

TRACK NEWSLETTER

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LATE NEWS

EUROPE (from Bob Quercetani) Sprints No 100m marks under 10.5. Germar, 10.5 won from Murchison 10.6 and Bartneyev 10.7 in FISU Games at Paris. Also won 200m in 21.3 from Bartenyev 21.7. Murchison badly beaten. Nilsen 20.9, Nordic record; Bartenyev 21.3 in USSR Ch. from Konovalov 21.3. Bunaes, Norway, 21.3 twice, then 21.2w. Swatowski 47.0 from Makomaski 47.7 and Britain's Salisbury 47.7 and Higgins 48.5. Wrighton, Britain, did 47.1 in special event on same occasion (he had not been selected for the British team that lost to Poland 101 to 111). Nikolskiy 47.4 in USSR Ch., Ignatyev 3rd in 48.5. Middle distances Moens 8:48.1 and 1:48.9; Rawson 1:48.7 from Johnson 1:48.9 and Kazimierski 1:49.5 (Makomaski did not run); Jungwirth 2:19.6; Ibbotson 3:43.8 from Lewandowski 3:45.0 and Gordon 3:45.4; Waern 3:58.5, Swedish record, Malmo Sept. 4, last 109.35m in 14.6, from Moens 3:58.9, Belgian record, Ericsson 4:00.4, Pirie 4:00.9, all personal bests; 1500 times, Waern 3:43.9, Moens 3:44.0, Belgian record, Ericsson 3:44.3, Pirie 3:44.8; Wood 4:03.2; Vuorisalo 4:03.3 from Salonen 4:04.2, Ibbotson (injured) 4:07.0, Salsola 4:08.7. Johnson 1:47.9, Sept. 17.

Long distances Kuts 13:48.6, worlds best for 1957, from Bolotnikov 13:58.0 and Zhukov 14:09.2; Pirie 14:00.8 from Krsyzskowiak 14:02.2, Zimny 14:02.2 and Reed 14:05.6. Georg Knight 29:06.4, world's best for 1957 from Ozog 30:01.2; Kuts' 2nd place time in USSR Ch. was 29:10, from Pudov 29:19.4, Zakharov 29:19.6, Desyatchikov 29:20.4, Zhukov 29:20.4, Chernyavskiy 29:24.8 and Virkus 29:34.4; Schade 29:37.0 from Zatopek 30:00.4. Steeplechase Rshshchin 8:40.4 from Yevdokimov 8:48.8 and Sokolov 8:49.8.

Hurdles Lauer 14.0 against 8mph wind; Kinsell 14.2y, Irish record; Lituyev 51.5 in USSR Ch. from Ilin 51.6 and Yulin 52.3; Morale, 19, 51.8, two-tenths off Filiput's Italian record

Jumps Stepanov 6'11 $\frac{7}{8}$ " in FISU Games from Kashkarov 6'7 $\frac{1}{8}$ " and Shelton 6'6"; Thorkildsen 6'9 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", Norwegian record; Pettersson, Simelius, 6'8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; Egon Nilsson 6'7 $\frac{7}{8}$ " from Bengt Nilsson, same; 14 Russians over 6'6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " this year; (Note: top Russians and a few other Europeans are using a special sole with a heel variously estimated as being from 1 to 2 inches high, under take-off foot. Bengt Nilsson is said to have used a similar type for some time in 1954. Shelton too brought a special shoe to Paris but did not use it in actual competition. More details in September issue of Track & Field News.) Wazny 14'5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in FISU from Welbourn 14'1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "; Bulatov 14'9 $\frac{1}{8}$ " in USSR Ch. from Chernobay 14'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; Preussger 14'9 $\frac{1}{8}$ "; Valkama 25'4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 25'3 $\frac{7}{8}$ "; Ter-Ovanesyan 24'10" in USSR Chs. from Kehris 24'8 $\frac{1}{8}$ "; Iwanski 24'10 $\frac{3}{8}$ w.

Oleg Ryakovskiy 53'5 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", world's best for 1957 and 4th on all time list, in USSR Ch. from Shcherbakov 52'15 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", Kreer 52'2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", Tsigankov 51'11 $\frac{5}{8}$ "; Malcherczyk 51'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ";

Throws Skobla 58' from Lingnau 55'11 $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Piatkowski's 180'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " disallowed because 75 grams light, but did 179'4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; Consolini won his 12th Italian ch. with just under 170; Kompaneyets 175'1 $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Mike Ellis 210'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", British Empire record; from Rut 203'6 $\frac{7}{8}$ "; Krivonosov 208'7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "; from Samotsvetov 204'9 $\frac{7}{8}$ ", Tkachev 202'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and Nikulin 202'3 $\frac{1}{8}$ "; Strandli 203'7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Danielsen 265'10 $\frac{1}{8}$ "; Tsibulenko 264'6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " from Kopyto 255'2 $\frac{5}{8}$ ".

