

TRACK NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 1, August 13, 1957
By Bert & Cordner Nelson (Track & Field News)

P. O. Box 296, Los Altos, Calif.
\$6.00 per year (24 issues)

NEWS

AMERICANS IN EUROPE (meets after July 20) Enkoping, 7/22: King 10.3; Stevens 13.8; Herrmann 23'5⁴/₈; Hallefors, 7/23: King 10.8; Stevens 14.1; Gavle, July 26: King 21.3; Courtney 1:46.0, U.S. record, from Boysen 1:47.9, Johnson 1:50.8; Stevens 13.6; Babka 51'2⁵/₈ and 179'3⁵/₈. Manchester, July 24: NY 79.5, Manchester 66.5; Khaliq 9.6; Thomas 21.8; Jenkins 48.4; Hewson 2:21.5; Berisford 4:11; Ibbotson 4:03.3, Wood 4:04; Hall 9:08.2, Stieglitz 9:11.4; Gilber 14.1; Farrell 52.7 from Culbreath 52.9; Reavis 6'6; Rowe 55'7; Oerter 177'2; Ellis 177'2; Hall 217'11; Connolly 207'5, Ellis 195'5¹/₂; Oslo, July 31 Moens 1:46.0 from Courtney 1:46.2, Johnson 1:46.9, Andersen 1:48.0, Matyjek 1:48.5, Boysen 1:49.8; Stevens 13.6; Jenkins 47.3; Babka 189'6; Bantum 55'8; Nilsen 10.4; Wuppertal, July 29: Collymore 10.5 and 21.2; Gilbert 14.0; Lewis 53; Reavis 6'5; Hall 205'1; Consolini 175'10¹/₂ from Oerter 173'6³/₄; Cologne, July 31 Germar 20.4, European record, from Colymore 20.6, and 10.2, record tied, from 10.2; Gilbert 13.6; Lewis 50.5; Carroll, 4th in 1:49.2; Consolini 176'2¹/₂ from Oerter 170'10³/₈; Puell 6'4¹/₂ from Reavis 6'1; Hall 206'4¹/₂; Lauer 13.7 (2nd) for European record; then 51.5 (2nd); Oslo, Aug. 1 Culbreath 50.9 and 21.5; Stockholm, Aug. 1 Waern 4:01.1; Stevens 14.1; Jenkins 47.8, from Pearman 48.3; Bantum 56'5; Herrmann 25'4; Connolly 205'2¹/₂; Bragg 14'1¹/₄, 2nd to Lind, 14'5¹/₄. Stockholm, Aug. 2 Courtney 1:50.5 from Barris 1:51.5; Culbreath 51.9; Herrmann 22.2; Babka 185'1¹/₈; Pirie 14:14.4 from Thoregersen 14:15.2. Bremen, Aug. 4 Collymore 10.2; Bragg 15'1¹/₈ on 8/8.

