 dash. John Craft rode a 12.5mph zephyr to a big 55-2 triple jump on his 2nd effort before calling it a day. Barry McClure bounded 52-8¼ and 53-2½ besides his 53-5 in 2nd. Al Lanier sailed 26-4¼ in the long jump to best Jeff Bolin's 26-0; Bolin got the single legal jump of the meet at 25-4¼. The strong wind proved a definite hindrance to Larry Shipp in the highs. Shipp and stockier Ricky Stubbs traded strides up to the 8th barrier but the collective boost of the wind put Shipp too close to the hurdle and he had a hard time making it over. Stubbs sped on for a 13.4 win over Shipp (13.6).

Both 1-lap winners used hard stretch drives to secure victory. Kim Rowe led the flat quarter early, but Dennis Schultz barreled down the final straight despite the wind for a PR 45.8 win, 0.7 clear of Rowe. In the intermediates, Jim Bolding played Rowe's part, opening up a big early edge. But Efen Gipson replayed Schultz's move and ran down Bolding in the final 50y for a 50.2 to 50.3 win. Al Feuerbach pumped 4 of 5 legal shot puts beyond 69ft, the best taping 69-9¼, to top the 69-0 of George Woods, his longest toss in more than a month. Gary Ordway's 201-5 topped PRs by Bob Stoltzman (199-6) and soph Marshall Smith (195-0) in the discus. Dwight Stones scaled 7-3½ in the high jump, but Steve Smith never even got a successful pole plant at his 17-0 vault opener. Smith reportedly has been bothered by sore legs. In that special 880, Wottle made his usual move in the final turn to take the lead and had the stretch all to himself; his 1:49.5 (over Skip Kent's 1:49.7) would have placed him only 4th in the title race won by Texas' Rudolph Griffith at 1:48.9.

/June 1(a)-2(b); both days overcast, very windy; a—attendance 1100, b—attendance 3300/ 100(b, w), Burton 9.2; 2. Lawson' 9.2; 3. Lutz 9.2. Heats(a): 1V(w)-1. Burton 9.3; 2. Lawson' 9.3. Semis(b): 1(w)-1. Burton 9.2; 2. Lawson' 9.2; 3. Walter 9.3. II(w)-1. Porter 9.2; 2. Lutz 9.3; 3. G. Pouncy 9.3. 220(a, w), Lutz 20.5; 2. J. Pouncy 21.0; 3. Johnson 21.1. 440(b), Schultz 45.8; 2. Rowe' 46.5; 3. Sturgal 46.6. 880(b), Griffith' 1:48.9; 2. Paul 1:49.1. Sp880(b), Wottle 1:49.5; 2. Kent 1:49.7; 3. Sparks 1:49.9; 4. Mango 1:50.2; 5. Durkin 1:50.4; . . . 7. Hilton 1:51.6.

Mile(b), Wohlhuter 3:58.8; 2. Rose 4:02.2; 3. Fischer 4:03.1. St(b), Lucas 8:46.0; 2. McDonald 8:56.6; 3. Timm 8:57.2. 3M(b), Herold 13:41.4; 2. Hilton 13:50.6; 6M(a), Koch 28:58.2. HH(b, w), Stubbs 13.4; 2. Shipp 13.6; 3. Lightfoot 13.7; 4. Jones 13.7; 5. Gipson 13.8. Heats(a): I(w)-1. Gipson 13.7. II(w)-1. Jubert 13.7; 2. Shipp 13.8; 3. Lightfoot 13.8. III(w)-1. Stubbs 13.7. Semis(b): I(w)-1. Stubbs 13.5; 2. Jones 13.8; 3. Gipson 13.8. IH(b), Gipson 50.2; 2. Bolding 50.3; 3. Steele 50.6. Mar(b), Delmott 2:29:40.8.

HJ(b), Stones 7-3½; 2. Oates 7-0; . . . 8. Schur 6-8. PV(b), Speer 16-3; . . . nh—Smith. LJ(a, w), Lanier 26-4¼; 2. Bolin 26-0w/25-4¼ok. TJ(b, w), Craft 55-2 (53-7¼, 55-2, p, p, p, p); 2. McClure 53-5. SP(a), Feuerbach 69-9¼ (f, 69-4¼, 69-9¼, 68-9¼, 69-4¼, 69-8¼); 2. Woods 69-0; 3. Jesse Stuart 66-4¼; 4. Walker 63-5¼; 5. Dolegiewicz' 62-11; 6. Brosius 61-7. DT(b), Ordway 201-5 (201-3, 196-9, f, 201-5, 191-9, 198-9); 2. Bob Stoltzman 199-6; 3. Smith 195-0; 4. Roost' 194-3; 5. Eneix 192-2. HT(a), Galle 194-10. JT(a), Colson 260-2; 2. Pearce 244-5.

