

**A.T.F.S. BULLETIN                      3/2009 - DECEMBER**  
**ASSOCIATION OF TRACK & FIELD STATISTICIANS**  
**60th YEAR**

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**MATERIAL IN THIS BULLETIN**

Here is the final bulletin for 2009. I apologize for the tardiness but I simply had way too many things to deal with after getting back in September from the World Championships. I was able to get Bulletin #2 out in a fairly timely fashion, but then I had to deal with a few medical problems of my own, the failing health of my 91 year old mother, and most importantly, the birth of my grandson on September 3. I am pleased to report that things are going better on all health fronts at this time. This edition contains the usual administrative details, a message from **Peter Matthews** about the Annual, Part 7 of the early sprint lists, the 2009 sprint lists from Trinidad & Tobago from **Bernard Linley**, the start of a great article by Ulf Lagerstrom about Albert Robinson, and a large selection of material to purchase including many new items. Please continue to send me articles of interest.

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**CORDNER NELSON - August 6, 1918 - October 26, 2009**

As we all know by now, Cordner passed away last October. There have been many tributes to our long-time friend but I thought I would re-print this one from Roberto Quercetani from Italy.

**Cordner Nelson - Roberto L. Quercetani**

As a co-founder, with his younger brother Bert, of the present magazine, Cordner Nelson surely deserves a special niche in the hall of fame our sport. When "T&FN" first came to life, over 60 years ago, magazines devoted to track and field were a very rare breed, even in a world-wide perspective. Before WW 2, in fact, only a German weekly named "Der Leichtathlet" could claim something of an international flavour. But it came to an end in the flood caused by WW 2. As far as the US was concerned, the only noteworthy effort dated from the early Thirties and was made in Massachusetts by J.H.Clausen, with a short-lived magazine called "Track." Statistically speaking, track nuts could at best refer to a 10-deep US year list. This was introduced at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in AAU Annuals and later on it became a regular feature of the "The Amateur Athlete" during the outdoor season, limited to the very minimum for every athlete – best mark, surname and affiliation. (So did NCAA guides for college men).

The Nelson brothers reportedly caught the track bug as teen-agers, when they happened to have a peep at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932 – apparently for just one day. As years rolled on they began to cherish the dream of publishing a magazine devoted entirely to their beloved sport. Late in 1947 they finally decided to give it a serious try. As for character and inclinations the two brothers complemented each other in a splendid way, so their partnership was near perfect. Well realizing that track and field is a sport with no frontiers, they soon searched for helpers even in foreign lands, thus giving their product an adequate international flavour. Cordner himself was

the inventor of "World Ranking," which appeared in the inaugural issue (February 1948) and was of course related to the 1947 season. This differed from ordinary lists as it was actually a "merit ranking" based on a composite view of each man's seasonal efforts.

Don Potts, my best "pen pal" since 1946, put me in touch with Cordner and Bert before the appearance of the inaugural issue of "T&FN." Cordner invited me to join the enterprise from the very beginning. Being by then a rabid track fan myself, I accepted wholeheartedly. The early goings were financially hard for the two brothers and after a bold start they had to resort to a rather shabby mimeographed edition for a rather long time. By dint of hard work and intelligent application and with the help of younger addicts who joined the enterprise in the course of time, they gradually reached new heights and the magazine became a reference source even in foreign countries.

I first met Cordner and his wife Mary, a sweet woman of Italian (Genoese) extraction, at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. I soon discovered that he could "view" a race, especially in the middle distances, better than most observers. His comments and his articles were a nice mixture of profound knowledge and good humour. For example, what he said about the personality of Alberto Cova of Italy, winner of the 10,000 meters at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, drew plaudits even from distant audiences.

Throughout the years I had several chances to meet Cordner and various members of his family again and again. Our friendship was crowned in 1973, when we joined forces and co-edited a book entitled "Runners and Races: 1500 m. /Mile," published by "Tafnews Press." In fact, the middle distances had always sent a special tingle down our spine. As a writer, Cordner could point to several other efforts, notably including "Track's Greatest Champions" (1986), a book he dedicated to brother Bert. I heard Cordner say more than once that track and field had opened new worlds to him. Even in terms of audience he steadfastly believed that it produced generally better citizens than most other sports.

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## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PAUL**

Greetings to all members,

It has been a busy year of athletics and I am sure many of you have been productive in your own areas and specialties and have enjoyed our wonderful sport. I am very grateful for all the work done by our treasurer Tom Casacky who has now finally got all our funds and an updated members list and their financial status. I am also very grateful to our secretary Scott Davis and also Pino Mappa for all their work in finalizing members lists. I thank all those who have responded to the various queries so that we do have an accurate members list. I also wish to thank the Executive members for their input during the year and of course the work of Peter Matthews with the annual and all those who contribute to it.