EUROPEANS (Courtney strained muscle 8/7,)
MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL GAMES, July 30: Stepanov beat Kashkarov, both 6'11⁷/₈"; Bolotnikov 29:14.6 from Lawrence, Australia, 29:16.4; Skobla 56'5¹/₈; July 31: Foik 10.4; Jirasek, CSR, 47.6; Lituyev 51.2 from Illin 51.3; Aug. 1: Grabowski 24'5³/₄; Chernobay 14'9¹/₈; Sidlo 262'10³/₈; USSR 40.2p Aug. 2p Lorgier 14.5p Merta 175'8¹/₄; Aug. 3: Jakabfi 21.3; Rzhishchin 8:50.2; Kazimierski 1:48.2, Reinnagel 1:48.5; Aug. 4: Kutyenko 7294, Pipyne, 3:41.1, USSR record, Sokolov 3:41.7, Jungwirth 3:41.7, Rosavolgyi 5th; da Silva 52'2³/₄; Einarsson 52'2", Shcherbakov 51'8¹/₂; Krivonosov 206'4³/₄, Bezjak 204'6³/₄; Samotsvetov 203'10"; Mihalic 2:21:23; USSR 3:11. '
Sprints Bartneyev 10.4; Thorbjornsson 10.4; Hary 10.4; Kauffmann 21.0; Lombardo 21.1; Lauer 21.2; Swatowski 46.8; Weber 48.0; Porschke 47.2; Hellsten 47.4; Mikolskiy 47.4; Middle distances Brenner 1:48.0; Schmidt 1:48.3; Waern 1:48.7; Orywal 1:48.8; Lewandowski 2:19.4; Delany 4:05.4 from Ibbotson 4:05.9; July 29; Ibbotson 3:58.7 from Vuorisalo 3:59.1, Aug. 7; Clark 4:03.5; Zimny 4:04.4; Barris 4:04.6; Distances Ibbotson 8:44.0 on Aug. 5, after 13:50.2 3-mile Aug. 3, getting blisters; Bernard 8:04.5, French record; Janke 8:08.6, Krzyszkowiak 8:08.6; Knight 8:50.0 from Pirie 8:50.8; Krzyszkowiak 8:50.4, Polish record; Ibbotson 8:59.4, 24 hours after his 3:57.2; Ibbotson 13:20.8, British record, July 13; Krzyszkowiak 13:55.8 from Laufer 14:05.6; Bolotnikov 14:00.0; Jurek 13:59.6; Pirie 4:05.6; Konrad 14:07.8; Chernyavskiy 29:36.0; Desyatchikov 29:53; Kovacs 29:48.6; Janke 29:52.6; Schade 29:54.6; Zatopek 14:06.4 and 14:08.0; Larsen 8:45.3; Ponomaryev 8:48.0; Hurdles Lauer 13.9; Steines 14.1; Lorgier 14.2; Fischer 52.2; High jump Kashkarov 7'1¹/₄", Aug. 8. ; Sitkin 6'7¹/₈; Polyakov 6'8³/₄; Lein 6'7¹/₈; Pole vault Roubanis 14'9¹/₈; Preussger 15'5¹/₄; Landstrom 14'7¹/₂; Bulatov 14'9¹/₈; Petrov 14'5¹/₄; Thorlaksson 14'5¹/₄; Broad jmp Valka 24'10; Molzberger 24'11⁵/₈; Visser 17'10⁵/₈, injured; Chen 24'6¹/₈; HSJ- Battista 51'3; Vyereshchagin 50'10¹/₄; Shot Skobla 56'5¹/₈; Plihal 55'8¹/₂; Todorov 55'3³/₈; Lingnau 56'; Ovsepyan 55'6⁷/₈; Tsakanikas 55'6¹/₂; Loshchilov 54'2³/₈; Kwiatkowski 55'2⁵/₈; Discus Merta 175'8¹/₄; Grigalka 171'2³/₄; Piatowski 171'2³/₄; Matveyev 172'1¹/₈; Kompaneyets 174'10⁷/₈; Lindross 172'11⁵/₈; Hammer Krivonosov 217'3³/₈; Bezjak 204'6³/₄; Samotsvetov 203'10; Niebisch 202'7¹/₂; Yegorov 199' Rudenkov 199'6¹/₈; Javelin Danielsen 254'3³/₈; Kuznetsov 257'2⁵/₈; Kauhanen 253'1³/₄; Kopyto 251'7⁵/₈; Will 247'6⁷/₈; Decathlon Kutyenko 4294 from Maeier 7193; Tschudi, Switzerland, 7151.

SO THEY TELL US

TN FIONNBAR CALLANAN, Dublin: "I nearly missed the famous 'quadruple mile' through a dose of food poisoning, and I think I would have had to kill myself if I had not got over. It was really a magnificent performance by Ibbotson, and indeed all six finishers, and I am very annoyed that there should be any question at all about ratifying it. I will say, though, that Blagrove's early pace put paid to Delany's chances. I'm still inclined to think that if Delany could have reached the bell in the same time as he did (3:00.4) by means of 3 even laps of 60.1, he might have given Ibbotson a lot of trouble on the last lap. At the moment, however, I think Delany is just a little "spun out" and if he can get a few weeks rest before his next big race, he may do great things. He cannot, like Ibbotson, run twice or three times a week without serious ill-effects. Last night, here in Dublin, on a 5 lap grass track, he got some measure of revenge, beating Ibbotson 4:05.4 to 4:05.9, though there was only about 2 yards in it. Apart from a couple of "rabbits" rather than hares, Ibbotson had to do most of the work and Delany whipped past him 60 yards from the tape and did not seem to have too much trouble in holding Ibbotson off. The rather strange feature of the meeting is that only 25,000 turned up where 33,000 had come for the Delany-Hewson-Pirie race some weeks ago. I'm inclined to think they were afraid Delany was going to be beaten and decided to stay away."