Decathlon Kuznetsov 7380, world's best for 1957 from Kutyenko 6820 and Ter-Ovanesyan 6779, who jumped 6'3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and is Europe's best broad jumper for 1957.

Also Turku, Sept. 17: Vuorisalo 8:38.8 from Pirie 8:39.0 and Ibbotson 8:41.2. 3rd, 4th and 7th on all-time list.

Australia Halberg won Victorian 10 mile cross country in 52:18.0 from Williams, Sidon, Brain, Scott, Julian, Hellier, and Herb Elliott. A week earlier Power won NSW vs. NZ 10,000m c.c. in 32:27.2 from Halberg. Power won NSW 15 miles in 1:19:39.0, may try for Empire Games marathon.

BULLETIN BOARD

Next newsletter October 8, 22; September T&FN mailed Sept. 26.

Almost out of print are 1952 and 1954 AAU guides, 5 of each left at \$2.00 each; Who's Who in Olympic Track & Field, 7 copies left at \$1.00. First chance to TN subscribers.

Back issues of Track Newsletter are available. Assorted copies, 15 issues of Volume one, two or three, \$1.00 each. It is impossible to locate or sell any specific issues. Limited.

Der Leichtathlet, East German track paper, will be traded for Track & Field News by, Hans-Joachim l'Allemand, ueber Gossebaude (Kreis Dresden), Meissner Strasse 3, E. Gern

SO THEY TELL US

BERND KLOPPER, Clawson, Mich: "John Telford's performances in the NCAA and AAU 440s must be regarded as remarkable because of the conditions existing at his college, Wayne State U. in Detroit. Sports are practically outlawed at Wayne, and the athletic facilities are in line with the school's extremely narrow viewpoint on physical exercise. During indoor season John practices on an 80 yard, 40-year-old linoleum covered track, which is suspended half way up the walls in the main gym. The track still has some of the original covering between the innumerable patches, and the track is so tough on the runners that almost all of them get severe cases of shin splints. One boy even cracked his left tibia just from running on it. Outdoors the situation is not any better. The track was supposed to have been resurfaced, but John had to run on the grass inside the curb since the contractor had left great piles of cinders, improper binding and filler on the track, and as of yet (June 25) no one has removed them. Given a chance to practice and more competition Telford, who likes nothing better than having a couple of guys in front of him during the early stages of the race, could develop into one of the country's best by 1960."

STEVE STONE, Helsinki: "Germany came to Helsinki as a very slight favorite in the recent dual meet, although one paper rated it a 107 to 107 tie. Finland is one of the few countries in Europe that has a tolerant attitude towards the Germans and the publicity was generous and favorable. The first nine events went pretty much as expected, but in the 400 Haas was disqualified from second place for running in Hellsten's lane in the stretch. The judges had foot prints for proof. Germany won the 4x100 relay easily, but photos show later that the Finnish team might have used more than their legal zone. But the judges declared it valid, and Germany led 55-51 at the end of the first day. The 10,000 was the most nerve wracking race I have ever watched. Schade and Konrad from Germany took turns setting the pace for the first five miles, but then Julin and Rantala split the pair and went on to run away from Konrad in the stretch, with a last lap under 60. This gave Finland the meet even though Germany won the relay, 107 to 106. During the playing of the Finnish national anthem a disturbance was brewing in the German camp. Protests, Shouts, Threats, Recriminations. And excuses--dozens of excuses. A typical post-German defeat show was being staged. As I watched, it suddenly came to me: a re-run of the 1936 Olympic calibre German sportsmanship. The president of Finland, Urho Kekkonen, himself an ex-national high jump champion, suggested then and there that if it meant so much to the Germans, why, give them the two point victory they craved. Then the Germans lost control. Martin Lauer told a newsman: "You Finns are the most unsportsmanlike people in the world I could continue for hours. But I won't because it makes me sick. That a country of only four million can field a team approximately equal to that of a country 80 million is point enough for me. Actually, the underlying indications of all this are far more interesting. The fact is that Finland is teetering on the very edge of a sports rebirth. This year the Finns have beaten Hungary and Germany, and look fair to beat Sweden and France. Only the USSR and England are stronger. (Ed: how about Poland?) The recovery from war-time diet and lack of medicine is just beginning to be felt. Nationalism is on the upswing. And they are just beginning to get their confidence back. One notable thing being done here is an 8 volume treatise on track and field by Matti Mestirton, a motion efficiency expert who was cajoled into applying efficiency studies to track by his old friend Paavo Nurmi. The advance material looks great. Dave Kenly, Frank Bowens and Don Bowden came here for the month of July and were a sensational success. Bowens, particularly, was popular because between his races he would stage mock races on the grass with the little boys. The Finns thought it was the richest thing they had ever seen."

