

WOHLHUTER WINS 800 METERS IN 1:43.9: QUARRIE BEATS <SPAN ...

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WOHLHUTER WINS 800 METERS IN 1:43.9

BY HARLEY TINKHAM
Times Staff Writer

The race of the day went to a Jamaican, Don Quarrie, but when all the results were in, America didn't have to offer any excuses for its showing in the 86th National AAU track and field championships Saturday at UCLA's Drake Stadium.

Eight meet records were set in the two-day competition, sponsored by The Times, and athlete of the meet honors went to the Chicago Track Club's Rick Wohlhuter who came within a couple of ticks of setting a world record in the 800 meters.

Quarrie Beats Williams in AAU 200; Eight Meet Records Set

Before a capacity crowd of 12,100 in perfect track weather, Wohlhuter blazed to victory in 1:43.9, only two-tenths of a second off the record of 1:43.7 held by Italy's Marcello Fiasconaro.

Quarrie, rebounding from his 100-meter loss to Steve Williams Friday, was a wire-to-wire winner in the 200 meters, clocking an eased-up 20.5 against a 1.4 m.p.h. wind.

The 23-year-old ex-Trojan, after building a three-yard lead on the curve, almost gave it away at the finish when he decelerated before the tape. Coming on fast for second was Guyana native James Gilkes of Fisk, the NCAA champion. His time was 20.7.

Tennessee freshman Reggie Jones was third in 20.7 and Williams wound up a disappointing fourth in the same time.

"It was only my third 220 of the year," said Williams, "and I just didn't have the conditioning behind me. Because of leg injuries I haven't been able to work on the curve. But that's taking nothing away from Don Quarrie. DQ ran a great race."

Since Quarrie and Gilkes are foreigners, Jones and Williams were America's qualifiers for the USA-USSR meet at Durham, N.C., July 5-6. Williams, however, said he would

run only the 100 meters, in which he equaled the world record of 9.9 Friday.

Will Russia's Valeriy Borzov run the 200?

"If he pulls last year's antics," said Williams, "it will be a question what he runs. But I hope he runs the 100. If I'm half as psyched as I was last year at Minsk, I'll go under 9.9 and redeem myself as the world's fastest human."

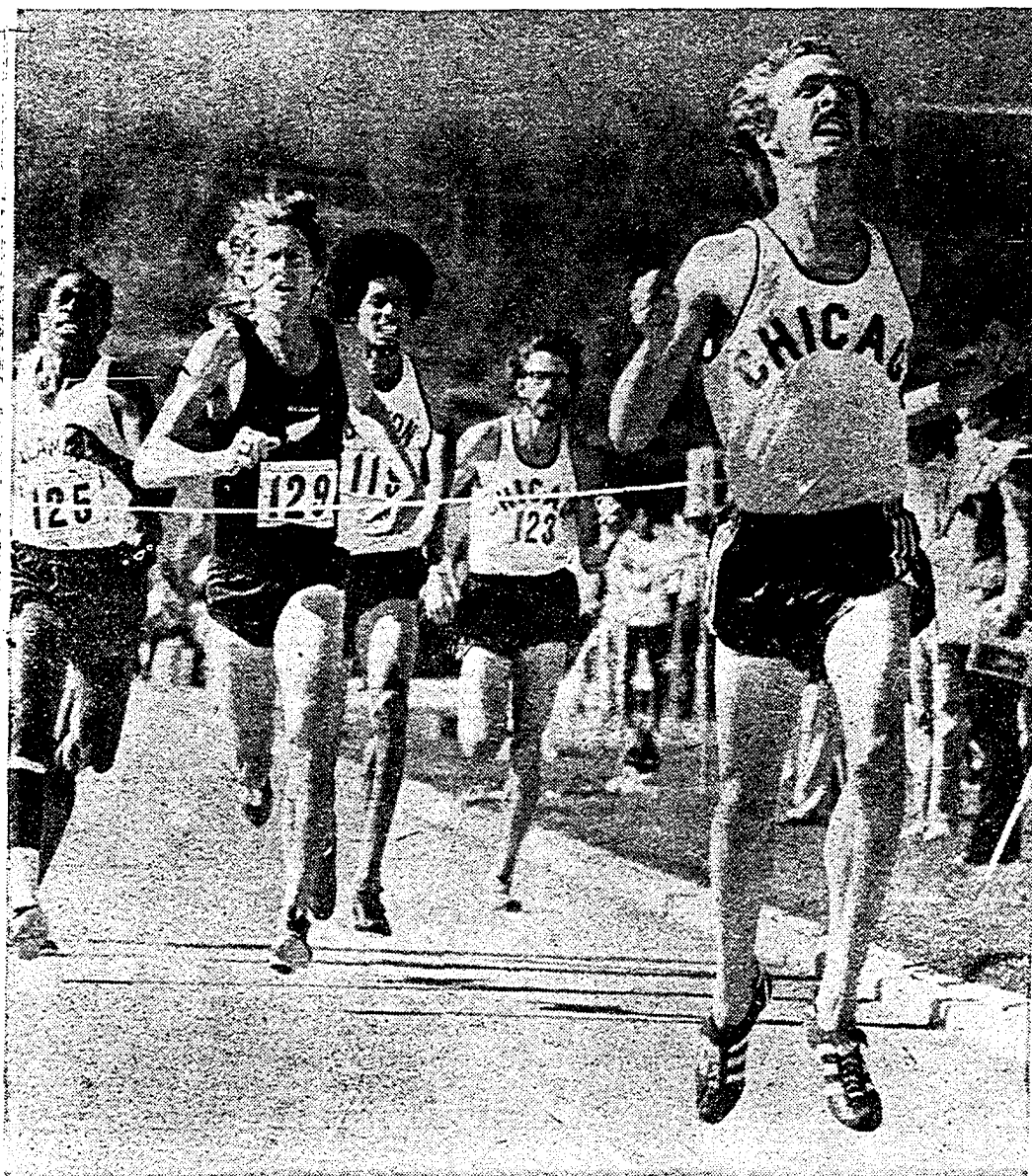
Quarrie, took his victory stolidly, almost diffidently. He's an unsmiling man, not given to emotional displays, and he answered questions from reporters with short, matter-of-fact replies.

