

TRACK NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, No. 9, December 12, 1956
By Bert & Cordner Nelson (Track & Field News)

P.O. Box 296, Los Altos, Calif.
\$6 per year (24 issues)

NEWS

PRE-OLYMPIC meets were topped by a 13.3 high hurdle time by Jack Davis at Bendigo, Nov. 17. Calhoun 13.5. Also, King 9.3, Morrow 20.9yt, Courtney 47.3y, Sowell 1:49.3y, Clarke 4:10.3, Pirie 8:51.2 from Dellinger 8:52.2, US 41.5, Dumas 6-9, Price 24-8, Landstrom 14-2, Singh 50-5 3/4, O'Brien 60-8 5/8, Nieder 59, Danielsen 234-11; Elsewhere, a new U.S. two-mile record by Coleman, 8:48, behind Brashear.

U.S. vs. BRITISH EMPIRE, Sydney, Dec. 5: Davis 13.9, Calhoun 14.2, Shankle 14.4; Davis 51.6, Lean 51.9, Potgieter 52.1, Kane 52.2, Culbreath 52.4, Southern 53.4 (yards); 3 mile, Thomas 13:43.2, Ibbotson 13:43.3, Nyandika 13:45, Sando 14:15, McKenzie 14:19.9, Hart 14:38.8; 440R-US 40.4; 880R-US 1:23.8, world record (King, Stanfield, Baker, Morrow); MileR-US 3:10.5 (Jones 48.6, Courtney 47.1 Mashburn 47.2, Jenkins 47.0); 2 mile R-US 7:23.0 world record (Walters 1:53.5, Spurrier 1:50.3, Sowell 1:49.3, Courtney 1:49.9), BE 7:42.1; 4 mile R-BE 16:26.4, world's best (Halberg 4:05.2, Scott 4:06.3, Boyd 4:10.5, Landy 4:04.4), US 16:54.8 (Coleman 4:05.8, Dellinger 4:06.2, Ashenfelter 4:26.5, Jones 4:16.3); mile medley R-BE 3:22.5 (Salisbury 47.3, Butchart 1:51), US 3:22.7; HJ-Dumas 6-9, Wilson 6-7; HSJ-Enge 48-7; BJ-Bell 26-1/4, Bennett 25-8 1/2, Cruttenden 24-10 3/4, Price 24-10; Mattos 14-4, Richards 14-0, Graham 14-0; HT-Connolly 215-8, Iqbal 183-5 1/2; DT-Oerter 184-2, O'Brien 177-5 1/2, Koch 172-9 1/2, DuPlessis 170-6; SP-O'Brien 61-9 1/2, Nieder 57-11 1/2, Bantum 52-9 3/4; Young 239-5, Conley 224-5 1/2.

CROSS COUNTRY IC4A, New York, Nov. 19: Kennedy, Michigan State, 24:01.8, course record, from Steiglitz, Conn; Timon, Pitts; Jones, MS; Denslow, MS; Matza, NYU; Kopil, Villanova; Breckinridge, Vill; Michigan State 34, St. Joseph's 148. NAIA Omaha, Nov. 24: Manion, Redlands, 22:42, Tidwell, Emporia, 22:43; Dunlap, Ft. Hays, 23:10, South Dakota State 71 points. NCAA, Michigan State, Nov. 26; McNew, Texas, 19:55.7; Beatty, No. Carolina, 20:09; Kennedy, MS, 20:10; Denslow, MS, 20:12; Jones, MS, 20:12.1; Villarreal, Texas, 20:19; Howell, Kansas, 20:25; Wheeler, MS, 20:32; Edelen, Minnesota, 20:33; Morton, Arkansas, 20:33.1; AAU, Philadelphia, Dec. 9: Ashenfelter, NYAC, 30:08 (10,000m); Macy, Houston, 30:25; Ross, 30:54; Kelley, U. of Chicago Track Club, 31:03; Coleman, UCTC, 31:10. NYAC 46 points, UCTC 56, Penn AC 68, Houston 72. (NCAA team Michigan State 28, Kansas 88, Texas 89, Illinois 128, St. Joseph's 166.

