

HISTORY OF THE DECATHLON at U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS,

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INTRODUCTION:

The decathlon (and pentathlon) was added to the Olympic program in 1911 and first contested in Stockholm, 1912. In 1912 nations were allowed as many as twelve decathlon entries. Trials were held in 3 parts of the country but were not binding. In these days, it seems fair to say, US track and field was dominated by the New York faction of the AAU, and at times, Olympic selections *appeared* arbitrary.

From 1920 to 1928 each nation was allowed 4 entrants in the Olympic decathlon. In 1932 the number was paired to 3. After 1924 the Olympic pentathlon was dropped. World Wars canceled the Olympic Games and Trials in 1916, 1940 and 1944.

World records have been set at the U.S. Olympic decathlon Trials on five occasions: 1912 J. Austin Meneal/U. Chicago ; 1936 Glenn Morris/Denver AC; 1952 Bob Mathias/Stanford; 1960 Rafer Johnson/Striders; and 1976 Bruce Jenner/San Jose Stars.

Each entry offers a short review of the competition, usually a photo of the winner, a poster of that year's Olympic Games, Complete results, meet records and a brief explanation of how each American did at the games themselves.

This year's meet in Eugene, Oregon (the fifth time the Decathlon Trials have been held in Eugene) will be the 22nd US Olympic Decathlon Trials.



Over the years Amateur Athletic Union, The Athletics Congress and USA Track and Field (all national federations) have conducted the decathlon Trials for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

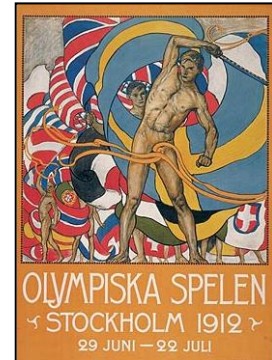


1912 May 22-23, Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill.



Chicago's J. Austin Manual was unaware that he had set a world record for the new decathlon event.

In 1912 Olympic Trials were regional. Eastern tryouts were held in New York, Central tryouts in the Chicago area and Western trials at Berkeley, California. In all cases the decathlon meets were to follow pentathlon trials by a week. On May 18 Carlisle's Jim Thorpe dominated the Eastern pentathlon with 7 points (points per place basis) in a 4 man field. Chicago's AA's Avery Brundage captured the Central pentathlon over one other contestant, J. Austin Manual. On the same day Jim Donahue/LAAC competed alone in the west.



Only 2 entries, Thorpe and Henry Klages/NYAC, appeared for the eastern decathlon. The event was canceled and Thorpe, on the basis of his reputation, was named to the US team. America's first decathlon then took place on May 22-23 at Northwestern University. Officials either did not have or declined to use the Stockholm scoring tables and utilized a points for place (low score wins) basis, ala the pentathlon. This unfortunate situation: a) was contrary to the rules, b) may have altered the outcome and, c) resulted in burying a world record score for over 75 years.

The winner over 4 others, with 24.5 points, was J. Austin Manual, a 24 year old student at the University of Chicago. Yet, when one scores the ten marks on the 1912A (available in 1911) tables, we find his 7414.555 points exceeding the long recognized world record by Sweden's Hugo Weislander.

When Jim Thorpe won the Stockholm Olympic decathlon he actually broke *Manual's* world record. But so outstanding was Thorpe's Olympic score (8412.955) that Manual's mark was buried for 75 years. In Stockholm Manual placed a creditable 5th in the 26 man pentathlon field, finishing behind Thorpe but topping both Weislander and Brundage.

In Evanston, with one event remaining, Notre Dame's George Philbrook was second with 25.5 points and Chicago's Avery Brundage 3rd with 26. Philbrook dropped out of the 1500 and was awarded 5 points placing 3rd overall with 29.5 points, 1/2 point behind Brundage. All three were selected to the Olympic team yet in Stockholm Manual did not compete and the other two did not finish. Using the official tables Philbrook score was 300 points better than Brundage's after 9 events.

It seems to fair (and ironic !) to conclude, with 80 years of hindsight, that Avery Brundage became an Olympic decathlete because of an odd combination of factors including unlimited entries (the Swede's started 8 decathletes in Stockholm) and an official's oversight. Someone forgot the scoring tables.

Decathlon's 1912 Olympic Trials story does not end here. The Western Trials were scheduled for May 24-25, but only James Donahue/LAAC entered. Still, he started competing against specialists in each event and performed quite well on a cold, rainy day. Donahue elected not to start the second day and was subsequently named to the Olympic team and placed 5th (decathlon) and 3rd (pentathlon) in Stockholm. Scoring tables were not used. Donahue unbelievably (considering his 2nd day skills) was on world record pace when he dropped out. It may have been the only time in history that an uninjured decathlete, headed for a world record, stopped after 5 events.

Even stranger was the final makeup of the US decathlon team in Stockholm. Thorpe, Donahue, Philbrook and Brundage competed. Meneal did not and no explanation has ever been given. Odder yet, and without trials, Eugene Mercer, a 23 year old student at the University of Pennsylvania, and Harry Babcock, who won the open pole vault in Stockholm, were named to the US team.

Results: (no tables, points place used)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------|----------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 24.5 J.Austin Meneal/Chicago | 11.4 | 606 | 1270+178 | 53.8 | 16.6 | 3300 | 289+ | 4048 | 4:37.2 | |
| 29 Avery Brundage/Chic AA | @11.8 | 626+1230+168 | 56.0 | @17.5 | 3530 | 305 | 4104 | 5:13.6 | | |
| 29.5 George Philbrook/NDame | @12.2 | 624 | 1258 | 173 | 56.4 | @16.8 | 4056 | 289+ | 4598 | dnf |
| 30 Eugene Schobinger/Ill | @ 12.0 | 628 | 1075 | 157+ | 55.0 | 16.4 | 3132 | 335+ | 3564 | 5:00.6 |
| 37 Leslie Byrd/Adrian Col | @12.4 | 560 | 1157 | 180+ | 62.6 | @17.7 | 3890 | 312+ | 4102 | dnf |

nb: had scoring tables been used: Meneal 7414.555 WR,AR; Brundage 6990.935, Schobinger 6721.595; Philbrook 6712.825, Byrd 6109.525. 5s,5f. Note that times for 100 and 110H were recorded for winners only (although Meneal's hurdle time was record in two documents) and distance back of remaining runners was estimated, therefore @. This was standard procedure for the AAU All Around meets.

Meet records: 11.4 628 1270 180+ 53.8 16.4 4056 312 4 598 4:37.2 7414.555

How the US team did at the Stockholm Olympics: (1912A tables)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>JIM THORPE</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>8412.955</i> | <i>Gold Medal & World Record</i> |
| <i>JAMES DONAHUE</i> | <i>5th</i> | <i>7083.450</i> | |
| <i>EUGENE MERCER</i> | <i>6th</i> | <i>7074.995</i> | |
| <i>GEORGE PHILBROOK</i> | <i>dnf</i> | <i>9 events</i> | |
| <i>AVERY BRUNDAGE</i> | <i>dnf</i> | <i>8 events</i> | |
| <i>HARRY BABCOCK</i> | <i>dnf</i> | <i>3 events</i> | |

1916

World War I forced the cancellation of the Berlin Games. No decathlons were held in the US in 1916. The 1915 AAU champion was Alma Richards (6858.81 points), the 1912 Olympic high jump champion from Ogden, Utah.

1920 July 15, Travers Island, New York



Brutus Hamilton is the only Trials decathlon winner to later become head US Olympic coach

Only 2 of the nineteen entrants competed in the decathlon. There had been a decathlon in the US since 1915 and this was only the 3rd ever. All events were held in a single day (it wasn't the athletes who had inexperience !) and scoring was a nightmare since fractions of points, to 4 decimal places, had to be calculated.



had ever
had not
1915
the
just

carried

The nation's heartland supplied, as for the next 16 years, the majority of

it would
the

the nation's top performers. Ten day before Brutus Hamilton, a 19 year old frosh from Missouri, had won the Olympic Trials pentathlon over Robert LeGendre and Everett Bradley. Bradley, 23, Kansas led 22 year old Georgetown soph LeGendre by 113 after the morning events. In the afternoon the raw and gutty Hamilton, 4 days shy of his 20th birthday, won the vault at 11-3 to take the overall lead. His margin of victory at the finish was 57 points and the total, because Thorpe's 1912 score had been expunged, was a new American record. Hamilton became one of America's great coaches, spent a lifetime at Cal-Berkeley, and has been inducted in Track & Field's Hall of Fame.