I just wish to remind all members that the annual subscriptions are to be paid directly to Tom Casacky. Tom will be sending out reminders. Any member that wishes ATFS financial support for whatever reason must make a direct request to the Executive who will decide on the request.

Finally I wish all members and your families my best wishes for the Festive Season and I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

Kind regards,  
Paul

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

All ATFS members will soon receive an invoice for their 2010 dues, plus any dues owed from previous years. Invoices will also include amounts due for postage, for those who received IAAF publications from me. Please try to be prompt with your payment. If we have not received your 2010 dues by 1 May, your name will not be included on the mailing list for *Athletics 2010, the International Track & Field Annual*, produced with contributions from many ATFS members. SportsBooks, Ltd, the publisher, can only undertake one general mailing for us, and we want to ensure that the book arrives at your address as soon as possible after printing.

During 2009, the Executive Committee, with the assistance of several long-time members, attempted to clarify the status of many names on an obviously outdated ATFS roster. We discussed at length a few atypical dues-paying arrangements that have remained in effect for many years, thanks to verbal agreements made long ago without the input (or in most cases, the knowledge) of the current officers. In consideration of the Association's financial status, its apparent reduced income from annual dues, and the anticipated 2010 expense for Volume V of the Historical Series, the President has determined that, beginning with the invoices you will soon receive, **ALL** membership dues shall be paid **directly** to the ATFS, to the Secretary General or (preferably) to me, for deposit in our general account. Detailed instructions for dues payments will be included on the invoices. If there are any members who anticipate problems with their payments, please contact me and we will find a solution that is convenient for you. Invoices will be emailed and/or posted to 270 names on our roster. Of those, 159 are current in their subscriptions through 2009, and three — Olga Acic, Fouad Habash and Yoshimasa Noguchi — will not see an invoice until 2013!

During the months since the previous Bulletin, all ATFS funds that remained in the U.K. have been transferred to our Citibank account in the U.S. A detailed balance sheet for 2009 will be included in the next issue of the Bulletin.

My best wishes to everyone for a rewarding and healthy 2010.

Tom Casacky

## **CONGRATS TO BALWANT SINGH FROM MALAYSIA**

I just received an email from **Balwant Singh** who was awarded his Datukship from the Governor. It is a senior order of chivalry in Malaysia and is a Federal award. Balwant's late father was also a Datuk and an ATFS member and both were/are prolific statisticians. Balwant was the official statistician of the Asian Athletic Federation for many years. His brother Dilbagh competed in the 64 Olympic steeple. I think it is safe to say congratulations to you Balwant on behalf of the entire ATFS!! Your award is certainly well deserved.

## **REINSTATED**

As you know, we listed members who had been deleted from the active rolls because of non-payment of dues in the last Bulletin. We have heard from some of these members who have made their accounts current and accordingly, they are being reinstated to full membership.

Hans-Peter Car (GER), Rey O'Neal (BVI), Rostislov Orlov (RUS).

## **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED OR PENDING FOR 2009-2010**

Alfredo Sanchez Barrios, Calle 25 # 1528 e/.22 y 24 Apto. 15, Vedado, Havana, Cuba  
[E-mail inquiry to Paul Jenes]

NEW!! - Fabiano Bracaloni, Piazza Indipendenza 4, I-56012 Calcinai (PI), Italy, E-Mail:  
[bracaloni.fabiano@tiscali.it](mailto:bracaloni.fabiano@tiscali.it) [E-Mail inquiry to T. Casacky - Application Sent]

Clayton Clarke, c/o Lisa Clarke Urbano, 35 Woodford Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago [E-Mail inquiry - Application Sent]

Carlos Clemente, Colonia 17 de Mayo, Calle Central #23, San Salvador, El Salvador  
[Proposed by Paul Jenes - Application Sent]

Caoimhin O'Fearghail, Dept. of Criminal Justice, Southwestern Oregon College, 1988 Newmark,  
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420 [E-Mail inquiry - Application Sent]  
Viktor Kopysov, Stazionarnij per, 2-7, Udmurtien, Mogga, 427791 Russia [Proposed by  
Rostislav Orlov - Application Sent]  
Ari Torma, Kuusikuja 8, 20720 Turku, Finland [E-Mail inquiry - Application Sent]  
Priit Tanava, Oismae tee 150-1, Tallin EE 0035, Estonia [Proposed by Pino Mappa -  
Application Sent]

## **NEW ADDRESSES, PHONE AND FAX NUMBERS FOR 2009**

Naomi Beinert, 202, San Michele, Main Road, Three Anchor Bay, 8005 Cape Province, South Africa. Note that Naomi has given up her PO Box and this address should now be used all the time.