"Yes," he said, "I thought I would win the race because I have the best time in the world."

"No," he said, "I didn't ease up too fast at the end. I had it under control all the way. I'm not about to give away a race in the last five yards."

He still maintained he could have

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CLOSE RACE? —It looks that way but Rick Wohlhuter of Chicago Track Club is a comfortable 800-meter winner Saturday in National AAU

track championships at UCLA. Wohlhuter ran 1:43.9, two-tenths of second off world record. For another view of finish please turn to page 4.
Times photo by Art Rogers

Wohlhuter Wins 800 in 1.43.9

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given Williams a better race in the 100 Friday if he hadn't drawn an outside lane and he expressed the hope he would be invited as a guest participant in the USA-USSR meet.

Would he like to meet Borzov?

"I would like to meet all good sprinters," he said.

Among the meet records set Saturday were 48.9 by Jim Bolding in the 400-meter hurdles and 70-9 3/4 in the shot by Al Feuerbach. Both represent the Pacific Coast Club which is boycotting the USA-USSR meet as a protest against AAU travel restrictions.

Dwight Stones, Friday's winner in the high jump, is another in the group but said, "I still think we'll beat the Russians without the Pacific Coast Club. We've got an awful lot of talent."

The 1,500 meters was won by Olympic bronze medalist Rod Dixon of New Zealand in 3:37.5, equivalent to a 3:55 mile, but the miler of the future could be Ohio State freshman Tom Byers who finished second in 3:37.9.

Another youngster to watch is James Robinson of Laney Junior college, third in the 800 with a remarkable clocking of 1:45.7. Robinson, the State junior college champion, reportedly is headed for the University of California.

So, amateur track and field in the United States, surviving one crisis after another, appears to be on the right track. It's been a tough road. There's been the long festering AAU-NCAA feud, the mishaps and tragedies of Munich and the inroads of the professionals. But young, fresh faces keep appearing on the scene and you'll see a lot of them at Montreal in 1976.

Williams is only 20 years old. Before he's through, he hopes to own all the records from 100 to 400. He ran a 45.2 quarter as a freshman at Texas (El Paso) in 1972 but passed up the event this year to concentrate on the 100.

As for the 200, he said, "I still think I'll run a good one before the year is out. I'm about three or four weeks away. We'll see what happens in Europe this summer."