TN HOWARD SHICK, Peoria, Illinois: "Leo Johnson, Illinois coach, is said to be ready to retire as soon as he wins the Big Ten again. From the looks of this year's frosh he won't have to wait too many years. Heading the frosh list, of course, is Jim Bowers. Others include Jamaicans George Kerr and Ernie Haisley, John Lattimore, Ted Bestall and Norman Ehlers, and there are others. If all the boys stay eligible the Illini could challenge Indiana next season. An awful lot of good high school boys in this state are going elsewhere for their higher education. Mike Pyle, the great all around star from New Trier, has chosen Yale. Bill Palmer, state high jump champ, will attend Southern California, and Fred Macklin, 440 and broad jump champ, is reported to have selected Indiana. Under the new Big 10 aid plan, Illinois seems to have suffered, i.e., the other schools seem to be attracting more of the top notch talent. Leroy Johnson, the Mishawaka, Ind., high jumper is headed for Illinois, however."

BOB BEHR, Goodfellow AFB: "Hungarian Andy Bajcsa, who had done 4:08.6 and 9:18 in Europe, tried to gain back weight lost during the revolution. He ran well at Kent State U. of Ohio, but American food held him back. Although never less than 15 pounds underweight Andy managed 9:38.3 and 4:24.6 while competing with the frosh. When Bajcsa regains weight and strength next year and moves up into some better competition he should be might good."

PAUL KELLER, Delaware, Ohio, top flight starter: "I call the boys up just as soon as one of them is unsteady. I do this because: (1) I want them to know that I expect a great deal out of them at the start and that I expect them to be perfectionists in every little detail. (2) When boys learn that they will be called up for unsteadiness, ~~(actually, guessing on their own part) they will refrain from guessing,~~ and the resulting unsteadiness, because they do not like to keep getting down and up from their blocks. I call them up for any motions I detect because, (3), to hold them long enough to get steady and to the point whereby they are ready for a good start, would take too long. Perhaps 2.3 seconds and longer. This would cause others to become nervous or unsteady with resulting false starts and possibly a roll if I would attempt to start them under those conditions. I simply will not hold boys longer than 2.2 or 2.3 (seldom that long) nor will I start them sooner than 1.7 (seldom at this figure). I average between 1.9 and 2.0 (closer to 2.0) in all my meets. I am timed for most of my meets, usually by my boy who won't give his old man anything. You know exactly what you are doing only when you are timed. It is proof that you didn't start too soon or hold too long. The meet I like to remember is the Mid-America Conference Championships at Bowling Green in May of 1956. The high hurdles was 2.05, the 880 1.9, the 220 2.05, the 2-mile 1.9, and all the others, including two relays, 2.0."

TN RONALD JONES, Orange, Calif.: "I have recently uncovered a broad jump mark of 23'10" for Morcum in winning the IC4A in 1943 which puts his three jump total $\frac{1}{8}$ " behind Richards. I am discounting at least one over 24' mark by Morcum because it was made indoors. Another good all around jumper is Edward Adamszyk of Poland who has done 14'6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " 14'4 $\frac{7}{8}$ " and the only high jump mark I can find for him is 5'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for a total of 44'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". He has been competing at least 10 years, first as a good broad jumper, now as a pole vaulter."

NOTED WITH INTEREST

EMIL VON ELLING, recently retired NYU coach, by Arthur Daley: "His first great star was Phil Edwards in the late 20s. Edwards came to him unheralded from British Guinea as a long legged sprinter and broad jumper of indifferent skills. The shrewd Von studied him and visualized him as a half-miler. Phil become one of the better ones in the world, thrice an Olympic scorer. It was as an improviser that Von was at his best. One of his finest mile relay teams had a line-up with unusual backgrounds. Art Herrforth was a pole vaulter, high-jumper and hurdler; Charlie Grohsberger had been a sprinter; Walter Welch had been a swimmer, and Frank Cotter hadn't been much of anything.