**Pino Mappa** once again writes to say that we should be putting together a list of Who's Who in the ATFS and that this material should go on the ATFS website. Tom Casacky is managing the site at this time. Thus far, we have about 200 members who have forwarded the data to Pino and Tom. If you have not done so, **PLEASE FILL OUT THIS DATA AND SEND IT OFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:

Address:

E-Mail:

Member of ATFS since:

Hobbies:

Publications:

Statistics Interest:

I have published/assisted with the following Books, Papers, etc.:

Inclusion of a Photo:

Please take a moment to do this and send your information off to Tom at [tom@interis.com](mailto:tom@interis.com) or directly to Pino at [g.mappa@winalltime.it](mailto:g.mappa@winalltime.it). If you do not have e-mail, you can always send the information directly to me and I will forward it on to Tom or Pino.

## **MESSAGE FROM PETER MATTHEWS**

Help for World and US Lists

Sometimes ATFS members ask what they can do to help in the annual list compilation process. Well there is something!

These days we do not have too many gaps in our data – but we do lack dates of birth for some athletes and heights and weights for rather more. We may never get dates of birth from parts of the world where there is no automatic birth registration, but each year we do miss quite a few for athletes from the developed world, especially the USA. Last year I did Google searches for many athletes for whom we were missing such data – and, as usual got useful information from US College web sites. But I also found that many had Facebook sites. I simply did not (and do not) have the time to follow all these up.

Both Scott Davis (for the US FAST Annual) and I (for the International Annual) would greatly value a volunteer to take on the task of working from a list of missing dates of birth, heights and weights to search for these people and to follow up Facebook (etc.) contacts. Please do let us know if YOU can do this. Many thanks. Peter and Scott

[p.jmatthews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:p.jmatthews@tiscali.co.uk)  
[ssd@aol.com](mailto:ssd@aol.com)

## ATFS BOOKS

As mentioned in the last Bulletin, I have now received the Association's stock of ATFS publications from our former treasurer Rob Whittingham. I will be archiving many of these for future generations. I still have far too many to keep. Moreover, selling them at reduced prices will help bolster the ATFS accounts. All of the books currently in my possession are available to North American members for the base price of just 10 dollars plus 6 dollars shipping per book. **In general, these are available to North American members only. The shipping costs to Europe and elsewhere from the US are very expensive. I will send to anywhere in the world but you must contact me first regarding the shipping costs. In some instances, the costs are 20 USD per book to Europe!! I have no way to send these other than air post which is why the rates are so high. As always, checks or money orders should be made payable to Scott Davis and sent to 4432 Snowbird Circle, Cerritos, CA. 90703.**

Here is the complete list of available material as of 31 December 2009:

ATFS Annuals: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

ATFS Golden Jubilee Book

Track and Field Performances Through the Years, Vol.3 (1945-1950)

Track and Field Performances Through the Years, Vol.4 (1921-1928)

Asian Athletics All Time Rankings at 31 Dec 2000 - H. Hubbeling

Stars, Standards and Statistics 1995 - Ryszard Sztreter

Kenya Best Performances 1986 - Walter Abmayr

All Time Walking List 10000M 1935-1988 - Palle Lassen

IAAF Men AT List - 2001

IAAF WR Progression - 2003

IAAF Stat Grosseto WJr - 2004

IAAF Stat World Cup - 2006

IAAF World Rankings - 2006

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## EARLY US SPRINT LISTS - 440 YARDS - PART 7

Compiled By Scott Davis, Nejat Kok, Rooney Magnusson and Don Potts

### 1920 - 440 YARDS

(\* Denotes 400 Meter Time +0.3)

Ocran	Hendrixson	California	48.4	1	IC4A	Philadelphia	29	May
Robert	Emery	Illinois	48.8	1	Western Conf	Ann Arbor	05	Jun
George	Schiller	Sn California	48.8	1	Western OT	Pasadena	26	Jun
Robert	Maxam	Pennsylvania	49.0	1H1	IC4A	Philadelphia	28	May
Earl	Eby	94 Pennsylvania	49.0	1H3	IC4A	Philadelphia	28	May
Frank	Shea	96 US Navy	49.0	1H1	AAU	Cambridge MA	16	Jul
James	Driscoll	Boston AA	49.0	1H3	AAU	Cambridge MA	16	Jul
	Shea		49.0	1	AAU	Cambridge MA	17	Jul
	Emery		49.2	1	Midwest OT	Chicago	26	Jun
	Emery		49.6	1	v Michigan	Ann Arbor	08	May
	Hendrixson		49.6	1	Pac Coast Cf	Palo Alto	15	May
	Emery		49.6	1	v U Chicago	Urbana IL	21	May
Cyril	Kasper	Notre Dame	49.6	1	Indiana IC	Lafayette IN	29	May
James	Meredith	91 New York AC	49.6	1H2	AAU	Cambridge MA	16	Jul
	Schiller		49.8	1	v Calif	Los Angeles	20	Mar
William	Stevenson	00 Princeton	49.8	1H2	IC4A	Philadelphia	28	May