Bradley and LeGendre, having won spots on the US pentathlon team, declined to participate in the Antwerp decathlon so the remaining berths were filled by 26 year old hurdler Harry Goelitz, Illinois AC, USMA coach Gene Vidal (father of author Gore) and Syracuse's Everett Ellis.

Results: (1912B Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|---|------|----------|----------|------|------|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| 7022.9815 Brutus Hamilton/Mo | 11.4 | 632 | 1125 | 170 | 52.8 | 17.0 | 3581 | 343 | 4683 | 4:56.0 |
| 6965.118 Everett Bradley/KU | 11.2 | 652+1204 | 173 | 53.2 | 17.0 | 3519 | 305 | 4745 | 5:03.0 | |
| 6578.7885 Robt LeGendre/G-tn | 11.2 | 659 | 1141+168 | 53.0 | 17.4 | 3667 | 274+4099 | 4:53.0 | | |
| 6461.531 Harry Goelitz/IllAC | 11.6 | 607 | 1143 | 168 | 53.0 | 16.4 | 3347 | 320 | 3787 | 4:59.8 |
| 6430.971 Gene Vidal/US Army | 12.0 | 614+1069 | 173 | 53.8 | 17.6 | 3603 | 320 | 3486 | 4:30.6 | |
| 6217.9685 Everett Ellis/Syracuse | 11.8 | 599+1124 | 178 | 54.1 | 16.2 | 3313 | 305 | 3845 | 4:52.0 | |
| 6122.7 Leon Perrine/Idaho, 6064.808 William Yount/LAAC, 6028.9526 Harold Jewlett/ Cornell, 5894.458 W.F. Bartels/Penn, 5774.2485 Thomas Farrell/NYAC, 5330.301 Clarence Huntley/US Navy, 5042.567 Arthur Roberts/Boston AA, 4129.2885 Capt. Price/US Navy, dnf: R.N. Irving/Idaho, Alma Richards/Ogden AA, Dan Shea/Pastime AC, Pat F. O'Connor/Loughlin Lyceum, Lt C.L.Hahn/US Army. 19s, 14f. | | | | | | | | | | |

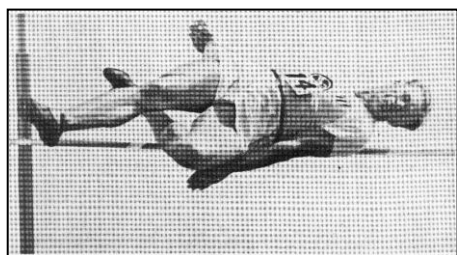
Meet records:

11.2 659 1270 180 52.6 15.8 4056 343 4745 4:30.6 7022.9815

How the US team did at the Antwerp Olympic Games:

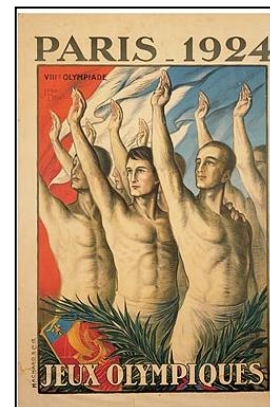
| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------|--------------|
| BRUTUS HAMILTON | 2nd | 6771.085 | Silver Medal |
| GENE VIDAL | 7th | 6358.570 | |
| HARRY GOELITZ | dnf | | |
| EVERETT ELLIS | dnf | | |

1924 June 10-11, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.



Harold Osborn was a world class high jumper from University of Illinois

For the first time the Olympic Trials were conducted separately from the AAU championships. There were Regional decathlons to qualify for the final trials and those results probably should be but are not included. The official marks do not correspond to those reported below since there were numerous



scoring errors.

Illinois AC's Harold Osborn, a terrific high jumper and AAU decathlon champ in 1923, won easily over Emerson Norton who landed at Georgetown for additional schooling and competition after a career at Kansas. Harry Freida/U of Chicago was a solid 3rd but the fourth spot was ever so close. Arkansas's Herman Bagby needed a 1 1/2 second margin over Otto Anderson to make the boat to Paris. Anderson hung on tenaciously and, at the finish, was 9/10th back, securing an Olympic spot by less than 4 points.

In Paris Osborn won not only the decathlon but the high jump becoming the only man in Olympic history to win a multi and single event.

Results: (1912B Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|---|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| 7377.38 Harold Osborn/Ill AC | 11.9 | 691 | 1176 | 188+ | 53.9 | 15.8 | 3462 | 335 | 4757 | 4:49.0 |
| 7023.94 Emerson Norton/G-town | 11.8 | 625 | 1313 | 168 | 54.8 | 16.6 | 3996 | 350 | 4334 | 5:30.2 |
| 6842.58 Harry Freida/UChicago | 11.3 | 643 | 1118 | 162 | 54.6 | 19.9 | 3755 | 335 | 5390 | 4:50.2 |
| 6636.02 Otto Anderson/US Army | 11.3 | 674 | 1164 | 162 | 51.0 | 16.2 | 3347 | 275 | 3943 | 4:40.0 |
| 6632.57 Herman Bagby/Arkansas | 11.2 | 650 | 1174 | 162 | 50.4 | 17.1 | 2736 | 305 | 4484 | 4:39.1 |
| 6615.30 Charles Lewis/LAAC | 11.9 | 659 | 1288 | 162 | 55.0 | 19.1 | 3528 | 350 | 4341 | 5:04.4 |
| 6610.15 Anthony Plansky/G-town, 6564.90 S Harrison Thompson/Princeton, 6345.65 John Thompson/Hendrix Col, 5996.13 Joseph Shevelin/Saxdale, 5984 Erwin Tantro/Ill AC, 5621.94 Francis Byrd, 5119.41 Walter Bowers, 2 others under 5000. ? s,14f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet records:

11.2 691 1313 188+ 50.4 15.8 4056 350 5390 4:30.6 7377.38

How the US team did at the Paris Olympic Games:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| HAROLD OSBORN | 1st 7711.775 | Gold Medal and World Record + Gold Medal in High Jump |
| EMERSON NORTON | 2nd 7350.895 | Silver Medal |
| HARRY FREIDA | 8th 6618.30 | |
| OTTO ANDERSON | dnf | |

1928 July 3-4-5, Philadelphia, Pa.



The real favorite of the 1928 Trials was Caddo 'Chief' Elkins who was injured in the 100m.

There seemed to be some confusion as some, including winner Anthony Plansky, believed that the Penn Relays, held in late April, had been the Olympic decathlon tryout. Not so said meet officials and 22 started at Municipal Stadium with 4 Olympic team spots open. Defending champ Harold Osborn, Illinois AC, decided to concentrate on the high jump title so Fait Elkins, a Caddo Indian who had just surpassed the American record, was the overwhelming favorite. But tragedy struck Elkins in the first event. Wearing the colors of the NYAC, Elkins pulled a tendon while leading in his 100 meter heat. He hobbled on to the finish but was quickly ordered to withdraw by meet director, Olympic coach Lawson Robertson of University of Pennsylvania.



In Elkins' absence Jim Stewart, USC, led big Pennsylvania Frosh Barney Berlinger after day one. On the second day Stewart extended his lead after the hurdles and discus, while Berlinger fell to 4th and Detroit's steady Ken Doherty moved to second. During the vault a downpour ensued and many, including vault specialist Berlinger, were well below their best. Stewart stopped at 10-9, content to protect his big lead. The event was almost over when Leo Sexton, NYAC, The final three events were then moved to Penn's Franklin Field and contested on a 'third' day making this an eleven event decathlon. Berlinger won the vault at 12-8 and moved into the overall lead as Stewart could only clear 10-4 1/2 in the '2nd' vault. The finish was anticlimactic. Doherty, 23, ran a steady 1500 to capture the title by 67 points over Stewart, 22. Berlinger faded badly, barely finishing in 5:53.2, yet his total held up for 3rd. 19 year old U. of Oklahoma sophomore Tom Churchill slipped into 4th by winning the final event as only 23 points separated 4-5-6-7. A. Vernon Kennedy, a collegian from Warrensburg (Mo.) Teachers College, who was 7th, would later become a Major League All-Star game pitcher.

There are several interesting postscripts. Ken Doherty became a world recognized coach, meet director and writer. In 1976 he was named to the US Track and Field Hall of Fame for his many contributions to the sport. And, finally, the NYAC, certain that Elkins would recover and make an excellent showing in Amsterdam, took the Indian to Holland lobbying for his inclusion on the team. The final appeal was denied by head coach Lawson Robertson.