BULLETIN BOARD

Next Newsletter: Dec. 31. Dec. T&FN, mailed about Dec. 27.

Comments invited, as usual, from the Nuts. What thought you of the Olympics, and how does the indoor season shape up?

SO THEY TELL US

BOB MATHIAS: "I feel stronger than ever, and would enjoy another crack at the decathlon."

AL HALL: "It was hard to realize that Connolly and Krivonosov were not throwing farther than they did. A win was possible for me at all times, but I fouled my two best throws. Evidently neither Hal nor Mike was relaxed enough to go for distance. Had somebody gotten off a long toss in an early round all of us probably would have done better. I'm just learning this hammer game and hope to be around for years to come."

OLIVER JACKSON, Abilene Christian coach: "They always told me that if you want to be a good distance coach, get distance runners; if you want to be a good shot put coach, get some good shot putters. So that's the secret of my so-called success as a sprint coach. Bobby Morrow, great as he was (in Melbourne), has not returned to his form of last June."

BOBBY MORROW: "I have two more years of college, then probably the service, so it looks like the 1960 Games will be just right for me."

TN UAN RASEY, North Hollywood: "That Morrow could be a pretty fair sprinter by 1960."

LEAMON KING: "Yes, I wish I could be in the 100 here, but that's the way it goes. Four years to Rome is a long time, but I'm already looking forward to it."

KEN NORRIS: "I get almost as much kick out of being a track nut as I do from running, and I like to pick the winners. For instance, I knew I would be a place winner in the 10,000."

BILL BOWERMAN, Oregon coach: "Jim Bailey's mental condition has not been good ever since he returned to Australia. The Australians have never forgiven him for beating Landy, nor for saying he could do it again, and he can't understand their attitude towards him, particularly here in Melbourne."

PAYTON JORDAN, Stanford coach: "George Roubanis is a big, strong vaulter with everything it takes to be great. All he needed was an incentive to go to work, and evidently he found that."

TN FRANK LONGSTRETH, Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, Ohio: "I would like very much to get in touch with a track coach out your way (California) who has worked with interval running at the high school level."

TN EMERSON CASE, Schenectady: "I have been collecting clippings and making notes on track in a serious way only since 1951, though my tremendous interest dates back to the Olympics of 1924. To obtain these data, I read and took notes on nearly every track and field book in the public libraries of New York, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia and Denver, as well as several in smaller cities. At the 42nd St. Library in New York, I went through all back copies of the Amateur Athlete to its beginning in 1930--a long and fascinating job. I have also compiled notes from all the principal encyclopedias, almanacs, yearbooks and other American and foreign magazines, reports and books. I have tried to learn all I could about track and field--both past and present, and this has taken me into such diverse fields as mathematics, physics, physiology, biology, psychology, the Bible, statistics, probability, geography, history, racial characteristics, meteorology and others."

TN BUZZ SAWYER, Tulsa: "Oklahoma A&M's Reed Ferguson will bear watching in the future. He is from Tulsa, and I worked out with him all summer and now on weekends. He appears to have more potential than anyone I have run up with in a longtime. His best times of 4:25 and 9:50 recorded last spring began to really look slow as we ran 9:22.9 on the track the day following his competition in a triangular meet. He seemed to be holding back. He has trouble with hill running, which has hurt his cross country performances, but I have a feeling he is going to open some eyes this spring or next."

TN HAL HIGDON, U.S. army retired: "With a little figuring I came up with 38.4 as the time four 10.2 sprinters should run 4x100 relay in. This assumes absolutely perfect conditions and magnificent handoffs, but why not? The German teams ran 40.0 with four men whose best times were 10.3, 10.4, 10.4, and 10.5. Texas has consistently produced great times with good, but not great, sprinters."