TN LAFAYETTE SMITH, Chicago: "You fumbleheads wax high and mighty about including Olympic events on the American schedule and then in your U.S. report you ignore them completely. I speak primarily of neglecting Phil Coleman in the two mile rankings. Coleman ran 9:06.8 on a cold and windy day. If the weather had been half way decent he would have been well under 9. This was his only 2-mile this spring, yet it was faster than Burr Grim's 9:07.2 and Grim was ranked 6th. Besides several sub 4:10 miles he smashed Deacon Jones, ranked 2nd, with a 13:59.8 three mile, and though suffering from somewhat of an off day ran 4th at Dayton and in Front of Breckenridge, ranked 7th. Perhaps some composite distance runners ranking could be devised to include the 'odd-ball' events, grouping the steeplechase runners, 5K and 10K men together."

NOTED WITH INTEREST

OLYMPIC MEMORIES are recalled by Curley Grieve, sports editor, San Francisco Examiner: "Bob Mathias told me about a 10,000 meter runner from Kenya. This slim little lad was getting a rub down in the dressing room when the gun went off to start his field... When Chris Brasher was temporarily disqualified in the steeplechase the British journalists--and never refer to them in such plebian terms as writers or reporters--were like so many wild-eyed Wellingtons at Waterloo. They shouted and screamed around the press room like wounded tigers. Their roars of anguish were made more acute by a memory. In 1952 at Helsinki the United Kingdom went right down to the final day before winning a gold medal. Even then it wasn't the able work of an athlete. Actually the credit belonged to three horses in the prix des nations, equestrian team event. Now after finally hitting the jackpot in track and field they appeared to be torpedoed by a technicality... I walked into Parry O'Brien's room in the Olympic village to see a piece of adhesive tape four feet long stretched across the wall. One end was marked 60 feet. The other was labeled 64 feet. Why, I asked him, had he pasted such a decoration so prominently in his room. He replied: 'It's strictly a psychological gimmick. In practice I consistently throw the shot 60 feet. I use the tape to convince myself it's only a short distance from 60 to 64.' O'Brien is the guy who concentrates so blindly during competition that he wouldn't recognize or speak to his wife."

SIX DAY RACING around the turn of the century is covered in a tremendous scrapbook turned up by Browning Ross, who comments as follows in his ever interesting Distance Log: "The 6 day races in Industrial Hall, Philadelphia, Madison Square Garden, and other indoor arenas, even Pine Bluff, Arkansas, opera house, cover pages and pages of writeups, the most amazing thing in athletics I have ever read. Fights by the competitors over a position near the rail, wives of the competitors at trackside urging their husbands to quit, competitors showing the effects of the race strain by going around the track shaking their fists at imaginary enemies and finally one competitor made a savage attack on his trainer, swearing that he had tried to poison him. He ran at the trainer with a bottle and smashed it over his head. But, in the end the distribution of five thousand of Uncle Sam's dollar pain plaster's over the blisters and sore spot of the plodders took some of the pain away."

PERSEVERANCE has paid off for many a slowly developing athlete, and here is the story of one, as related by TN Don Pierce of Kansas U. "Grant Cookson was an unobstrusive helper in Kansas' sweep to its 6th consecutive Big Seven Indoor track title last March. He wasn't competing. He was a senior from a small Kansas town just wishing he could compete. He had a towel spread apron-wise around his middle, giving rubdowns to the guys who were running for his team. He was yelling lap-times and general encouragement, too. Now, less than three months later the earnest 6-1, 155 pounder from Green, a hamlet of 250 persons near Clay Center, placed second in the strong Big 7 outdoor 880. "Mostly it was a case of perseverance and maturity" coach Bill Easton will tell you. "Grant has always been a willing worker. No job was too insignificant to help our team. We never cut a boy who works to try to improve. And Grant always did that, even when we weren't using him. Every boy on our squad is proud and happy that he has done so well." Cookson wasn't even planning to report for the track team when he enrolled as a chemistry major four years ago. "I dropped into coach's office one day early in my freshman year. My best high school times at Clay Center were 53.0 and 2:06. I didn't think there was much use in reporting. But Easton told me to come on out and give it a try. He got me interested in cross country and I just kept working trying to make our team. I've just got more confidence this year. I began to realize that I was doing as much work as the other half-milers and my workout times were about as good as theirs. Just before the indoor season ended I had a 1:56. That was a half-second better than I'd run in the preliminaries outdoors last year at Manhattan. It was a matter of doing it in competition. I made up my mind to make the two-mile relay team this spring. Coach always was after me to shorten my stride and quicken my arm action. I finally have those things down, and that's helped." Cookson's Big 7 time was 1:52.7, on an off track behind Lowell Janzen, who later ran 1:48.3 in the NCAA."