Results: (1912B Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 7600.52 Ken Doherty/CadillacAC | 11.8 | 676 | 1224 | 183 | 52.6 | 16.2 | 3713 | 332 | 5372 | 4:52.0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7533.25 Jim Stewart/LAAC | 11.4 | 663 | 1256 | 183 | 52.4 | 16.0 | 3704 | 317 | 5174 | 5:00.0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7360.835 Barney Berlinger/Penn | 11.8 | 698 | 1303 | 186 | 55.2 | 16.6 | 3273 | 386 | 5241 | 5:53.2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7203.20 Tom Churchill/Okla | 11.8 | 665 | 1084 | 168 | 52.6 | 16.6 | 3658 | 357 | 4922 | 4:48.8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7091.475 Wes Engelman/S Dak St | 11.2 | 668 | 1098 | 171 | 51.8 | 16.4 | 3842 | 317 | 4175 | 4:51.8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7090.375 Jesse Mortensen/LAAC | 11.8 | 652+ | 1218 | 173+ | 52.8 | 16.4 | 3510 | 301 | 5209 | 4:51.8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7080.62 Vernon Kennedy/C Missouri St, | 6683.96 | Harry Freida/Illinois AC, | 6667.082 | Albert Stratton/Penn, | 6472.96 | Robert Todd/Indiana, | 6374.35 | Anthony Plansky/St Alphonus AA, | dnf: | Frosty Peters/Illinois, | Victor Wetzel/Oregon, | Harry Flippen/Newark AC, | Robert E Lee/Boston AA, | Dan Kinsey/Chicago AA, | Norman Hall /NYAC, | Leo Sexton/NYAC, | Albert Lefebvre/LAAC, | Paul Hedrick/unat-Charleston, WV, | a, James Deering/unat , | Fait Elkins/NYAC. | 22s,11f |

Meet Records: 11.2 698 1313 188 50.4 15.8 4056 386 5533 4:30.6 7600.52

How the US team did at the Amsterdam Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <i>KEN DOHERTY</i> | <i>3rd</i> | <i>7706.650</i> | <i>Bronze Medal</i> |
| <i>AMES STEWART</i> | <i>4th</i> | <i>7624.135</i> | |
| <i>THOMAS CHURCHILL</i> | <i>5th</i> | <i>7417.115</i> | |
| <i>BARNEY BERLINGER</i> | <i>17th</i> | <i>6619.375</i> | |

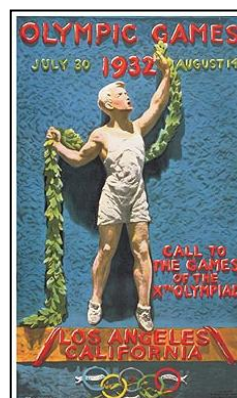
1932 June 24-25 Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill.



Jarring Jim Bausch was more famous as a football & hoop star at Kansas before 1932.

It was the depths of the Great Depression. Only eleven started and six completed all ten events. American record holder Jesse Mortensen did not compete, and, for the first time, only 3 athletes would be Olympic selectees.

The '32 trials were more a story of a coach than of athletes. U. of Kansas coach Brutus Hamilton, the 1920 winner, coached KU grad Jim Bausch, Haskell Indian Wilson "Buster" Charles (Haskell is in Lawrence, Kansas) and



undergrad Clyde Coffman. They swept the Olympic berths.

Bausch's total was 61 under the American record. At the Los Angeles Olympics he would smash it by 300 points. "Jarring Jim" was a quality football and basketball star and still judged as the greatest athlete in Jayhawk history. Coffman fell in the hurdles but still made the team. Charles, the 1930 AAU champion, was the last in a remarkable run of Native American decathletes. He placed 4th in Los Angeles Olympic decathlon. Under the current IAAF scoring tables he would have won the bronze medal.

Results: (1912B Tables)

| | <u>100</u> | <u>lj</u> | <u>sp</u> | <u>hj</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>110H</u> | <u>dis</u> | <u>pv</u> | <u>jav</u> | <u>1500</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 8103.25 Jim Bausch/KC AC | 12.1 | 662 | 1483 | 171 | 54.2 | 16.1 | 4632 | 377 | 5944 | 5:22.2 |
| 7373.28 Wilson Charles/Haskel | 11.3 | 691 | 1235 | 183 | 52.4 | 16.8 | 3676 | 300 | 4718 | 4:48.3 |
| 7350.93 Clyde Coffman/Kansas | 11.4 | 645 | 1195 | 178 | 51.9 | 19.9 | 3536 | 385 | 5180 | 4:53.8 |
| 7137.005 Joe Hall/Florida | 11.8 | 629 | 1342 | 178 | 54.0 | 16.1 | 3818 | 321 | 4765 | 5:19.8 |
| 6816.40 Wilbert Lambeth/NewbC | 11.7 | 620 | 1212 | 166 | 53.9 | 16.8 | 3490 | 336 | 5288 | 5:30.1 |
| 5669.15 Wallen Bowen/U Chicago, dnf: Graham Batchelor/Georgia (6518.97 but started only 9 events), Max Conrad/LAAC, Henry Freida/Chicago AA, Ray Moncus. 11s,6f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet Records: 11.2 698 1483 188 50.4 16.0 4632 389 5944 4:30.6 8103.25

How the US team did at the Los Angeles Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>JIM BAUSCH</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>8462.23</i> | <i>Gold Medal & World Record</i> |
| <i>WILSON CHARLES</i> | <i>4th</i> | <i>7985.00</i> | |
| <i>CLYDE COFFMAN</i> | <i>7th</i> | <i>7534.41</i> | |

1936 June 26-27, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Glenn Morris' career was going nowhere as a hurdler until he turned to the decathlon.

In April newcomer Glenn Morris had set an American record at the Kansas Relays, his very first decathlon. A Denver car salesman and intermediate hurdler of little note, he seemed ideally suited for the ten eventer. In Milwaukee, which also served as a Regional Olympic Trials for open events, Morris added 59 points to the world record of Hans Heinrich Seivert of Germany. New (IAAf 1934) scoring tables were used. The expected battle in Berlin between Morris and Seivert never did take place as the giant German had a rare disease and was unable to compete.



In Milwaukee sprinter/jumper Bob Clark/San Francisco Olympic Club and Jack Parker/Sacramento Jr College also won boat trips to Berlin. Parker was coached by young L.D. Weldon who would discover and coach Bruce Jenner at Graceland (Ia) College over 30 years later. Watching from the infield was U of Michigan frosh Bill Watson, soon to be Morris' decathlon heir apparent.

Results: (1934 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|--|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| 7884 Glenn Morris/Denver AC | 10.7 | 686 | 1445 | 187 | 50.7 | 14.9 | 4311 | 345 | 5606 | 4:48.1 |
| 7595 Robert Clark/SF OC | 10.7 | 791 | 1265 | 176 | 51.6 | 15.7 | 3613 | 386 | 5285 | 4:47.9 |
| 7281 Jack Parker/Sac JC | 11.1 | 723 | 1289 | 181 | 52.9 | 14.9 | 4084 | 354 | 5494 | 5:20.6 |
| 7175 Clyde Coffman/Kansas | 11.1 | 726 | 1237 | 181 | 51.9 | 16.9 | 3663 | 395 | 5130 | 4:47.3 |
| 6910 George Mackey/U of Cal | 11.7 | 656 | 1433 | 187 | 54.6 | 15.7 | 3844 | 354 | 5360 | 5:12.3 |
| 6754 Runar Stone/San Fran St | 11.4 | 678 | 1216 | 176 | 54.0 | 15.8 | 3594 | 365 | 5740 | 5:12.3 |
| 6614 Don Elser/Notre Dame, 6330 Loyette Burke/U Okla, 6249 Harry Anderson/U Tenn, 6090 Joe Hall/Atl Seab AAU, 5766 Arnold Preheim/Dept of Ag, 5709 Aaron Phillips/unat-L.A., 5067 John Sniscak/Dept of Ag, 4352 Anthony Mannino/unat-N.Y., dnf: Robert Fletcher/Wash St, John Hayward/Grinnell. 16s,14f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet records: 10.7 791 1483 188 50.4 14.9 4632 395 5944 4:30.6 7884

How the US team did at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>GLENN MORRIS</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>7900</i> | <i>Gold Medal & World Record</i> |
| <i>ROBERT CLARK</i> | <i>2nd</i> | <i>7601</i> | <i>Silver Medal</i> |
| <i>JACK PARKER</i> | <i>3rd</i> | <i>7275</i> | |

1940-1944

The 1940 Games in Tokyo, and later Helsinki, did not take place. In the US an Olympics Trials meet was still scheduled after the cancellation of the Games, but it too was subsequently cancelled. Michigan's Bill Watson won the AAU decathlon in Cleveland with 7523 points, the 4th highest ever. The 1944 Games were awarded to London, but World War II interfered again. The AAU meet, held in Elizabeth, New Jersey, was Irv Mondschein who scored 5748.