TN HUGH GARDNER, Indianapolis: "As statisticians, we can all quit. Bud Spillman of St. Joseph, Mo., kept eye on basketball in 72-60 game, and throughout 40 minutes kept tab of all the number of dribbles, bounce passes, rebounds. Got 715 the first half, 727 the second. Reason? Hadn't heard of its being done before!"

"If body building through weights is supposed to be every other day, so body does have a chance to build, why can't an intensive track training require day of rest between truly severe workouts? Funny how in the 40s the idea of weights was so scorned on grounds it would develop antagonistic muscles which would hinder instead of help. Too, the so-called bugaboo about making one muscle-bound, for except with those who cheat (not going from maximum to minimum contraction) one gets more flexibility, in addition to extra strength and development which can make the run or jump better."

OLYMPIC IMPRESSIONS

(By Bert Nelson)

Brightest star: Vladimir Kuts, who took 30 seconds off the great Zatopek's 10,000 record (equalling his 5000 record enroute) and 27 seconds off the 5000 mark, completely smashing the greatest field ever.

Second brightest: Bobby Morrow, with three gold medals.

Biggest disappointment: Lou Jones.

Biggest flop: The Russian team, which except for Kuts, failed to live up to either advance notices, or previous records.

Greatest dual: The high hurdle final, man for man all the way.

Greatest performance: the 13.5 by Calhoun and Davis. Run on a slow track, against a wind of 1.9 meters per second (4.5 miles per hour), this is unbelievable.

Top drama: Kuts vs. Pirie for four-fifths of the 10,000, and the drawn out high jump competition.

Saddest sight: Zatopek, a shadow of his former self, wearily finishing sixth in the marathon.

Compensating sight: Mimoun, three times second behind Zatopek, finally winning a gold medal.

Most frustrating: Lack of complete results, both for the public and for the press.

Most popular athlete: Landy, backed by all Australians and most others.

Hardest luck: Kevin Gosper, whose 46.2 semi-final didn't qualify, the result of a lack of seeding blunder.

Most surprising marks: in the 800 and hammer, where all though the winners and placers would go much better.

Biggest surprise: The sprinting of Hec Hogan, who got better with each round.

Most colorful performer: Thane Baker, with medals of all three colors--gold, silver and bronze.

Games' management was good, especially considering Australia's inexperience in big time track. But it wasn't Helsinki. More people on the field, and definitely poor results system...crowds were amazing. Near capacity everyday, including thousands in the standing room sections, where only a glimpse of the track could be had from the back rows. Crowds turned up early in the morning to watch the field event trials. But when the decathlon started on Thursday and Friday the usual morning crowds weren't there...Aussies are sports loving people and enjoyed Games, paying good attention. Not the knowledge of the European crowd however. Missed were the nationalistic rooting sections, with their chants consisting of the last name of their favorite runner...Aussies were ultra-nationalistic, letting go great roar everytime an Australian was mentioned--whether it be for a medal, or for a lane assignment in a heat...

Weather could have been better, or worse. Variable, more on the cold side with lots of wind. No rain...Track apparently was not fastest...unexpected trouble was had from hayfever, with many team members down with it...November date did not hurt the U.S. team as much as some European countries, with their usual fall season. But the final tryout date did hurt the team, for some of the athletes never did regain top form...the college season next spring will be sparked by such as Morrow, King, Jenkins, Glenn Davis, Southern, Dumas, Bell, Gutowski, Roubanis, Sharpe, Oerter and others...the youngsters of the team seemed to come through at least as well as the veterans...too bad Rafer Johnson was twice injured--what a decathlon that would have been...strangest failure, by Russia's Kutjenko to score in two of the decathlon events...Kashkarov is a legible carbon copy of the Steers' style...hard to understand how an elaborately prepared Olympic grounds can come up with broad jump runways which were too short...Thane Baker gave the fans a thrill, returning from a 200 heat, when his spikes caught and he did a header. Suffered his second ankle injury in the process...Australia's fine corps of distance men all seem to be built alike--short and wiry with easy, economical styles...but the home town crowd did them harm, encourag-

them to run far too fast in their heats.