"In 1929 Von turned Sol Furth from a fair-to-middling sprinter into a champion hurdler. For the 1932 Olympics he did another swift reconversion job with Furth, and put him on the Olympic team as a hop-step-jumper. That was the same season Von had a good but not great quarter-miler named Joe Healey (the new NYU coach). VonElling suggested to Healey that he try the 400m hurdles, and he made the Olympic team. Also on that team was Pete Zarembo, a football tackle whom Von converted into a champion discus thrower. Bill Hulse, long time national record holder in the mile, was originally a high jumper of little distinction."

KEN NORRIS, English distance ace, writes of his experiences in the Olympic 10,000: "I hesitated momentarily at the start as Kuts lead Pirie through a fantastic 200m time of 28.8. I ran easily for fear of going too fast but entering the home straight there were only 4 or 5 people behind me and I felt I should move up to 14th or 15th. Even as I started to move I realized I was going to fast and I heard Chataway shout 64. I eased a little but decided the fat was in the fire now and I had better keep going. I passed the mile post in 4:32.5 but had now ceased to be horrified by such times and concentrated on the job. The leaders were now over 80 yards up and I began to get worried as to whether they would ever come back. I almost panicked and speeded up with a 67. 9:11 showed on the watch at 2 miles and the gap was still 60 yards. I was still holding myself back for fear of running too fast. The 5000m arrived in 14:23, just 13 seconds faster than ever before. I was able to rest a little now and get a breather, but the pace was still unnecessarily fast. The fourth mile took 4:43.5 and things were really getting difficult with Kovacs putting on the pressure. Entering the backstraight we now came across Dave Stephens putting on his shoes while sitting on the track. We had barely passed him when he was up ahead of us and Kovacs, not realizing he had been lapped, sensed a new threat, and the pace, just starting to flag, was picked up with a vengeance. I cursed Stephens. Death would have been too sweet for him then and I was glad after 3 extravagant and too fast laps when he disappeared from view. Another 2 laps appeared and I really had to flag myself this time. Someone had kicked me in the stomach and I began to pray for the others to drop off but they would not. Kovacs jumped and 4 yards separated us. I closed my eyes, hunched my shoulders, and fought back. 4 laps to go and my stomach was really turning over now. Again and again the gap would open and I pulled it back. Then with 3 laps to go I just could not close it again and even the sight of Pirie just in front aroused no enthusiasm whatsoever. I was sinking fast, but still in 5th place with 2 laps to go. McKenzie of USA loomed up and I drew alongside. He speeded up and pulled me along. By this time I needed encouragement. He gave it to me. Entering the final straight I saw a red vest in front of me. Bolotnikov, I might not be able to take it out of Kuts, but I could certainly take it out of his mate. Raising a sprint from somewhere I tore down the last 100m eagerly devouring the 25 yard gap to lap him on the post. I had finished only to see the scoreboard give me 6th with Porbadnik of Germany, 4th. Within 10 seconds I had sorted out the nearest official and with Krzyszkowiak now gesticulating wildly, the error of their ways was pointed out. Times were confused and never-official."

LEON PATTERSON-- "A Very Remarkable Person. How Many Teenagers Could Do What Leon Patterson Did? (from an unidentified write-up): It's hard to guess. Perhaps not many. Patterson, his wife Dixie said, "had a kind of inner strength." He needed it. Among the customary components comprising the human body, Patterson's must have contained a new element, steel. And it surely encased his warm heart.

Leon Patterson lived on a diet of hope and inspiration and happiness. The combination fed his mind, keeping his thoughts from dwelling on that never-to-be-forgotten day at Taft, California, High School, when he took a routine physical examination and heard the doctor gravely explain: "My boy, you have Bright's disease." He learned that the disease was incurable; that he had a maximum of 10 years to live if he "gave up strenuous sports" and took

life more or less sitting down. The mere appearance of Leon Patterson--husy, blond, serous, 6 feet, 200 pounds--would have guaranteed an admiring glance from any athletic coach in the nation. He had a spring-legged grace, an animal lightness, fine coordination. He was an athlete from the crown of his crew cut to the tip of his spiked shoes. He had tossed the 12 pound shot further than any other U.S. high school boy. He ran the 100 in 10 flat, a speed which he used to advantage in a football backfield. But the discus was his forte. Hour after hour he flipped the flying saucer-shaped platter.