(10)

Arthur	Wolters	Iowa St	49.8	1	Mo Valley Cf	Ames IA	29	May
	Emery		49.8	1H2	Western Conf	Ann Arbor	04	Jun
	Driscoll		49.8	1	Eastern OT	Philadelphia	26	Jun

(19 Performances by 11 Performers)

Phil	Spink	Chicago AA	50.0	1	Central AAU	Chicago	28	Aug
??	McCallie	Idaho	50.2	1	PCC North Div	Pullman	22	May
Larry	Butler	Michigan	50.4	1	v U Chicago	Chicago	15	May
G.	Allen	Scholastics	50.4	1	Allegheny AAU	Pittsburgh	26	Jun
Thurmond	Clarke	Los Angeles HS	50.6	1	Southern CIF	Eagle Rock CA	10	Apr
William H.	Goodwin	Harvard	50.6	1	v Yale	Cambridge MA	15	May
??	Spetz	Wisconsin	50.6	1	v U Chicago	Chicago	29	May
James	O'Brien	Loughlin Lyceum	50.7*	1	Amer Legion	Brooklyn	10	Jul
W. F.	Morton	Jersey Harriers	50.8	1	AAU Jr	Cambridge MA	16	Jul

(20)

Wellington	Green	Oregon Agri	51.0	1	v Stanford	Palo Alto	08	May
William	Coughlin [an?]	Sewanee	51.2	1	SIAA	Atlanta	15	May
??	Gaines	Goodyear	51.4	1	Allegheny Jr	Cincinnati	12	Jun
Eugene	Smith	Occidental	51.6	1	v Pomona	Claremont CA	13	Mar

(24)

### MARKS MADE ON 880 YARD TRACK

Thurmond	Clarke		50.2	1	State	Bakersfield	24	Apr
Bob	Hurst	LB Poly HS CA	50.7e	2	State	Bakersfield	24	Apr

### ESTIMATED TIMES

Robert	Maxam		48.6	2	IC4A	Philadelphia	29	May
Colin	Kilby	Redlands	49.1	2	Western OT	Pasadena	26	Jun
Gwynn	Wilson	Sn California	49.3	3	Western OT	Pasadena	26	Jun
James	Meredith		49.4	2	AAU	Cambridge MA	17	Jul
C. George	Bretnall	Cornell Coll IA	49.7	2H2	AAU	Cambridge MA	16	Jul
Robert	Emery		49.7	3	AAU	Cambridge MA	17	Jul
George	Schiller		49.8	3H2	AAU	Cambridge MA	16	Jul

(7 Performances by 7 Performers)

??	Henderson	California	50.1	3	v Sn California	Los Angeles	20	Mar
Larry	Butler		50.3	6	AAU	Cambridge MA	17	Jul
??	Wetzel	Michigan	50.6	2	v U Chicago	Chicago	15	May
??	Bartky	Chicago	50.8	3	v Michigan	Chicago	15	May

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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SPRINT LISTS AT 24 AUGUST 2009

Compiled by Bernard Linley

### 100 METERS

9.93	(5)	0.9	Richard Thompson	07.06.85	Berlin	16-8	(09.89-08)
10.00	(7)	0.9	Marc Burns	07.01.83	Berlin	16-8	(09.96-05)
10.03	(2)	0.5	Aaron Armstrong	14.10.77	Port of Spain	20-6	(10.04-05)
10.05	(4)	0.5	Darrel Brown	11.10.84	Port of Spain	20-6	(09.99-05)
10.08	(1)	0.1	Emmanuel Callender	10.05.84	Havana	3-7	(10.17-08)
10.10	(5)	0.5	Keston Bledman	08.03.88	Port of Spain	20-6	(10.14-07)
10.22	(5)	0.3	Rondell Sorillo	21.01.86	Fayetteville	12-6	(10.33-08)
10.38	(2)s	1.9	Marcus Duncan	04.12.86	Eugene	29-5	(10.28-06)
10.39	(1)	1.5	Shermund Allsop	21.03.91	Port of Spain	20-6	(10.56-08)
<u>10.41</u>	(4)s	1.2	Shawn Stewart		Port of Spain	20-6	
10.44	(1)	1.2	Kendall Bacchus	20.05.90	Port of Spain	21-3	(10.32-08)
10.49	(2)	1.5	Kyron Joseph		Port of Spain	20-6	