1948 June 26-27, Bloomfield, New Jersey.



Irv Mondschein/NY Pioneer Club, who had won 3 of the previous 4 AAU titles, was the favorite. Yet a 17 year old Tulare, California high school student named Bob Mathias won by over 100 points in only his 2nd career ten eventer. Los Angeles AC vet Floyd Simmons was another 47 back of Mondschein.

Bob was urged by high school Virgil Jackson to take up the decathlon. "Work hard and I'll bet you make the Olympic team....in 1952" explained Jackson. Mathias had an undefeated career and was 3x AAU



17 year old Bob Mathias had a one decathlon career before the '48 Trials.

and 2x Olympic champ. But for most his 7224 score in Bloomfield, N.J. was a surprise.

Finishing 6th overall and winning the final event (setting a meet record) was Oklahoma's Billy D. Weaver, (Dennis Weaver) later of TV fame as Gunsmoke's 'Chester' and 'McCloud.'

Results: (1934 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|--|------|-----|----------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| 7224 Bob Mathias/Tulare,Ca | 11.2 | 656 | 1296 | 183 | 51.0 | 15.1 | 4255 | 351 | 4793 | 4:55.2 |
| 7101 Irv Mondschein/NYPC | 11.1 | 709 | 1292+198 | 50.9 | | | 3839 | 335 | | 4:45.6 |
| 7054 Floyd Simmons/LAAC | 11.2 | 673 | 1240 | 193 | 52.1 | 15.5 | 4119 | 335 | 4777 | 5:03.5 |
| 6841 Al Lawrence/LAAC | 11.1 | 694 | 1193+178 | 51.2 | 14.9 | | | 351 | | 4:53.5 |
| 6775 James Roberson/ Indiana | 11.4 | 621 | 1547 | 173 | 53.9 | 16.5 | 4307 | 320 | 4708 | 4:52.8 |
| 6488 Billy Weaver/Oklahoma | 11.6 | 671 | 1118 | 183 | 53.0 | 16.4 | 3345 | 351 | 4269 | 4:34.8 |
| 6414 Charles Baker/Arkansas, 6088 Connor Hollingsworth/USMC, 6069 Francis Friedenbach/California, 5819 Norman Rathburn/unat...min 14s, min 12 f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet Records: 10.7 791 1547 198 50.4 14.9 4632 395 5944 4:30.6 7884

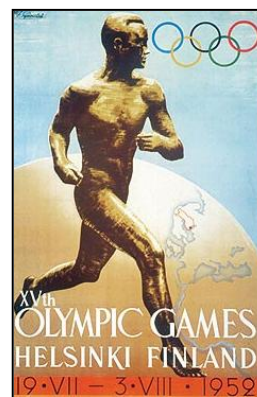
| <i>How the US team did at the London Olympic Games:</i> | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <i>BOB MATHIAS</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>7139</i> | <i>Gold Medal</i> |
| <i>FLOYD SIMMONS</i> | <i>3rd</i> | <i>6950</i> | <i>Bronze Medal</i> |
| <i>IRV MONDSCHHEIN</i> | <i>8th</i> | <i>6715</i> | |

1952 July 1-2, Tulare, Cal.



By 1952 Bob Mathias reigned supreme as 2x Olympic champ and 3x world record holder

Bert Nelson, a young editor of *Track & Field News* called this "the greatest decathlon in history.....and, of course, it was Mathias the Magnificent who took home the lion's share of the honors." Bob, 21, now a Stanford junior, took apart his own world record and reassembled it to total 7825 points (on the new, 1952 tables). He had 8 PRs and also set a new 1st day record in satisfying a partisan home town crowd of 5000. Bob actually broke his own world decathlon record during the javelin throw so the 1500 meters was icing.



18 year Plainfield (NJ) High School lad, Milt Campbell, an awesome big armed specimen at 6-3, 210 pounds, surpassed Mathias's high school record total of 1948 with 7055 points. Before this meet Milt had never done more than three events in a single day and was trying some of the events for the first time. He overcame two fouls in the long jump before getting a fair mark.

But, as is often the case, the focus was on the final Olympic team spot. After nine events 29 year old vet Floyd Simmons trailed Bill Albans by just 3 points. In the 1500 meters they ran in tandem for 300 meters before Albans stepped off the track later explaining that he had a broken wrist and wouldn't be at his best in Helsinki. 26s,17f.

Results: (1950 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|---|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| 7825 Bob Mathias/Stanford U | 10.8 | 715 | 1521 | 189 | 50.8 | 14.6 | 4815 | 375 | 5909 | 4:55.3 |
| 7055 Milt Campbell/Pl'd, NJ | 10.7 | 691 | 1356 | 189 | 50.7 | 14.4 | 4052 | 338 | 5338 | 5:14.1 |
| 6804 Floyd Simmons/LAAC | 11.2 | 693 | 1241 | 189 | 51.7 | 14.8 | 3990 | 375 | 5784 | 5:13.8 |
| 6628 Bill Albans/LAAC | 11.0 | 741 | 1304 | 187 | 51.5 | 14.4 | 4006 | 338 | 4502 | dnf... |
| 5941 Otey Scruggs/S Barbara AC | 11.6 | 658 | 1235 | 175 | 52.3 | 16.1 | 3905 | 338 | 4552 | 4:33.6 |
| 5920 Sam Adams/U of California | 11.4 | 598 | 1508 | 171 | 52.7 | 16.9 | 4276 | 319 | 5993 | 5:11.1 |
| 5827 Ed Barker/Granger, Wash; 5620 Dean Pryor/U Arkansas; 5609 Russell Smith/ Anderson, Ind; 5540 Bill Miller/US Navy(7 events..dnf); 5501 Dave Sommers/Naval Training Center; 5087 Don White/Lamoni, Iowa; 5064 Jim Sturdevant/Detroit; 5053 Leon Patterson/Taft, Cal(9), 4928 Jim Klein/Glendale, Cal; 4834 Dale Keyser/ Stockton, Cal; 4758 Phil Mulkey/Purdy, Mo; 4584 Doug Martin LAAC (8), 4253 Jim Mathias/Tulare, Cal; 4005 Bob Moore/USMC; 3755 Ramon Lopez/US Navy; 3473 Tom Rowe/Palo Alto, Cal; dnfs: Billy Annderson/US Army, Harley Tinkham/Hollywood, Cal, Don Thomas/Charlotte, NC, James Cooke/US Army, 26s,17f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet Records: 10.7 791 1521 198 50.4 14.4 4815 395 5993 4:30.6 7825

How the US team did at the Helsinki Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>BOB MATHIAS</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>7887</i> | <i>Gold Medal and world record</i> |
| <i>MILT CAMPBELL</i> | <i>2nd</i> | <i>6975</i> | <i>Silver Medal</i> |
| <i>FLOYD SIMMONS</i> | <i>3rd</i> | <i>6788</i> | <i>Bronze Medal</i> |

1956 July 13-14, Crawfordsville, Indiana



Rafer John was a UCLA student in 1956 when he won the Trials in Crawfordsville.

Three scored over 7000 points (on 1985 tables) for 1st time in one meet. Rafer Johnson, by now the world record holder and soph at UCLA, recorded the 4th best decathlon of all time (7755) and Milt Campbell recorded the 6th best score ever (7559). The third spot at Wabash College went to vaulter Bob Richards (7054) in a close affair over Bob Lawson, Sam Adams and Charley Pratt.



Heavy rains in the early week left the track soggy. Yet Johnson's 4640 first day points (a WR itself) put him 99 points ahead of his WR pace when he unleashed the fastest 400m in deca history, 47.9. On day two, when Richards went over 15-0 in the vault his ticket to Melbourne was assured.

There was talk that Bob would step aside and only defend his Olympic vault title making the alternate spot VERY important. Sam Adams moved into contention with a superb 219-4 javelin and ran in an early 1500 meter heat, finishing with 6884 points. USC star Bob Lawson, needing 4:54.6 for the alternate spot, managed 4:54.2 and beat Adams by 5 points. Ultimately Richards, a 3x AAU decathlon champ, did compete in the Melbourne decathlon.