Dec(a-b), Bennett 8040 (10.6, 23-4¼, 41-4¼, 6-2, 47.2, 15.0, 125-5, 16-5, 195-5¼, 4:20.5); 2. Jenner 7777 (11.0, 22-10¼, 45-10, 6-6¼, 50.2, 15.0, 146-5¼, 13-6¼, 199-2, 4:36.5); 3. Sobiesczyk 7719 (10.9, 23-0, 40-5, 6-8, 49.6, 15.3, 137-10, 13-0, 223-8, 4:36.7); 4. Bahr 7304 (unverified total). 440R(b), Southwestern Louisiana 40.1 (Porter, Gullett, Gullick, Credeur); 2. Texas 40.2; 3. Purdue 40.3. MileR(b), Texas 3:05.7 (Wright 47.7, Primeaux 45.8, Lee 46.3, Sturgal 45.9); 2. Wisconsin 3:08.0 (Kent 46.1); 3. Michigan 3:08.2 (Rowe' 45.6). Heats(a): 1-1. Texas 3:09.0; 2. Wisconsin 3:09.5. II-1. Michigan 3:09.6. Teams: Pacific Coast Club 67; 2. Texas 52; 3. UCTC 48.

KENNEDY Unrelenting Feuerbach's 71-1½ Paces Weightmen

Berkeley, Calif., June 2 /by Don Steffens/—Weight throwers added pizzazz to the 5th Annual Kennedy Games. Even though the track events were competitive and exciting, Edwards Stadium's slowish track failed to yield any super times. So a handful of weightmen supplied the eye-catching marks.

Slightly travel-weary but loose, Al Feuerbach snapped off history's 4th longest put with a 4th round effort of 71-1½. Only his own 71-7 world record and Randy Matson's 71-5½ and 71-4¼ are longer. Feuerbach now owns the 12 longest puts in the world this year, and his series showed his typical consistency—69-7, 67-10¼, 69-6¼, 71-1½, f, 70-6¼. George Woods was slightly off form with 66-11½ as Hans Hoglund got off his 2nd best of the year at 65-6¼ for 3rd.

"I felt loose and felt fatigued in the back and wrist," said the always quotable Feuerbach. "Competing 2 days in a row (he won the USTFF at Wichita on Friday) with travel in between fatigues you, but it loosens you up, too. There are so many variables that I don't know which combination of that is better, but I usually do quite well the 2nd day. If the fatigue were not there on a day when looseness was, well, let's not talk about it!"

Success almost ruined Bill Schmidt. On his first try, the Munich Olympian sailed the spear a PR 283-2. He felt so good, so 'on', that he pushed too hard on his remaining 5 throws and his performances nose-dived progressively to a low of 232-5 on his 5th. Schmidt's leadoff toss set the pace for an outstanding competition that followed.

Cary Feldmann, coming back from ankle sprains that occurred after his 298-4 toss at Bakersfield, followed Schmidt's 1st round lead with 273-7 and boosted that to 276-0 in the 4th. That's the best non-winning mark by an American to a US countryman. Most consistent of the javelinists was Rhodesian Bruce Kennedy who upped his PR twice, ending with 267-4. Fred Luke's 264-5 made this the highest-quality javelin event of the year.

Not to be outdone by the spear throwers, the discusmen staged another fingernail-biter. Hyper-consistent John Powell never threw under 202-3 following his opening round lead of 208-9. But Tim Vollmer responded strongly despite several personal problems which have hampered his training schedule the last few weeks. He came up with 209-4 in the final round to edge ahead of the Munich 4th placer. Powell answered with 'only' 205-4, and Vollmer had his 1st major meet win of 73. Jim Penrose had 2 over 200-0 with a top of 204-9. Rice's Ken Stadel looked slightly better than at Modesto, edging past 200ft by 7".

Tommy "Hercules" Fulton proved he could "single" too, as he out-powered Olympian Mike Boit in a well-executed mile race. The Texas Southern senior slipped immediately to the lead and posted 59.2 for 1 lap. Boit looked loose as he stepped sharply to the front at 660. Effortlessly, he was 5y in front of Fulton who appeared unshaken by the Kenyan's quick spurt. Boit held the lead with 1:58.6 and 3:01.8 splits as Fulton gradually narrowed the gap. On the final curve, he crept to Boit's shoulder and showed good strength in the stretch to win, 4:00.8 to 4:01.1.