10.51	(3)s	1.0	Marvin Regis	11.10.79	Port of Spain	20-6	
10.53	(4)s	1.0	Cleavon Dillon	05.10.82	Port of Spain	20-6	(10.29-04)
10.56	(1)	0.6	Moriba Morain	08.10.92	Port of Spain	20-6	
10.59	(4)	0.0	Andre Marcano	27.03.86	Princeton	17-5	(10.56-07)
w10.23(2)s		3.3	Kendall Bacchus	20.05.90	Vieux Fort	10-4	(10.32-08)
w10.36(1)s		3.3	Marcus Duncan	04.12.86	Eugene	16-5	(10.28-06)
w10.43(5)		7.8	Cleavon Dillon	05.10.82	El Paso	11-4	(10.29-04)
w10.53(1)		4.3	Sadiki James		Joplin	24-4	
(handtimed)							
10.0	(2)	-0.5	Keston Bledman	08.03.88	Pte a Pierre	28-3	(10.14-07)

### **200 METERS**

20.40	(3)	0.3	Emmanuel Callender	10.05.84	Belem	24-5	(20.69-08)
20.45	(1)s	-0.2	Rondell Sorillo	21.01.86	Fayetteville	11-6	(20.43-08)
20.61	(1)		Renny Quow	25.08.87	Port of Spain	26-7	(21.16-08)
20.65	(1)	0.1	Richard Thompson	07.06.85	Tempe	11-4	(20.18-08)
20.70	(1)	0.0	Marc Burns	07.01.83	Auburn	4-4	(20.57-05)
20.80	(2)	2.0	Marcus Duncan	04.12.86	Tempe	21-3	(20.67-04)
20.85	(3)		Jovon Toppin	02.01.89	Port of Spain	26-7	(21.05-07)
20.89	(1)	0.7	Shermund Allsop	21.03.91	Port of Spain	21-6	
21.15	(2)	0.7	Kyron Joseph		Port of Spain	21-6	
<u>21.18</u>	(1)	-3.8	Reyon John	10.09.83	Palisades	18-4	
21.19	(3)	1.4	Jamil James	16.09.86	Port of Spain	21-6	
21.36	(1)q	0.2	Moriba Morain	08.10.92	Vieux Fort	10-4	
21.36	(2)	1.4	Jonathan Holder		Vieux Fort	13-4	
21.38	(1)		Kevin Haynes		Couva	15-2	
21.38	(4)s	1.6	Kendall Bacchus	20.05.90	Vieux Fort	12-4	(21.74-06)
21.38	(5)h	-1.5	Aaron Armstrong	14.10.77	Berlin	18-8	(20.08-99)
w20.58(5)		2.1	Aaron Armstrong	14.10.77	Austin	2-5	(20.08-99)
w21.13(1)		4.8	Kendall Bacchus	20.05.90	Port of Spain	22-3	(21.74-06)
w21.18(2)		4.8	Moriba Morain	08.10.92	Port of Spain	22-3	
w21.36(5)		4.8	Trevis Frederick		Port of Spain	22-3	
w21.41( )			Zwede Hewitt	10.06.89	Austin	2-5	(w21.22-08)
w21.43(1)s		3.4	Kwasie King		Port of Spain	12-3	
(handtimed)							
21.0	(1)	-0.4	Moriba Morain	08.10.92	Pte a Pierre	29-3	
21.2	(1)	-0.7	Cedric Richardson		Pte a Pierre	29-3	

### **400 METERS**

44.53	(2)s		Renny Quow	25.08.87	Berlin	19-8	(44.82-08)
45.07	(1)		Ato Stephens(Modibo)	19.06.79	Ponce	16-5	(44.87-01)
45.68	(1)		Jarrin Solomon	11.01.86	Laramie	16-5	(46.26-08)
46.46	(4)		Zwede Hewitt	10.06.89	Port of Spain	20-6	(46.04-07)
46.73	(1)		Jehue Gordon	15.12.91	Port of Spain	25-7	
47.05	(2)s		Ade Forte	11.10.88	Gainesville	16-5	(46.27-07)
47.45	(5)		Jovon Toppin	02.01.89	Port of Spain	20-6	(46.94-07)
47.61	(5)s		Deon Lendore		Port of Spain	31-7	
47.69	(4)		Sherridan Kirk	11.12.81	Coral Gables	11-4	(46.22-02)
<u>47.71i</u>	( )		Emmanuel Meyers	09.03.89	Lexington	7-2	(47.80-08)
			/ 47.88 (6) Oxford MS, 11-4 /				
47.74	( )		Jieutonne Archer	28.03.83	Princeton	16-5	(47.72-08)
47.82	(2)s		Darnell Greig	20.03.89	Murfreesboro	9-5	(47.03-08)
47.83	(5)		Jevon Matthews		Vieux Fort	11-4	
47.99	(2)		Joel Meharris		Marabella	24-5	(47.62-08)

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## **A MYSTERIOUS 20,8 FURLONG BANG – IN 1913**

**By Ulf Lagerstrom**

Nobody knows what was in the 20-year-old prep's mind when he appeared at the start of the inter-scholastic 220 yards final, run on the Penn State College track, on 2 May 1913. On that day he was full of running, and started by producing 9 3/5 (= WR) and 9 4/5 times at 100 yards. Did he really have the audacity of aiming at another record - in the furlong ?