Results: (1950 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|--|------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|------|--------|
| 7755 Rafer Johnson/UCLA | 10.6 | 707 | 1516 | 185 | 47.9 | 14.4 | 4554 | 350 | 5559 | 5:12.4 |
| 7559 Milt Campbell/US Navy | 10.7 | 692 | 1414 | 190 | 49.2 | 14.1 | 4331 | 366 | 5196 | 5:06.8 |
| 7054 Bob Richards/LAAC | 11.3 | 692 | 1316 | 183 | 51.8 | 15.6 | 4134 | 457 | 5035 | 4:55.8 |
| 6889 Bob Lawson/LAAC | 11.3 | 689 | 1285 | 197 | +50.9 | 15.2 | 4093 | 366 | 5328 | 4:54.2 |
| 6884 Sam Adams/S Barbara AC | 11.2 | 640 | 1616 | 182 | 51.7 | 16.6 | 4507 | 320 | 6686 | 4:50.1 |
| 6808 Charley Pratt/US Army | 0.8 | 661 | +1181 | 186 | +49.8 | 14.2 | 3440 | 320 | 5150 | 4:44.4 |
| 6513 Phil Mulkey/Wyoming, 6425 Aubrey Lewis/Notre Dame, 6226 Ken Kelley/US Army, 6213 Perry Moore/ , 6197 Jim Klein/USAF, 6097 Jim Podoley/ , 5662 Black/, 5597 Saxton/ , 5507 D Norton/ , 5286 G. Lewis/ ,5286 Howard Smith/ Striders(8), 5111 R. Smith, 5016 Charles Stevenson/NYAC, dnf E. Shelton. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet records: 10.6 791 1521 198 47.9 14.1 4815 457 6686 4:33.6 7825

How the US team did at the Melbourne Olympics:

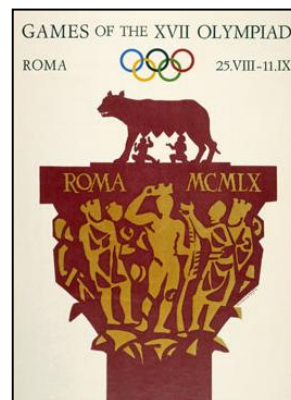
| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|--------------|
| MILT CAMPBELL | 1st | 7937 | Gold Medal |
| RAFER JOHNSON | 2nd | 7587 | Silver Medal |
| BOB RICHARDS | 12th | 5781 | |

1960 July 8-9, Eugene, Oregon



In 1960 Rafer Johnson won his 2nd Trials, this time with a world record.

This was the only occasion where a foreigner competed at the U.S. Olympic decathlon trials (it was also the AAU championships) and Formosan C.K. Yang, a UCLA student, surpassed the world record. Yet he was not the story of this meet. Rafer Johnson was. For it was Johnson who recaptured the world record with a gaudy 8683 points 14 months after an auto accident threatened to cut short his career. For former UCLA teammate C.K. Yang was



second with an 8426 score as both surpassed Russian Vasily Kuznyetsov's world record.

Johnson had nursed a back and knee injury all spring, but started with a 10.6 clocking and then blasted 24-9 1/4 on the U. of Oregon's elevated runway. He was always ahead of Kuznyetsov's world record pace and actually surpassed the mark with his first javelin throw, 233-3.

The dual AAU/Olympic Trials affair allowed a pair of additional US Olympic team spots. 26 year old Phil Mulkey, who would surpass Johnson's total a year later earned the 2nd US team spot with a PR 7652 in his 3rd Olympic Trials. U. of Oregon's Dave Edstrom captured the 3rd spot easily with 7530. Jim Klein was 4th.

The long mark of Mike Herman/NYPC of 26-3 and Rafer's discus of 170-6 were world deca bests.

Results: (1950 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 8683 Rafer Johnson/Striders | 10.6 | 755 | 1585 | 178 | 48.5 | 14.5 | 5198 | 397 | 7109 | 5:09.9 | | | | | |
| 8426 C.K. Yang/Formosa | 10.7 | 775 | 1422 | 168 | 48.0 | 14.1 | 4221 | 423 | 7108 | 5:09.3 | | | | | |
| 7652 Phil Mulkey/Memphis T&FC | 11.2 | 741 | +1517 | +184 | +51.9 | 14.5 | 4060 | 423 | 5840 | 4:57.3 | | | | | |
| 7530 Dave Edstrom/U of Oregon | 10.8 | 739 | 1510 | +177 | +49.6 | 14.9 | 4418 | 336 | 6494 | 5:08.3 | | | | | |
| 7185 Jim Klein/S Barbara AC | 10.7 | 726 | 1314 | 177 | +51.0 | 15.3 | 4416 | 353 | 5788 | 4:44.7 | | | | | |
| 7092 Mike Herman/NYPC | 10.8 | 800 | 1328 | 188 | 53.3 | 14.6 | 3978 | 364 | 5234 | dnf | | | | | |
| 7018 Steve Anderson/EEAA | 10.7 | 785 | 1261 | 177 | +51.5 | 15.0 | 4210 | 349 | 5490 | 5:27.1 | | | | | |
| 6945 Tom Waddell/Boston AC, | 6921 Duane McIntyre/Emporia St, | 6764 Gene Freudenthal/SC Striders, | 6593 Paul Herman/unat, | 6553 Dick Wortuba/unat, | 6494 Steve Pauly/Ore St, | 6189 Jack Ross/SCVYV, | 6070 Bob Gutowski/USMC, | 6062 Reg Carolan/Idaho, | 6036 Jack Kuhns/SC Striders, | 6031 Dreskell, Dennis/Spokane, | 5890 Modris Petersons, | 5582 Paul Albitz/unat, | 5448 Bill Urban/NYAC, | 5285, Dennis Peacocke/SeattleOC, | dnf Bob Lawson/Staters T&F(7), Herm Johnson/unat (3) 24s,22f. |

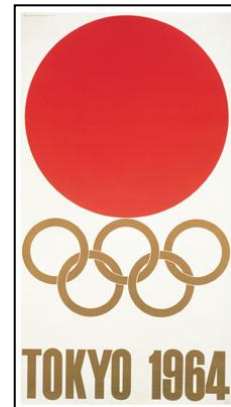
Meet records: 10.6 800 1585 198 47.9 14.1 5198 457 7109 4:33.6 8683

How the U.S. Team did at the Rome Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>RAFER JOHNSON</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>8392</i> | <i>Gold Medal</i> |
| <i>PHIL MULKEY</i> | <i>dnf</i> | <i>(7 events)</i> | |
| <i>DAVE EDSTROM</i> | <i>dnf</i> | <i>(3 events)</i> | |
| <i>(C.K.YANG/Formosa)</i> | <i>2nd</i> | <i>8334</i> | <i>Silver Medal</i> |

1964---First Trials-- July 26-27 Walnut, California

Paul Herman and Don Jeisy won US Olympic team spots in the first trials by finishing 2-3 at the AAU championships behind C.K. Yang's 8641 score (using 1950 tables). Yang just missed Rafer Johnson's 1960 meet record. Only 26 points separated Herman, a Westmont College grad, and Jeisy, the left handed vaulting Marine. Young Russ Hodge was 4th, another 29 digits down. A second Trials meet would be held in Los Angeles ten weeks later. For these Trials the 1950 Tables were used. For the second trials, the 'new' 1962 tables were used.



Results: (1950 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|--|------|--------------|------|----------|------|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| 8641 C.K. Yang/Pasadena AA | 10.6 | 697 | 1340 | 193 | 49.0 | 14.4 | 4270 | 482 | 6508 | 5:18.8 |
| 7794 Paul Herman/US Army | 11.1 | 729 | 1369 | 176+50.0 | 15.0 | 4406 | 427 | 6012 | 4:26.7 | |
| 7768 Don Jeisy/USMC | 10.7 | 696+1444+180 | 49.6 | 15.9 | 4044 | 460 | 5908 | 4:44.5 | | |
| 7729 Russ Hodge/SCVYV | 10.7 | 678 | 1525 | 176+49.3 | 15.5 | 4542 | 396+5625 | 4:22.8 | | |
| 7620 Bill Toomey/SCVYV, 7502 Dick Emberger//USMC, 7343 J.D. Martin/unat-Okla, 7186 Don Shy/unat-Pomona, 7133 Roy Williams/New Zealand, 7082 Dave Thoreson/ Santa Barbara AC, 6903 Bill Smith/Ohio St, 6878 Dave Edstrom/USAF, 6857 Bill Gaidner/Canada, 6754 Dave Williams/Tacoma T&F, 6581 Phil Mulkey/unat-Ala. 15s,15f. | | | | | | | | | | |

---Final Trials--Sept. 12-13, Colesium, Los Angeles, Cal.