Utah's Scott Bringhurst was happy with his 3M, and Gordon Minty was too. The former paced the field for 10½ laps, surprised at how good he felt coming down from Salt Lake City's altitude. But Briton Minty showed why he's undefeated at 3M this year as he moved calmly to the lead with 660y remaining and held a several-yard lead to win at 13:15.4. Bringhurst had hoped for 13:20 and was glad when he heard 13:17.2. Another Englishman, Peter Duffy, was never far from the pace and ran strongly for 13:18.0, 0.2 ahead of Tracy Smith.

Steve Williams continues to establish himself as a dominating sprint force, which the US so sorely missed last year. Even with 2 poor starts, the smooth-striding 19-year-old clipped off 2 easy-appearing victories. Out of the blocks a half-stride behind everyone in the 100, Williams caught the field after 40y and was 0.2 faster than Willie Deckard at the tape in 9.3. His start was hardly any better in the 220, but he says, "I don't worry about the start in the 220. It's a longer race and I have a chance to make up for mistakes and still finish on top." He worked efficiently around the bend and then lengthened his stride to again pull away from Deckard, 20.6 to 20.7.

Nothing seemed to go "right" for Rod Milburn this weekend, except the one thing he does best—hurdling. Poor plane connections from Crawfordsville, Ind., full flights, misguided luggage and traffic congestion made the Olympic champ sluggish and tired. But he still came to run and win.

From the instant the starter's gun sounded til the moment he broke the tape, Milburn never was behind. He edged Tommy Lee White, 13.4 to 13.5 with skin-headed Charles Foster at 13.6. "Considering the circumstances, I'm amazed," Milburn said. "Now I'm going home to rest for the NCAA. At this point, I need rest more than workouts."

In the 1-lap hurdle race, Chris Adsit of Colorado State led from the gun though Wes Williams seemed ready to take over the lead at any moment. Adsit had a 2-stride lead in the final stretch as Mike Cronholm came from 10y back to burn past the fading Williams. He needed about another 10y to catch Adsit. It was a seasonal best for the Coloradan as he closed 50.8, 0.3 ahead of Cronholm. Williams also had 51.1.

The 440R was exciting even though Cal International won going away in 40.1. It marked the return of hometown hero Eddie Hart who anchored the Bay Area Striders to 2nd even though he held the lead as he took off on anchor. "I just wasn't sharp because I haven't been running all year," Eddie pointed out.

/sunny and warm, calm; attendance 10,000/ 100(ok), S. Williams 9.3; 2. Deckard 9.5. 220(ok), Williams 20.6; 2. Deckard 20.7. 440, Singletary 46.7; 2. Sang' 47.0. 880, Malan' 1:49.0. Mile, Fulton 4:00.8; 2. Boit' 4:01.1. St. B. Brown 8:42.4; 2. Johnson 8:44.4. 3M, Minty' 13:15.4; 2. Bringhurst 13:17.2; 3. Duffy' 13:18.0; 4. Smith 13:18.2; 5. Tibaduiza' 13:22.2. HH(ok), Milburn 13.4; 2. White 13.5; 3. Foster 13.6; 4. Davenport 13.8. IH, Adsit 50.8; 2. Cronholm 51.1; 3. W. Williams 51.1. 5000Walk, Ranney 22:45.8. HJ, Heikkila 7-0. PV, Pullard 16-6. LJ(ok), Phillips 24-4½. TJ(ok), Smith 52-3½; 2. Tucker 50-11½.

SP, Feuerbach 71-1½ (69-7, 67-10%, 69-6%, 71-1½, f, 70-6%); 2. Woods 66-11½; 3. Hoglund' 64-6%; 4. B. Wilhelm 62-¼; 5. Marks 60-10%; 6. Born 60-8. DT, Vollmer 209-4 (183-11, 204-10, 198-4, 206-3, 202-3, 209-4); 2. Powell 208-9 (208-9, 203-9, 202-3, 202-11, 208-1, 205-2); 3. Penrose 204-9; 4. Stadel 200-7. HT, Farmer' 219-2; 2. Frenn 212-8; 3. Hall 209-9; 4. Gage 208-6. JT, Schmidt 283-2 (283-2, 267-6, 243-1, 239-3, 232-5, 234-7); 2. Feldmann 276-0 (273-7, 242-10, 235-6, 276-0, 209-11, f); 3. Kennedy' 267-4 (258-6, 242-1, 267-4, 258-11, 257-8, f); 4. Luke 264-5 (264-5, 239-11, 256-9, f, 264-5, f). 440R, Cal International 40.1 (Gilliard, Smith, Thomas, Deckard); 2. Bay Area Striders 40.4; 3. Arizona State 40.5. MileR, North Carolina Central TC 3:09.6 (W. Williams 47.4, Ray 48.5, Ouko' 47.0, Sang' 46.7).