He did. Obviously he was not there only to win, he wanted more. The lad, Albert Smalley Robinson of Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, despite the fact that no competitor was even reasonably close to him, turned on the after-burners and broke the string when nearly twenty yards up on the field. Time: 20 4/5 (straight course). That was four tenths faster than the WR! Al crashed through the 21 sec barrier as the first human being to do so. Eight years later another sprinter was to repeat his 9,6/20,8 feat - famous Charlie Paddock, who was also 20 years of age at the time.

The historic race - a summary: 220 yds 1) Robinson (Merc Ac) 20 4/5 2) Morrow 3) Trainer and Wilson (all Indiana State Normal school). Second at 100 was the winner of both hurdle-races, Myers of Indiana Normal. Four schools participated.

The meet was poorly reported, and to judge from his trainer's statement there was only a slight wind favouring the runners, allegedly acceptable for record ratification purposes. In fact, in no other report any wind-aid was mentioned. One brief account stated that the track was fast and conditions ideal. Five watches, in the hands of competent officials, agreed on his 20 4/5 time, as did that of his trainer. The course was measured and found correct by three instructors with the School of Engineering. The trainer thought that it might have had a slight drop, yet the local officials did not know of any.

The races were run at the new Beaver field, on its dirt track. Al's 100 yards time was not to be equalled there until fourteen years later, his furlong mark lasting still longer. On the old track, a dubious 9 3/5 had been clocked in June 1907. A State College runner by name of Henry was credited with the time, achieved in a dual meet with Western University (later University of Pittsburgh). His performance did not get any headlines, being sparsely reported and not commented on. It remained unlisted for reasons never made known.

To the AAU organization Robinson's record setting must have been a hot potato. They stated that they were investigating the marks, and only towards the end of the year there was a pronouncement to the effect that "... the men delegated to attest the accuracy of the performances had not taken any move to investigate their authenticity." On these grounds the AAU discarded his 9 3/5 and 20 4/5 run "during the progress of a minor series in Philadelphia."

Anyhow, his 9 3/5 was accepted as a meet record, yet the 20 4/5 time was not - it was too fantastic, simply inconceivable. It did, however, enter his school's record-lists. Certainly Al's trainer, Scotland-born Jim Curran, was right when he stated forty years later that "no one believed at the time that a school boy could travel so fast." He considered Al his greatest runner ever. And he had drilled Olympic medallists in the sprints.

In fact, the AAU bosses may also have been ill at ease with the new speed-burner and his doings. In June 1913 Al and Curran were booked on a steamer for England, the boy phenomenon being invited to compete at the open English AAA championship (to clash with Applegarth!) and other European meets. As that title meet was held on the same day in early July as the national AAU event, the pair were exposed to much criticism and had to cancel the trip, probably also after AAU interference. The trainer alleged, to no avail, that he intended to spend the summer at his old home in Scotland, taking the lad with him. The Mercersburg head master agreed to the trip and even promised that the school would pay the expenses for Al as a reward for the "great work"

he had done for it. No doubt fed-up, neither did Al start at the AAU meet. However, a week before it was held he also displayed questionable form in a New England furlong race.

The Jim Curran story, as told by himself, is not uninteresting. Born in Scotland in 1880 he enlisted with the Highland Light Brigade at 18 years of age, and it was with the army that he tried his luck in running. He commenced to win quarter mile races and other events. Jim went to South Africa, being involved in the Boer War, and won races there too. He then "discovered" there the track talent of Lt Halswelle of the same Brigade, the athlete who was to win the 400 m at the 1908 London Olympics. Jim returned to Britain and turned to pro running. Later he went to USA and at last got a suitable job, for coach Mike Murphy. After learning the trade he became track trainer at Mercersburg, where a disciple of his was Ted Meredith, Olympic 800 m and 4 x 400 m gold medallist at the 1912 Games.

Probably because of his quarter mile background he made Robinson try the distance early in his career. Al and star Ted Meredith were in fact on the same relay team on a couple of occasions. One of those was the Penn Relays prep mile relay in 1912, Mercersburg setting up a new "prep world record" with 3.27,2. A year later Ted was already graduated, and Al became the anchor man, and despite an impressive 48,6 leg run on a humid surface he did not succeed in catching the the winning team, who broke the record. No wonder that Jim Curran later was trying to make him go for the quarter and succeed his previous star.

Reverting to the sprints, according to the trainer Robinson's talent for running fast was discovered in 1911 by the legendary trainer, Mike Murphy, at a fair at Westboro, Mass., where Al then was living and which was Mike's home town. One source mentions though that Al before that attended the Cutler school, where he may have started on his wandering through the academic and athletic world.