"Receiving a scholarship to the University of Southern California, he enrolled at this track standout school, perennial NCAA winners. He also married. His wife knew of his condition, but she theorized that a few years of happiness were better than none at all. As a sophomore at USC Patterson heaved the discus 178'8", within 2 feet of the Olympic record and father than any other soph in collegiate history. Track circles buzzed with talk about the sensational newcomer, his Olympic possibilities, his chances for a world's record. They didn't know that his days were limited.

"Patterson became a father; a baby boy. The three Pattersons lived in a Quonset hut on the campus. As a child, Leon had followed, with his family, the harvests up and down California's white-hot, San Joaquin Valley. He attended 42 different grammar schools before starting high school. Now everything was different. He had a family and security, at least for a few golden-years. Never a day and scarcely an hour passed that he did not think of the doctor's words--words that burned themselves into his brain. "It's all a mistake" he kept telling himself. "Doctors can be wrong." Actually, he did not believe this. But he was selling himself a bill of goods, a bill necessary for survival.

"An indication that the doctors might be wrong about his life span was ominously revealed by the shortening of his discus throws. He dropped below 170 feet, down to 160. While at the important NCAA at Ann Arbor, in 1954, headaches and dizzy spells accompanied each throw. However he did manage to get off one Herculean effort of 169'³/₄", good enough for third place. When he returned home he knew the doctors were wrong. He wouldn't get the precious 10 years they predicted. Persons in a similar predicament would have moped, looked funereal, drawn conversation to their plight. Not Leon Patterson. The young athlete was cheerful as he entertained plans for providing for his family after he was gone.

"At semester's end he went back to Taft, working during the exhausting heat loading box cars. Often he worked 17 hours a day. He saved every penny. He lost considerable weight. Returning to college, he was sitting in class when one of the deadly symptoms struck. His sight, without warning, failed.

"Why it was just like someone turned off a light" he told his wife. When he heard her softly crying, he smiled, groping for her. "No," he said, "that's not the way, Dixie. Life has been sweet for us. It can go on being so." He knew it couldn't. He grew weaker and weaker. One day he asked for a discus and big hands tenderly stroked its hard surface. Then during April the end came.

"He was a very remarkable person", said Dixie. No one could disagree."

ADDITIONAL NEWS

EUROPE Ibbotson 13:50.2 (3 miles) 8/3; Pipyne, 3:41.1, 8/4, USSR record; Ibbotson 8:44, 8/5; Courtney cramped 8/7, did not run against Moens who won in 1:51.2 from Johnson. Babka 184'2⁵/₈", 8/7; Ibbotson 3:58.7 from Vuorisalo 3:59.1, 8/7; Bragg 15'1", 8/8; Kashkarov 7'¹/₂", 8/8; Culbreath 50.5 for 440 hurdles, world's record, Oslo, Aug. 9; Bragg 15'2¹/₂" and Courtney 1:45.8, American record, from Johnson and Boysen, also at Oslo, Aug. 8.

UNITED STATES Mal Robertson, SC 2-miler, won Western Hemisphere marathon 2:59:30.4; Marjorie Larney broke women's javelin world's record with 187'8" in AAU at Cleveland Aug. 10; All-comers, Burlingame: Aug. 3, Wyatt 6'8"; July 26, Wyatt 6'6¹/₂", Egan 167', Mattos 14'6"; El Monte, July 26, Smith 9.8, Robertson 4:17.9; Shelby 12.6 for 120 lows, Humphreys 163'1", Seymour 240'1", extra try; Richards 15'3"; Aug. 2; Richards 15'1¹/₄", Seymour 230'2¹/₂"; O'Brien 59'7" and 175'7¹/₂"; Davis 157'10"; Aug. 9; O'Brien 181'; 58'1¹/₂"; Seymour 222'4"; Richards 14'6". Baltimore, July 21: Waters 9.5 from Brown 9.5, Cager 9.7, Houce 9.7; Ramber 48.8; Ruffin 14.5; Thomson 165'2 and 174'4" HT; Poucher, Gray & Harrington, 13'6"; Kiwit 226'10".

BULLETIN BOARD

Next Newsletters: Aug. 20, Sept. 3, 17; Oct. 8, 22; August T&FN mailed Aug. 15.