Westmont's Paul Herman won neither '64 Trials but was the top American at the Tokyo Games

Starting the 1500 the muscular Hodge held a 6 point lead on Dick Emberger. Hodge needed to stay with @ 4 yards of Emberger for the final Olympic team spot, while Emberger needed more than a 4 yard victory for the same prize. The blonde Marine had been a cross country star at Roanoke (Va.) College and took the pace a 62-2:12 with Hodge hanging on 25 yards back. Hodge made a rush on the last lap, closing the gap to 3 yards, then tied up, losing inch by inch. He finished @ 4 1/3 yards back, the watches read: 4:11.9 to 4:12.7. Emberger gained 6 points and the final score was a TIE !!, 7728 apiece. Emberger had made the US Olympic team on the countback rule, besting Hodge in the greater number of events. Hodge lodged a futile protest. The new (1962) IAAF

scoring tables were used in the US for the first time.

Herman was 3rd, 27 points back. A young Bill Toomey was 4th (at both Trials). Jeisy fell in the hurdles (18.1), costing him a possible victory, and placed 5th. The US Olympic Committee allowed Hodge to train with the 'official' team of Herman, Jeisy and Emberger, then took all four to Tokyo. On Oct. 2, the USOC, announced that Jeisy was the odd man out and would not be an Olympic competitor. This time Jeisy protested.

Results: (1962 Tables)

| 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 |
|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|------|
|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 7728 Dick Emberger/USMC | 11.2 724 1264 194 49.1 14.9 3756 419 5824 4:11.9 |
| 7728 Russ Hodge/SCVYV | 11.0 699 1477 179 49.3 15.9 4654 404 5709 4:12.7 |
| 7701 Paul Herman/US Army | 11.2 731 1275 185 49.4 15.1 4284 427 5962 4:21.2 |
| 7615 Bill Toomey/SCVYV | 11.0 738 1204 182 48.1 15.4 3905 381 6119 4:12.7 |
| 7426 Don Jeisy/USMC | 11.0 675+1411 185 49.2 18.1 4250 462+5786 4:25.8 |
| 5911 Don Shy/Mt Sac, 6s,5f. | |

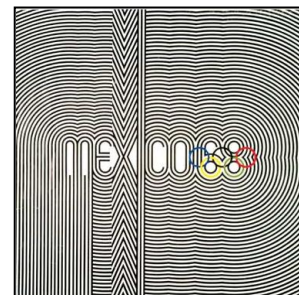
Meet records: 10.6 800 1585 198 47.9 14.1 5198 462+7109 4:11.9 8098

How the US team did at the Tokyo Olympic Games:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>PAUL HERMAN</i> | <i>4th</i> | <i>7787</i> |
| <i>RUSS HODGE</i> | <i>9th</i> | <i>7325</i> |
| <i>DICK EMBERGER</i> | <i>10th</i> | <i>7292</i> |

1968---Pre Olympic Trials--- July 6-7, Santa Barbara, Cal.

Bill Toomey, at seaside LaPlaya Stadium, wrapped up this AAU championships which was to determine 6 of the final 9 Olympic Trials qualifiers. Toomey had broken the world record back in 1966 yet lost in on a technicality. Injured Rick Sloan and Dave Thoreson bypassed the meet and petitioned to the final trials. Russ Hodge, who had set the official world record in 1966, pulled a muscle in the long jump, dropped out, and was also advanced.



Results: (1962 Tables)

| | <u>100</u> | <u>lj</u> | <u>sp</u> | <u>hj</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>110H</u> | <u>dis</u> | <u>pv</u> | <u>jav</u> | <u>1500</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 8037 Bill Toomey/Striders | 10.6 | 754 | 1404 | 192 | 47.6 | 15.0 | 4097 | 410 | 6350 | 4:31.8 |
| 7370 John Warkentin/Fresno St, 7263 Dick Emberger/Athens, 7215 Jeff Bennett/Okla Christ, 7210 Norm Johnston/Ia Staters, 7153 Dave Buck/Pacific Coast, 7049 Larry Melquiond/San Jose St, 6941 Bill Walsh/Mt St Mary's, 6880 Steve Pauly/unat, 6761 Sam Caruthers/San Jose St, 6741 Don Ellis/Okla TC, 6733 Jeff Bannister/N Hamp, 6697 Sam Goldberg/Merritt JC, 6667 George Pannel/Westmont, 6566 Rick Wanamaker/Drake, 6564 Mike Herman/GSB, 6448 Tom Waddell/US Army, 6446 Mike Garratt/UCLA, 6435 Dave Merkwowitz, 6235 Rory Kenward/Cal HS, 6071 Sam West/Striders, 6029 Joe Hilbe/Chico, 5961 Bob Buhl/unat, dnf Russ Hodge/ Striders 10.6 653. 24s23f. | | | | | | | | | | |

--Final Olympic Trials--Sept. 6-7, South Lake Tahoe, Cal.



Bill Toomey led the '68 tahoe Trials from the opening pistol bark

Russ Hodge's demise was tragic. He pulled a hamstring muscle in the hurdles then literally hobbled through a 7:08.2 1500 meters to complete his first decathlon since his 8230 world record meet in 1966. Bill Toomey's winning 8222 missed Hodge's American record by 8 points. Hodge had lost the world record in 1967 to West Germany's Kurt Bendlin. These trials were held at South Lake Tahoe to approximate the altitude of Mexico City.

Toomey was joined on the US team by UCLA vertical jump specialist Rick Sloan (7800 points) and 31 year old Tom Waddell who got a PR 7706. Both would make notable reputations in the track world. Sloan, two

dozen years later, would become a coach for American record holder Dan O'Brien. Waddell was the founder of the 'Gay Olympics' movement.

Results:

| | <u>100</u> | <u>lj</u> | <u>sp</u> | <u>hj</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>110H</u> | <u>dis</u> | <u>pv</u> | <u>jav</u> | <u>1500</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 8222 Bill Toomey/Striders | 10.5 | 779 | 1390 | 200 | 46.4 | 14.7 | 4455 | 400 | 6419 | 4:47.2 |
| 7800 Rick Sloan/Striders | 11.2 | 685 | 1386+212 | 51.2 | 15.4 | 4402 | 490+5456 | | | 4:39.5 |
| 7606 Tom Waddell/US Army | 11.0 | 722 | 1435 | 203 | 49.8 | 14.8 | 4290 | 410 | 6052 | 5:05.9 |
| 7650 Jeff Bannister/unat-Durham,NH | 11.1 | 682 | 1432+194 | 47.5 | 15.1 | 4114 | 400 | 5410 | | 4:32.3 |
| 7468 Jeff Bennett/Okla Chr | 11.0 | 717 | 1166 | 188 | 47.4 | 15.3 | 3227 | 480 | 4997 | 4:32.2 |
| 7417 Dave Buck/Pac Coast | 10.9 | 683 | 1206 | 175+46.3 | 16.0 | 3352 | 430 | 5322 | | 4:10.3 |
| 7317 Norm Johnston/Iowa Staters, 7233 Dick Emberger/Athens, 7187 Larry Melquiond/San Jose St, 7186 Russ Hodge/Striders, 7122 Dave Thoreson/S Bar AC, dnf John Warkentin/Fresno St. 12s,11f. | | | | | | | | | | |

Meet Records: 10.5 800 1585 212 46.4 14.1 5198 490+ 7109 4:11.9 8222

How the U.S. Team did at the Mexico City Olympics:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| <i>BILL TOOMEY</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>8193</i> | <i>Gold Medal & Olympic Record</i> |
| <i>TOM WADDELL</i> | <i>6th</i> | <i>7720</i> | |
| <i>RICK SLOAN</i> | <i>7th</i> | <i>7692</i> | |

1972 July 3-4, U. of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

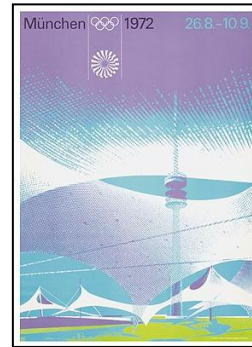
Rangy Jeff Bannister, a former 400 meter hurdler from New Hampshire, won the 1972 US Trials on two sunny days at historic Hayward Field stamping him as one of the Olympic contenders in Munich. In Munich he would fall in the hurdlers eliminating any chances. In Eugene the first seven recorded lifetime bests.

Bannister and diminutive Jeff Bennett had a safe lead after 9 and so decided to run the 1500 side-by-side. They finished in a modest 4:25.5, well of their capabilities. Bannister registered points and Bennett 8076.



Rangy Jeff Bannister 's eye-opening 8120 score made him one of the Munich favorites.