Robinson was told to enter Mercersburg Academy after Murphy talked to his colleague and former assistant, Curran In the autumn Al started to study at the academy. After six weeks of drills, mainly starting practices as his get-away used to be miserable, he reportedly did 10 1/5 and 22,0 at his school's games. He already had terrific finishing powers.

A year later the average-sized newcomer was already knocking at the door to the sprint high society. Yet he was hampered by weak ankles, which did not stand that kind of speed in the long run. In the spring of 1912, on 18 May, he returned 10,0 and 22 1/5 at interscholastics in Philadelphia. At the next meet, however, his ankles gave away. Curran told that he wanted Al to qualify for the Olympic Trials but at that time he was still limping. Only in the autumn was he reasonably well recovered.

In September, two weeks after winning a sluggish 220 at the NE AAU, and ending third at 100, he won the national AAU junior furlong (22,4) and then in the senior final was runner-up to star Alvah Meyer (21,8 turn = AR). In view of his inexperience and lack of continuous work-outs they were sensational achievements, even considering the fact that most Olympic participants did not go.

In 1913 he did little of note before the May competitions. As in the previous year, Mercersburg sent a team to indoor games in February at Baltimore MD. Al started at the interscholastic 100 handicap event from scratch and was beaten by a boy with a 4 yard-start. Yet he produced the fastest time of the meet, 10 1/5 in a heat, running in rubber shoes.

[To Be Continued in Bulletin #1, 2010]

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## **BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIAL FOR SALE**

### **NEW!! - A World History of Hurdle and Steeplechase Racing - Roberto L. Quercetani**

RLQ is like a fine wine that just gets better with age. Here is the most recent addition to his books on the history of athletics. It traces the development of the high and intermediate hurdles and the steeplechase for men and women, covering the period from 1860-2008! The World year lists are included from 1860 forward. The book is divided into 20-year periods after the initial chapter covering 1860-1900. All of the great athletes in these events are discussed. All of the great races from the Olympics and World Championships are detailed. Details on the evolution of rules and technique are discussed at great length. There are many great photos in the book. RLQ's efforts are nothing short of simply spectacular and this book fits right into that category. My dear Florentine friend has done it again!! Vallardi in Italy publishes the book. These are the people who have done Roberto's last few books. The production is terrific and the binding extremely well done. An absolute must!! Payment details can be obtained by contacting Roberto Vallardi at: [roberto.vallardi@editvallardi.com](mailto:roberto.vallardi@editvallardi.com). The phone number for EditVallardi is (+39) 0295 28 202. Also, I have just recently been informed that the book is available through Track and Field News, which would be an easier method for US and North American orders. The price through T&F News is USD 49.95 plus 2.95 for shipping and handling.

### **NEW!! - Swedish All Time Lists for Men - Bengt Holmberg, Jonas Hedman, Editor**

This book includes deep all-time lists for men in all events. The lists include mark, name, club, date of birth, venue and date of competition. There are also shorter lists for juniors and youth from age 14 to U23. It is 664 pages 170 x 240 mm and has a hard cover. A tremendous amount of data is contained in this book and it is well worth the cost. The price is 61 USD, which includes all postage and shipping costs. Orders should be addressed directly to Jonas at TextoGraf Forlag, Jonas Hedman, Springarvagen 14, 142 61 Trangsund, Sweden. More information can be obtained at [order@textograf.com](mailto:order@textograf.com) or by phone at +47 709 99 51 04.

### **NEW!! - Friidrott - Jonas Hedman, Editor**

This is edition 49 of this book, first published in 1961. The book covers world and Scandinavian athletics, detailed championship results with narrative and world outdoor top 50 year and all-time lists, top 25 Scandinavian year and all-time lists plus indoor top tens and records for world, Europe, Scandinavia and Sweden. This book has a ton of information; it is 406 pages, 170 x 240 mm containing 145 pictures and has a hard cover. The price is 41 USD, which includes all postage and shipping costs. Orders should be addressed directly to Jonas at the address given directly above.

### **NEW!! - Yleisurheilu 2009 - Suomen Urheiluliiton Vuosikirja, Mirko Jalava, Juhani Jalava**

This is the 2009 Finnish Annual, continuing the long, great tradition of annuals from Finland. This one contains 672 pages of very useful data, including deep 2009 Finnish year lists, seniors and juniors and all age groups, 2009 Finnish indoor lists, 2009 World indoor and outdoor lists which are quite deep, results of major competitions and much, much more. This continues to be certainly one of the great country annuals, as always. Details on ordering can be obtained from the Finnish Athletic Association at [www.sul.fi](http://www.sul.fi). Also, you can phone them directly at +358 (0) 9 348121. This one is an absolute MUST HAVE!!