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

McAfee PRs 1:47.6; Pre's 8:24.6 Tips Geis by 0.2

Brockton, Mass., May 12—1Hour, Vitale 12m,95y; 2. Burfoot 12M,90y.
College Station, Tex., May 12—LJ(ok), Brabham 25-11; 2. Rogers 25-6. 440R, Texas A&M 40.4 (D'Ambrosio, Dierschke, Porter, Rogers).
Memphis, Tenn., May 19—440R, Memphis State 39.9 (Knight, Fox, Taylor, Hammonds).
Annapolis, Md., May 19—HT, Bregar 201-0.



(L) Steve Bence cruised to a 2-lap PR with this 1:48.2 880. /Jeff Johnson/
(R) Mike McFarland wins the Illinois prep 100 title in 9.5. /Stan Jarocki/

West Long Branch, N.J., May 20—DT, Swarts 205-7. HT, Zilincar 195-5.
Fairfield, Calif., May 20—DT, I-1. Louisiana 191-10; 2. Kennedy 191-0; 3. Harrington' 190-9. II-1. Louisiana 190-6.

Knoxville, Tenn., May 25—In one of the highest-quality all-comer affairs of the year, a blistering half-mile found Reggie McAfee demonstrating his 2-lap talents with a 1:47.6 PR. He needed it to hold off Tennessee frosh Thom Garrison's 1:47.8. 880, McAfee 1:47.6; 2. Garrison 1:47.8; . . . 4. Bond 1:50.0. Mile, Waldrop 4:01.8. TJ(ok), Davenport 51-4½. HT, Dinneen' 201-9. 440R, Southwestern Louisiana 40.4.

Pasadena, Tex., May 25(a)-26(b)—220(b, ok), Gilbreath 20.6. HJ(b), Underwood 7-0. MileR(b), Essex CC 3:09.2 (Daley' 46.0). Heats(a): III-1. Essex CC 3:09.1 (Tuit' 46.1, Daley' 46.1).

Raleigh, N.Car., May 26—Olympian Jeff Galloway (Florida TC) got his 1st US record, loping through 10M in 47:49.0 to clip 39sec from Buddy Edelen's old mark.

Berea, Ohio, May 26—6M, Talkington 28:27.6.

Santa Barbara, Calif., May 26-27—Dec, Warkentin 7627 (11.2, 23-7%, 46-0, 6-4%, 49-2, 14-9, 137-0, 12-0, 192-7, 4:30.7).

Fairfield, Calif., May 27—DT(good quartering winds), I-1. Louisiana 195-4; 2. Harrington' 190-6; 3. Kennedy 190-5. II-1. Harrington' 201-3; 2. Kennedy 195-4; 3. Louisiana 192-4.

Quantico, Va., May 28—HH(ok), Hill 13.8.

Eugene, Ore., May 29—"It was apparent I was doing all the work," grumbled Steve Prefontaine. Pre had just highlighted the Oregon Twilight II with the season's quickest 2M, 8:24.6. What gripped Pre was Paul Geis, who hung on his shoulder the whole way and recorded a big PR 8:24.8 in 2nd. Only Pre and George Young have ever run faster among Americans. "This ought to answer those who have been saying I was going downhill," concluded Pre. 880, Bence 1:48.2; 2. Lowrey 1:48.7. 2M, Prefontaine 8:24.6; 2. Geis 8:24.8. HJ, Fleer 7-0. SP, Shmock 61-3½. DT, Vollmer 202-10; 2. Wilkins 196-6.

Annapolis, Md., June 2—HT, Bregar 205-3.