ROGER MOENS started track in 1947 at the age of 16 when his brother persuaded him to take a crack at it. He feels that the greatest race he ever ran was his 1:47.0 in 1955, when he ran virtually alone on a soaked track in a downpour. The record holder believes he could have broken 1:45 that day with help. As for his 1:45.7, Moens has said: "That Harbig record would be broken that day was a foregone conclusion to me. I told Boysen that if he beat me he would beat the record. I felt fine. Conditions were excellent that evening, though a slightly-too-strong wind was blowing. Larsen made the pace in 52 seconds but I did not dare accept it--I was too suspicious of Boysen. When the time for 400m was called out I did not, at first, grasp its significance, but when we had travelled about 450 meters I suddenly understood that the record was within reach. At 500m I began to sprint, with the crowd yelling rhythmically, Au-dun, Au-dun. At 600 I was still sprinting all out. I felt certain I had left Boysen behind by well over 15 yards. Then, what a shock. When I came out of the last bend I suddenly saw a white leg at my side--Boysen's! However, I felt so strong I was not demoralized. 100m from the finish Boysen had come up almost abreast. I gained on him slightly, but 50m from the post he was again at my side, barely chest deep behind. I threw in my last resources and won by just over a yard. Boysen, too, broke the record."

JOE GALLI says: "Distance-wise it will be a good season in Australia, I feel so sure of Elliott. And look out, in a year or so, for a boy (17) named Ian Beck, Adelaide schoolboy, who has been in Melbourne with his parents, who have given their permission for Ian to devote time to running, under Percy Cerutti, Elliott's coach. Last summer he ran the mile in 4:20.6 and he has that artistic love of running that features Elliott."

"Elliott has pretty well made up his mind to give away any idea of going to a U.S. university. He feels there is more for him by sticking with Cerutti, at least thru Rome. By that time the world should be his. Herb's 8th place in the 10 mile Victorian cross country is better than we had a right to expect, considering that he had had little serious training, and was competing against the New Zealanders, who had had weeks of regular racing here and at home. That Herb completed the course and finished eighth in his first start since his Australian mile title win last March indicates that he'll again dominate track middle distance running, and that's what counts. And there is no cause to doubt that he can break the world mile record next year. Cerutti said later: "Obviously, at 19 there is as yet a limit to Elliott's ability when applied to such a test as 10 miles. He was beaten by maturity and distance. However it will do Herb good in making him realize that running is a hard game." Elliott admitted to tiredness in the race, but he recovered very quickly. Elliott looks well. The first glance striking feature about Herb's physique is his upper-body development, and long thin legs. He has the chest development reminiscent of a great racehorse. He is training well, running most evenings in the parklands near where Cerutti lives. He does gymnastic work with Frank Sedgman former amateur tennis ace. Weekends he goes with the Ceruttys and other young followers of the "master" to Portsea, 60 miles from Melbourne, where they really work hard--weights, running up steep, soft sandhills, in soft beach sand, on roads and up and down hills, surf swimming and so on. Herb scorns the grinding fast-slow track work carried out by the Stampel-followers even in winter, and he will be doing very little of that form of training. I just cannot see Elliott being beaten here, or even abroad very soon. He is readying himself for more record attacks, and I think the world mile will go under his flying feet early in 1958. From then he could become a second Iharos, only much faster of course."

WHAT IS WRONG WITH BRITISH JUMPERS is discussed by British coach A. A. Gold: "Jumpers, like sprinters and unlike distance runners, are born and not made. Their performances can be improved, but the inherent natural ability, loosely covered by the term "spring" must be there from the outset. Most coaches set out to harness this spring and use it economically by incorporating a hitch-kick or lay-out in the jumper's action. All too few of us do sufficient work to develop more lift. Few top-class American jumpers employ finer techniques than our athletes, but almost without exception they use more crude power. With a surfeit of 9.7 sprinters and 6' jumpers, every year is a leap year to these unattached athletes and without hesitation their coaches propose that they marry themselves to another event--often the broad jump. It is unkind but almost true to say that our long jumpers can neither sprint nor jump. Those who can run moderately well find it impossible to do so on our ill-kept runways. Then when they get abroad they can't control the unsuspected speed they attain. Our climate doesn't help either. We have no indoor facilities for winter training."