The 3rd spot was up for grabs. Vet Russ Hodge, 4th after day one, was injured again and withdrew after the javelin. Seattle Pacific's Steve Gough, Oklahoma's Andrew Pettes and Graceland (Ia) College's 22 year old Bruce Jenner battled for the final spot. Virtually deadlocked, Jenner and Pettes, needed to make up about 19 seconds (135 points) on Gough in the final event. Jenner, with a heroic last lap, left Pettes and ran himself onto the team while listening to the PA announcer describe the differential between he and Gough. Both ran PRs but the gap was 22 seconds at the finish. The next day the *Eugene Register-Guard* ran a banner headline: "Bannister, Bennett Make Team, But Who's Jenner?"



medal
events
side.
back
8120

Results: (1962 Tables)

| | <u>100</u> | <u>lj</u> | <u>sp</u> | <u>hj</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>110H</u> | <u>dis</u> | <u>pv</u> | <u>jav</u> | <u>1500</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 8120 Jeff Bannister/DCA | 10.8 | 735 | 1463 | 198 | 47.7 | 14.5 | 4336 | 400 | 6124 | 4:25.5 |
| 8076 Jeff Bennett/US Army | 10.6 | 731 | 1262 | 195 | 46.7 | 14.7 | 3670 | 507 | 5388 | 4:25.5 |
| 7846 Bruce Jenner/Graceland | 11.1 | 684 | 1374 | 195 | 50.4 | 15.3 | 4378 | 440 | 6318 | 4:16.9 |
| 7822 Steve Gough/Falcon TC | 10.9 | 757 | 1539 | 189 | 51.0 | 14.8 | 4476 | 420 | 5418 | 4:38.9 |
| 7762 Andrew Pettes/Oklahoma | 10.8 | 723 | 1233 | 198 | 47.8 | 14.5 | 3994 | 370 | 5926 | 4:27.5 |
| 7584 Gary Hill/Okla Christian | 10.6 | 711 | 1352 | 180 | 49.4 | 14.9 | 4128 | 400 | 5002 | 4:26.1 |

7549 Mike Hill/Colorado, 7510 Fred Samara/Penn, 7476 Roger George/Fresno St, 7464 George Pannell/Westmont TC, 7427 Bill Bakley/Westmont, 7340 Jack Carter/NYAC, 7296 Craig Brigham/Oregon TC, 7256 Gary King/N Hamp, 6989 Ray Hupp/Club West, 6514 Rick Wanamaker/San Diego TC, dnf: Russ Hodge/DCA(9 events), Dave Thoreson/Club West, Rory Kenward/Club West, John Warkentin/Striders, Ron Evans/Conn. 21s,16f

Meet records: 10.5 800 1585 212 46.4 14.1 5198 507 7109 4:11.9 8222

How the US team did at the Munich Olympic Games:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>JEFF BENNETT</i> | <i>4th</i> | <i>7974</i> |
| <i>BRUCE JENNER</i> | <i>10th</i> | <i>7722</i> |
| <i>JEFF BANNISTER</i> | <i>21st</i> | <i>7022</i> |

1976 June 25-26, U. of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.

Fates were determined in the javelin. Oregon's Craig Brigham, a mononucleosis victim (many were surprised he even competed), mustered only 188-10 and would place 8th overall. Fred Dixon, a commercial artist with an elbow injury, unloaded a 200-8 toss to earn a ticket to Montreal. And Bruce Jenner, by now the world record holder, zinged a 227-3 effort to put him back in the hunt for yet another world record. His 4:16.4 1500 meter clocking gave him an official score of 8507 points which was a hybrid of hand and auto



No how one scored it, Jenner's total told volumes of what to expect in Montreal.

timing. The auto timing malfunctioned in several of the races (none of Jenner's). Bruce's 8538 total hand timed score broke his own record set at Hayward Field a year earlier. And his 8444 fully auto score just missed Nikolay Avilov's 8454 record from the Munich Olympics.

Never before was competition so keen for the 3rd Olympic spot. Jenner and Dixon were locks. Four others were tied (or nearly so) with one event remaining. And another, with superior 1500 skills, was another 82 points back. After the javelin the PA announcer read the scores for 3rd-4th-5th-6th place: Fred Samara 7381, Steve Gough 7381, Bill Hancock 7380 and Brigham 7379. Roger George stood at 7299. It was anybody's race. Up front Jenner went after the world record as Samara hung close enough to George. George never got the 12 second differential he needed and Samara spent July in Canada. The Hayward Field crowd was 15,300.

Results: (1962 Tables)

| | <u>100</u> | <u>lj</u> | <u>sp</u> | <u>hj</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>110H</u> | <u>dis</u> | <u>pv</u> | <u>jav</u> | <u>1500</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 8507 Bruce Jenner/SJ Stars | 10.7 | 721w | 1404 | 200 | 48.72 | 14.57 | 5168 | 460 | 6928 | 4:16.4 |
| 8265 Fred Dixon/Striders | 10.6 | 758 | 1481 | 200 | 48.20 | 14.82 | 4660 | 460 | 6116 | 4:41.2 |



7980 Fred Samara/NYAC 10.5 736 1320 194 50.26 14.87 4356 450 5782 4:28.5
 7930 Roger George/Striders 11.0 727 1257 197 49.91 14.84 4420 450 6138 4:24.0
 7875 Steve Gough/CNW 11.0 740 1420 203 51.06 14.86 5078 400 5822 4:45.1
 7862 Bill Hancock/UCTC 10.8 776 1241 217 50.17 14.84 4220 450 4806 4:47.0
 7820 John Warkentin/unat, 7784 Craig Brigham/Oregon, 7732 Mike Hill/unat, 7549 Bob Coffman/Striders, 7439 Tony Hale/Fisk, 7390 Jim Sobieszczyk/CW, 7310 Rex Harvey/USAF, dnf: Jeff Bennett, Ron Evans/Striders, Ed Miller/Cal. 16s,13f. Using all hand timed scores: Jenner 8538/8542w, Dixon 8294, Samara 8004, George 7960, Gough 7896, Hancock 7881, Warkentin 7842, Brigham 7802, Hill 7758, Coffman 7572, Hale 7466, Sobie 7412, Harvey 7330.

Meet records: 10.5 800 1585 217 46.4 14.1 5198 507 7109 4:11.9 8542w

How the US team did at the Montreal Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>BRUCE JENNER</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>8618</i> | <i>Gold medal and world record</i> |
| <i>FRED SAMARA</i> | <i>15th</i> | <i>7504</i> | |
| <i>FRED DIXON</i> | <i>21st</i> | <i>6754</i> | |

1980 June 21-22, U. of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.



First day man Bob Coffman won the '80 Trials by coming from behind.

Raw and rainy weather greeted 31 decathletes who attempted to make the U.S. Olympic team in spite of President Carter's boycott of the Moscow Games. The favorites, Bob Coffman (world ranked first in '79) and Fred Dixon (world ranked first in '77) watched unheralded Lee Palles, a Mississippi St grad with the lowest qualifying score, take the first day lead of 4290 points.



Coffman won the first 3 events of day two to put himself back into contention. "Once it got down to the 1500, I wasn't worried about either Palles or Dixon because I could stay close enough to them," noted Coffman. "The guy I was thinking about was (John) Crist." Palles out-sprinted Dixon. Coffman stayed close enough, and Crist, despite a 4:16.20, was not close enough to nail down an Olympic spot.

Without Olympic incentive Coffman, Dixon and Palles retired soon thereafter leaving a huge void in American decathlon ranks.

Results: (1962 Tables)

| | 100 | lj | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | dis | pv | jav | 1500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|------|------------------|-------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|------|------------------------|-----|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------|
| 8184 Bob Coffman/Houston | 11.04 | 717 | 1629 | 195 | 49.49 | 14.33 | 5094 | 470 | 5314 | 4:33.99 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8159 Lee Palles/Ath Attic | 10.87 | 710 | 1463 | 213 | 48.34 | 14.96 | 4412 | 410 | 6234 | 4:26.06 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8154 Fred Dixon/Striders | 10.86 | 710 | 1527 | 189 | 47.73 | 14.86 | 4712 | 440 | 5922 | 4:26.63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8053 John Crist/GreensPc | 10.94 | 709 | 1331 | 210 | 47.58 | 14.86 | 4252 | 390 | 6194 | 4:16.20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7791 Tony Allen Cooksey/ | 11.15 | 745 | 1393 | 207 | 49.89 | 15.09 | 3742 | 435 | 6162 | 4:41.92 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7720 Al Hamlin/SAME | 11.15 | 699 | 1392 | 195 | 49.55 | 15.55 | 4168 | 460 | 5588 | 4:28.95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7709 Jim Howell/Houston Ath, | 7651 | Robert Baker/Hi Plains TC, | 7616 | Wes Herbst/unat, | 7600 | Brian Mondschein/Phila PC, | 7492 | Greg Veatch/Striders, | 7467 | Ron Wopat/SAME, | 7439 | Mike Hill/Colo TC, | 7400 | Joe Schneider/St John's, | 7395 | Ed Miller/OTTC, | 6961 | Lin Bochette/Florida, | 6410 | Steve Rainbolt/Kansas, | dnf | Mauricio Bardales/ACA, | Spud Alford/1st Miss Nat Bank, | Tony Hale/Fla YMCA, | Steve Alexander/Houston Ath, | Roger George/Ath West, | Tom Harris/UCSB, | Mark |