HIGH SCHOOL

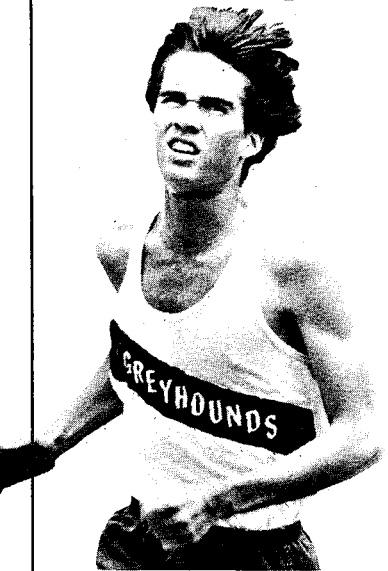
ILLINOIS STATE

Virgin Churns Swift 8:42.6 2M, Returns 4:12.2

Champaign, Ill., May 25-26 /from Vern Sheuring/—The 79th annual Illinois state championships returned to the University of Illinois after a forced 1yr exile to Charleston and produced the 2nd-fastest prep 2M ever.

It was, of course, turned in by Lebanon's brilliant Craig Virgin, who was given a sizzling 8:42.6, only a second shy of Steve Prefontaine's 4 year old national record. Virgin became ill for a time after his effort, and there was doubt for a while that he would even be able to defend his mile crown against indoor conqueror Bill Fritz, the junior from Glenbard West (Glen Ellyn). Finally he returned and made a game effort to repeat his 1972 distance double, but the blond Fritz took the lead with 500y to go and held on for a 4y victory, handing Virgin only his 3rd loss in Illinois prep competition in 2 years. Virgin finished in 4:12.2, a full 3.0 off his 1972 winning time. Fritz was given a time of 4:11.4, 0.8 faster than Virgin though it appeared only 0.3 separated the pair.

Craig Virgin: Man of Soil, Runner of Driven Toughness



[Al Messerschmidt]

A drive through the rolling Illinois countryside north of Lebanon on Route 4 in the shimmering twilight of a spring evening is to see rural Americana at its best. The highway splits huge plowed fields. It winds past the Hageman farm on the right, up a hill and continues in front of a white frame house that has been outgrown by four bustling children of Vernon and Lorna Lee Virgin.

This is home for Craig Virgin, at 17 the oldest of the 4 and like his dad, a man of the soil. When Craig isn't running, you can find him at the wheel of a tractor, chasing Herefords or searching the pasturelands. Townspeople in Lebanon no longer turn and gawk at the slender runner who is now a familiar sight plodding the streets in the icy sleet of winter and the country roads at night in the summer. Virgin's flying feet have put Lebanon, Ill., on the map.

Few are born with the seeming natural ability of Craig Virgin. Few punish themselves so hard in training. And fewer still have such an overwhelming desire to excel, to be the very best. He is considered as one of the top prep runners ever. Here's why:

- He owns 8 world age group and national class records from 2M to 5000.
- His 8:46.6 (May 5 at Centralia) and 8:42.6 (May 26 at Urbana) are the 2nd and 3rd fastest outdoor 2M times in prep history.
- He ran the fastest prep 3M and 5000 times in the US in 1972.
- He became the first prep sophomore to crack 9:00 in the 2M with an 8:57.4 at age 15 in 1971.

His competitive record borders on the unbelievable. During his last 3 campaigns he has lost to other preps on only 4 occasions: a cross country race to Dave Merrick, an indoor mile race as a junior and senior and the state mile final this year despite running 4:12.2.

His ability to perform frequently at a high quality level is uncanny. Between May 21 and May 26, Craig ran wild. On May 21, he doubled a mile-2M in 4:08.5 and 8:48.6, the 3rd fastest prep double ever. Three days later, at the Illinois prep championship prelims he toured 4 laps in 4:10.0. On Saturday, he clipped off an 8:42.6 2M victory, only 1.0 off Steve Prefontaine's national record. He was so distraught from missing that mark, he ran "only" 4:12.2 for 2nd in the mile final. A week later he ran 4:05.5.

The pressures are building, however, and they gnaw daily at the Virgin family circle. These pressures were the topic of a serious discussion at the supper table the other night by Craig's father, who brooded about them. "We are a very close family," he said, "and we have sacrificed, all of us, to help Craig get where he is today. We have sacrificed in time and money . . . well, you name it."

As his father spoke, Craig stared at his plate and munched on chocolate-peanut butter cookies. "Sometimes you have to make priorities," said Craig. "I've always felt I have a great responsibility to my family. The more I got into running the more I had to commit myself. This made less time for me to work in the field. This meant my family suffered because I could have taken the place of a hired hand my dad had to employ and it would save "I know it's been hard on Dad. He farms 850 acres, and he can't count on me to work much any more. For a long time I had the idea that running comes 1st and girls 2nd. More and more my social life has become important to me. My grades mean a lot to me. I'm tied for 7th in my senior class, and I'd like to raise it if I can. My schedule is so tight, it's frustrating.