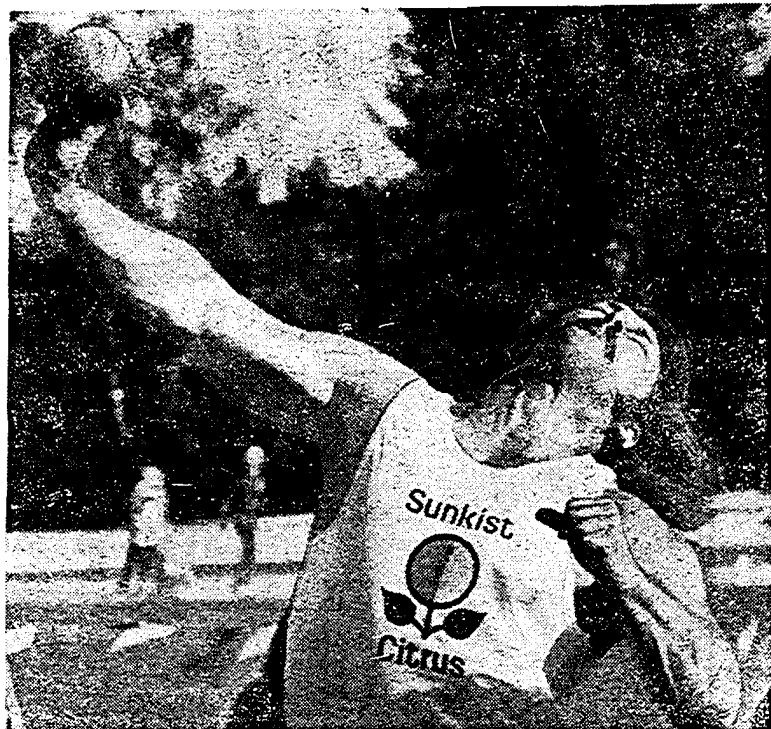
Jones is also 20 years old. He's the same dimensions as Williams, 6-3 and 185, and obviously has a lot of running left in him.

The meet was a good show all the way. The crowd, the weather and the fast track added up to succession of world-class performances and there is talk among AAU people of suggesting UCLA as a permanent site for the championship.

The Marathon of The Times was won by 42-year-old Jack Foster of New Zealand. Foster, the British Commonwealth silver medalist, covered the 26 miles, 305 yards in 2 hours, 18 minutes and 24.8 seconds.

Finishing second was Boston Marathon winner Neil Cusack of Ireland and East Tennessee State. His time was 2:19:23.2

In sixth place was 17-year-old Ajim Balcon of Hollywood High, timed in



STRAIN OF VICTORY.—Shot putter Al Feuerbach gets off winning toss of 70 feet 9 3/4 inches Saturday in the AAU meet at UCLA. World record is 71-7.

2:32:11, but more amazing was the 40th place finish of Greg Hill of Palos Verdes Estates in 4:11:17.

Greg is 8 years old. Nobody was more impressed than Greg's father, 39 year-old John Hill. He finished 43rd in 4:17:11

Track Notes

Olympic silver medalist Larry Black of North Carolina Central ruptured an Achilles tendon in the 200-meter semifinals and fell to the track while leading on the curve. He'll undergo an operation today at UCLA medical center. . . . Quarrie is co-holder of the 200 world record at 19.8. "I knew I had no chance at the record today," he said. "because we were running against the wind. That's why I eased up at the finish." Normally at UCLA the 220 is run with the wind, finishing on the other side, but it was switched for this meet because the photo-timer couldn't be moved. . . . UCLA's Benny Brown, rebounding from his last-place finish in the NCAA meet, placed fifth in the 400 meters at 46.0. Teammate Maxie Parks failed to make the finals, pulling up with a cramp in Friday's trials. . . . UCLA sophomore Gordon Innes set a school record in the steeplechase, running 8:38.8 for seventh place. The time would have been considerably faster but he took a spill on the last water jump. At the time he was moving into fourth. Upset winner of the race in 8:28.8 was ex-University of Washington runner Jim Johnson. American record holder Doug Brown of Tennessee was second in the same time. Brown was moving faster than anybody at the finish but he waited too long to make his move and then found himself shut off as he tried to get through on the inside.



SOUTHPAW STYLE.—Sam Colson of Lawrence, Kan., hurls the javelin in Saturday's AAU meet. Colson won the event with a throw of 280-8.