Steele, Dan/Reebok , Sategna, Mario/VISA, Rowland, Steve/VISA, Steele, Darrin/USArmy-UCT Smith, Chad/Tenn
 1st /2nd day: OBri 4618/4108, Frit 4445/4191, Huff 4687/3859, Janv 4170/4175, Fucc 4315/3912, John 3935/4254, Bark
 4313/3850, Long 4321/3774, Muzz 4154/3874, Vand 4257/3570, Wilc 4246/3576, Wilb 4046/3747, Swan 3874/3722, Will
 n3938/3656, Livi 3922/3653, Pete3900/3489, Brop 4167, Pope 4059m Zube

Meet records: 10.522 800 1634 217 46.4h 13.80 5212 560 7458 4:11.9 8726

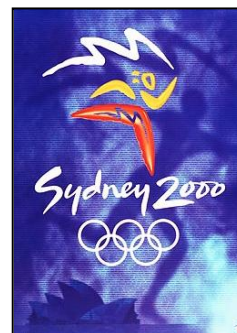
How the US team did at the Atlanta Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------|------------|
| DAN O'BRIEN | 1 st | 8824 | gold medal |
| STEVE FRITZ | 4 th | 8644 | |
| CHRIS HUFFINS | 10 th | 8300 | |

2000 July 20-21, Alex G. Spanos Complex, California State U., Sacramento, CA



The meet was all Pappas, a 23 year old from the University of Tennessee, who handled the field of 16 starters (11 finishers) with relative ease. His final score of 8467 was a 4 point PR but hinted at much bigger totals. His winning high jump measured 2.14m/7-1/4



After 7 events it appeared that the Olympic team was set with Pappas, Chris Huffins and Abilene's Stephen Moore. When the latter no-heighted in the vault a scramble ensued that took one a distinctly Mid-Western tone. Hurdle specialist Dan Steele (Eastern Illinois), distance ace Phil McMullen (Western Michigan) and Kip Janvrin (Simpson College, IA) who was coaching at Central Missouri U. suddenly became contenders for the final Olympic berth. With one event remaining Janvrin held the upper hand but had not achieved the Olympic "A" standard of 8050 points. The crowd of 26,000 was informed that he needed a time of 4:13.2 or better. In searing heat the 35 year old vet pounded the new track and brought the house down as spectators kept their eyes glued to the digital clock just past the finish line. When it flashed 4:12.01 you could hear the roar at Lake Tahoe. Sure Kip was past his prime and had little chance of making noise in Sydney. After all, he just managed 8057 here. Yet what a thrill to have something nice happen to a well traveled veteran, in incidentally, his 68th career decathlon. But, oh my, was it exciting.

Results:

| | 100 | w | lj | w | sp | hj | 400 | 110H | w | disc | pv | jav | 1500 |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|------|-----|-------|-----------|------|-----|-------|---------|-----|------|
| 8467 | Pappas, Tom/Nike | 10.70+1.1 | 741-1.4 | 1532 | 214 | 48.91 | 14.27-0.4 | 4581 | 510 | 6345 | 4:59.74 | | |
| 8285 | Huffins, Chris/Oakley | 10.45+0.5 | 787-0.6 | 1460 | 211 | 48.64 | 14.31-0.9 | 5027 | 450 | 5435 | 5:11.01 | | |
| 8057 | Janvrin, Kip/K&K TC | 11.03+0.5 | 692-1.5 | 1394 | 190 | 48.39 | 14.88-1.8 | 4230 | 500 | 5930 | 4:12.01 | | |
| 7954 | McMullen, Phil/unat | 11.27+0.5 | 699-0.7 | 1444 | 196 | 49.48 | 15.07-1.8 | 4538 | 490 | 5563 | 4:19.86 | | |
| 7890 | Steele, Dan/US Army | 10.85+1.1 | 690+0.9 | 1384 | 184 | 47.80 | 14.70-0.4 | 4726 | 440 | 6403 | 4:40.44 | | |
| 7873 | Hart, Bevan/California | 10.85+0.5 | 716-0.5 | 1360 | 190 | 48.94 | 15.02-1.8 | 3873 | 520 | 5325 | 4:29.21 | | |
| 7692 | Anderson, Avery/unat | 10.83+0.5 | 737-1.3 | 1341 | 211 | 48.83 | 14.25-0.9 | 4067 | 450 | 4722 | 5:11.53 | | |
| 7664 | Smith, Chad/adidas | 10.90+0.5 | 720-0.4 | 1345 | 184 | 49.83 | 14.69-0.9 | 4243 | 490 | 5585 | 4:55.79 | | |
| 7369 | Rodgers, Trafton/Indian Cou | 10.62+0.5 | 724-0.9 | 1365 | 202 | 48.82 | 14.49-0.4 | 4047 | 450 | 4215 | 5:44.07 | | |
| 6186 | Pope, David/unat | 11.27+1.1 | 666-0.6 | 1437 | 205 | 50.55 | 14.71-1.8 | 3f | 460 | 4983 | dnf | | |
| 6060 | Fritz, Steve/Accusplit | 11.25+0.5 | 667-0.8 | 1426 | 181 | 50.79 | 15.09-0.9 | 4611 | nh | 5930 | dnf | | |
| Dnf | Barker, Ricky/Acics | 10.90+0.5 | 715 | 1434 | 196 | 50.15 | 14.70-1.8 | 4111 | 450 | =6390 | | | |

7431 Lemen, David/Willamette Striders 11.53-1.0 729+0.1 1370 189 51.97 14.99-0.6 4101 510 6125 5:24.42
7330 Harlan, Ryan/Rice 11.19-1.0 677-0.6 1498 201 50.97 14.55 0.0 3711 450 5845 5:31.14
7314 Pappas, Billy/Team XO 11.30-0.1 701+0.5 1410 183 50.52 15.34-1.1 4170 460 5357 4:55.72
7260 Brandstatter, Travis/Minnesota 11.47+0.1 677+0.8 1271 195 49.55 14.97-1.1 3550 430 5801 4:43.15
7168 Fadel, Ashraf/Wisconsin 11.15+0.1 640+0.2 1303 192 50.90 16.13-1.7 4101 500 5292 5:02.21
7165 Cook, Jamie/Javelin USA 11.46+0.1 697+1.5 1320 192 51.53 15.77-1.7 4382 440 4786 4:44.54
7019 Keller, Stevie/Team Nodak 11.45+0.1 638+1.8 1387 183 50.23 15.63-1.1 4345 410 5217 4:47.56
[6182] Anderson, Bryan/unat 11.29+0.1 693+0.2 1405 201 48.92 15.09 0.0 4357 nh 5100 dnr
[6164] Hardee, Trey/Mississippi St 10.55+0.4 683+0.5 1230 192 48.96 14.32-0.6 4271 nh 4762 dnr
[5780] Harris, Stephen/WGA 10.76+0.4 723 0.0 1213 210 46.87 14.74-1.1 3879 nh inj withdrew
[4574] Cebulski, Joe/Bell Athletics 11.57-1.0 675+1.8 1306 198 50.05 dnf 4725 nh withdrew
[2854] Smith, Chad/unat 11.09 +0.4585-0.9 1484 186 inj withdrew
1st/2nd day: Clay 4471/4189, PappT 4474/4043, Tere 4242/4070, McMu 4120/4165, moor 4271/3646, Ab-Ra 4101/3743, Gies 3929/3841, Hart 3955/ 3718, Olko 4321/3232, Boyl 3910/3626, Geop 3929 3597, Janv 3660/3850, Leme 3770/3661, Harl 3950/3380, PappB 3789/3525, Bran 3762/3498, Fade 3676/3492, Cook 3723/3442, Kell 3610/3409, Harr 4259, Andy 4003, Hard 3956, Cebu 3761. No meet records. Weather: Temps in mid 90s both days.

Meet Records: **10.22 800 1634 217 46.4h 13.80 5212 560 7458 4:11.9 8726**

How the US team did at the Athens Olympic Games:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>BRYAN CLAY</i> | <i>2nd</i> | <i>8820</i> | <i>silver medal</i> |
| <i>PAUL TEREK</i> | <i>23rd</i> | <i>7893</i> | |
| <i>TOM PAPPAS</i> | | <i>did not finish</i> | |