"But I've found you can reap the rewards of hard work. Your take is as much as your input." Craig even admits that on occasion he has thought about giving it all up. Regardless, he's been an inspiration for his school.

Lebanon has no track. His bachelor coach, Hank Feldt, trains his team on roads and on a grassy 600y area that circles 3 baseball diamonds behind the elementary school. "Craig has worked for everything he's gotten," points out Feldt. "His training ties him to a schedule of 70-80M a week and running 3M in the morning at least 3 days a week. Craig believes in quality, not quantity. He runs fewer miles than others, but he runs faster and harder."

Virgin, he says, likes to throw out a challenge and then kill off the opponent with a blistering pace. He likes to narrow it down to who is toughest, who can push himself into exhaustion, who can whip himself to go on.

The biggest race of Virgin's career, in the US-USSR junior duel at Sacramento last July, was one of his biggest disappointments. He ran the 5000. "I knew with 6 laps to go I had to try and break them. I constantly stepped up the pace. With an 880 left they started making their rush at me. One Russian tried to go by me and I held him off. On the backstretch of the gun lap, one of them came at me hard and I let him go. He slowed down. That's when I realized something was wrong. The other Russian was on my right shoulder. I was really dumb and inexperienced, and I didn't know what to do. I couldn't believe what was happening to me. I was caught in a trap."

Virgin thought he was cut off by one of them on the final curve, and through an interpreter, later asked them why they did it. They said: "Well, you're a very fine runner and maybe we'll see you in Russia when the teams run next summer." Craig is still thinking of that race, and thinking about the rematch this summer. But those priorities he spoke about still help keep his life balanced. Here is an entry from his diary:

"May 12—a.m., no running; got in from prom at 6 a.m." /Dave Dorr, St. Louis Post-Dispatch/

Vying with Virgin as the top star of the meet was fellow senior Mike McFarland of Chicago Parker, who equaled his own season and all-time Illinois best of 20.9. McFarland was the meet's only double winner, annexing the 100 in a windy 9.5. But his most noteworthy sprint performances came in the previous day's prelims, where he blazed to clockings of 20.8 and 9.5, both also wind-aided.

The state meet's other top star was Thornton (Harvey) junior 880 man Charles White, who blazed to a 1:51.0 880 win after a 1:52.4 prelim, to take over the national lead. White, the national freshman record holder, also contributed a key leg to Thornton's meet-closing 3:17.7 mile relay victory, in a sudden rain shower.

/May 25(a)-26(b)/ 100(b, w), McFarland (Parker, Chicago) 9.5. Semis(a, ok): McFarland 9.5. 220(b, ok), McFarland 20.9; 2. Monroe (Lincoln, East St Louis) 21.3. Heats(a, w): McFarland 20.8. Semis(a, w): Monroe 20.9. 880(b), White (Thornton, Harvey) 1:51.0. Mile(b), Fritz (Glenbard West, Glen Ellyn) 4:11.4; 2. Virgin (Lebanon) 4:12.2. 2M(b), Virgin 8:42.6; 2. Eicken (East Peoria) 9:06.0 (soph). SP(b), Pulikowski (Proviso East, Maywood) 62.2.

CALIFORNIA STATE Whitaker Blasts 3 Quick 440s as 6 Top 73 List

Woodland, Calif., June 1-2 /from Jack Shepard/—In a field of bright prep stars at the California State meet, the brightest luminary of all was one-lapper Ronald Whitaker of San Francisco's Wilson High.

A thin senior, Whitaker turned in 3 outstanding once-arounds, including a nation-leading 47.0 in the open dash, one of 6 country-pacing marks produced by the meet. Whitaker's run left 2nd place a big 1.3 behind. No less stellar in the relays, Whitaker burned 46.3 anchor laps in both the heats and final. Coach Adam Banks commented, "Whitaker proved today what I've been saying since I first saw him in my gym class 3 years ago. I've said he could be the greatest—from the sprints to the mile—that this city has ever

(L) Ron Whitaker wins the Cal 440 in a prep-pacing 47.0. /Don Chadez/
(R) Terry Williams hits the tape in 8:54.4 for the Cal 2M title. /Chadez/