Not a few non-U.S. athletes expressed an interest in coming to school in the states, and more than a few U.S. coaches received the interest with interest... Time goes by dept: Nip Ashenfelter, finishing sixth in his heat in the same time he won his Helsinki heat, then an Olympic record. A sad sight... too bad that Phil Coleman had to come up with a cold and hay fever. Off his 8:48 two-mile he should have been a finalist, perhaps a placer... U.S. women surprised one and all. With an annual program our gals could be the best... Of them all, Mildred McDaniel was the most impressive. Looks as if 6 feet is possible... greatest win possibly was that by Delany. Done impressively, against a loaded field, and on a minimum of preparation. The youngster will bear watching in the future... Milt Campbell's hurdling was an eye-opener, and faster than Shankle's bronze medal time... Europe's best hurdlers were even more outclassed than usual... in fact the U.S. apparently has not lost ground in any of its traditional events, while gaining a little in such fields as the hammer, hop-step-jump... U.S. distance performances were disappointing, yet it was honorable to have finalists in fastest steeplechase and 3000 fields ever assembled... if only youngsters such as Jones and Dellinger would keep at it, along with such as the injured Truex and sick Bowden...

Morrow does not walk like he runs. Walking in track shoes, he is flat-footed, heavy legged and awkward appearing. As a runner he is a picture... Among the happiest was Murchison, when the U.S. won the sprint relay... too bad Jones and Mashburn did not regain June form, or substitutions were not made, for the great Jamaican 1600 relay record would have fallen... and what would have been the result if Leamon King were in the 100?... or if John Landy had been able to go with Delany when the Irishman made his move?... or if Pirie had run only for second in the 10,000, and Chataway had not gotten stomach cramps in the 5000, what would the five final have been like?... how fast can Kuts go when he runs for time, not to win? ... ditto Delany?...

Porter looks good for seven feet under good conditions... Australians, raving about his inexperience and youth, were shocked to learn that Dumas is two years younger... Hungarian performances were spotty. Some, such as Kovacs, ran the best times of their lives. Others, such as Rozsavolgyi, failed miserably... it would be interesting to know the personal involvement of each in the actions at home... keenly disappointed were the British, with their high hopes for Pirie, Chataway, all three steeplechasers, Hewson, Wood, et al. It took third string steeplechaser Brashear to earn the desperately longed for gold medal... Canadian Olympic team selectors looked good when Ken Money finished in the high jump money. He was Canada's number one selection, even though he did less than 6-6 in the trials... top U.S. disappointment was the showing of the marathoners, all of whom were thought to be in shape... the marathon was run in warm weather, yet there was a noticeable absence of collapses. Evidently past lessons have been well learned... it's always a great thrill to see the first marathoner enter the stadium, even though you know who it will be and that he has the race sewed up... how few real surprises there were. Surely, much form was upset, but almost always by someone who had a real chance to do so. Of the first six placers in each event, how many were unheard of previously?...

It was the last big show for a number of fine trackmen--Stanfield, Ashenfelter, Richards, Young, Bennett, Connolly, Baker, Nielsen, Zatopek, Landy, da Silva, Davis, and others... they will be missed... too bad we'll see little in the U.S. for the next four years of such great and interesting events as the steeplechase, 400 hurdles, hammer, hop-step-jump, and 5 and 10 kilometers... I introduced Bob Mathias to Russian decathlon coach Gabriel Korobkov. The latter was delighted to meet Mathias, told him it was a shame he wasn't still competing. The Russian athletes clustered around quickly for photos and autographs and the women's coach presented him with a Russian sports booklet... high jumper Plisareyva was delighted when she found her name in T&FN... Korobkov proved amiable, interesting and enthusiastic about the proposed US-Russia meet... if it comes off it will be a big boost for us in the non-college events, and for track in general.