### **NEW!! - Combined Events Annual 2010 - Hans van Kuijen**

This wonderful book contains the 2009 world rankings for men and women, the top 200 for men and women and all results up to 7500 points for men and 5600 points for women, results of major meetings in 2009, including complete results of the Olympic games, European Cup Super League and First League, Götzis and IAAF-challenge, all-time men's and women's performers and performances, national and international records, indoor rankings for 2009, the 2009 and all-time rankings for junior athletes and much more. The book will be ready in January 2010 and will have 216 pages of data. This book is a must for all fans of the multi events. The price is the same as last year, 27.50 Euros or equivalent. You can order directly from Hans at de Bergen 66, 5706 RZ Helmond, Netherlands. More information is also available by sending Hans an e-mail at [hvankuijen@planet.nl](mailto:hvankuijen@planet.nl). A few back issues are still available.

### **NEW!! - Abel Kiviat, National Champion - Alan S. Katchen**

Here is a tremendous book about the legendary Kiviat. Katchen covers all aspects of the modernization of track, such as the creation of the IAAF and the standardization of distances as well as the more sensational conflicts around amateurism. Katchen's exploration of the immigrant experience has universal application. As importantly for sport's enthusiasts, Katchen has enhanced the details of a track career with valuable insights into the excitement of track. There are many biographies of track athletes, but Katchen's book is exceptional in the care he takes to make it a work of social history. He presents Kiviat as a child of immigrants, a Jew, and as working-class athlete in the era of gentlemen athletes. This is a touching story to say the least. I really recommend this one; it is a great read. 390 pages, hard bound, published by Syracuse University Press, 2009. I am not aware of the cost but you can go to the following site for all information: [www.SyracuseUniversityPress.syr.edu](http://www.SyracuseUniversityPress.syr.edu). [Review done by FAST member Pam Chenkin]

### **NEW!! Jamaican Athletics-A Model for 2012 Olympics and the World - Patrick Robinson**

This book celebrates Jamaica's high quality performances in global athletics over the past 60 years. The achievements are wholly disproportionate to Jamaica's size and resources. The book seems to isolate the environment in which the athletic product of excellence thrives. The book offers an explanation and analysis of the athletic system, praising, in particular, the quality of the coaching and the intensity of the training regimen in the junior program. 140 pages of terrific reading! The book is 6.99 Pounds Sterling and all ordering information should be directed to Gary Pulsifer at [gary@arcadiabooks.co.uk](mailto:gary@arcadiabooks.co.uk). Gary's phone number is +020 7436 9898. [As an aside, the author Patrick Robinson is President of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He oversaw the historical trial of Slobodan Milosevic, the former President of Yugoslavia.]

### **NEW!! - High School Track 2010 - Jack Shepard**

This is the 52nd edition of Jack's famous high school publication. Complete details of the 2009 season are given, along with all-time lists for boys and girls, all-time indoor lists and much more. 68 pages of wonderful data that is a must for any track and field fan, particularly those at the prep level. Available from Jack for \$12.00 including postage in North America and \$15.00 post paid elsewhere. Send to Jack at 14551 Southfield Drive, Westminster, California 92683 USA.

### **2009 FAST Annual & USATF Media Guide - Scott Davis & Jill Geer**

The 31st edition of the *FAST* Annual is once again combined with the USATF Media Guide. 688 pages of useful data including the 2008 year lists, 50 deep, for men and women, all-time lists, all-time college, junior and walk lists, 2008 walk lists, 2008 Junior lists and index information on over 2500 athletes, including resident foreigners competing for US colleges and universities, coupled with a large biography section, past national champions, records, and much, much more. An important reference book for fans of US track. Copies can be obtained from Scott Davis at the usual address for USD 24, USD 27.50 via priority mail in North America and USD 35 or 30 Euros abroad via air post. Please note that there is no longer sea post from the US, only air post, which is expensive. A must book for all statisticians!

### **British Athletics 1951 - 1959, Sunset of the Golden Years - Michael Sheridan**

Here is one definitely worth getting!! Michael has really done fine job with this book. It contains memories of the 1950's by athletes who were there, pen pictures of leading athletes, men and women, AAA Championships results, how British athletes fared in international competitions, women's athletics, history, WAAA results, features on athletics clubs, road running, cross country, juniors and student athletics, rules, top ten for men and women for each year in the period and an index of athletes. An amazing amount of data. 205 pages. This book is very well produced. The cost is 15.50 Pounds, 25 Euros or 30 USD in the UK and Europe. Prices on request for other parts of the world. You can send payment to Michael Sheridan, 27 Yew Tree Park, Congresbury, Somerset, BS49 5ER, England. You can also e-mail Michael at: [info@britishathleticshistory.co.uk](mailto:info@britishathleticshistory.co.uk). In my opinion-A MUST!!

### **African Athletics 2009 - Yves Pinaud**

This is the 28th edition of African Athletics and an absolute must for statisticians!! Complete details are given for the 2008 season with 100 deep lists for men and women, all-time lists, records, results of international meetings and much more. Just a great book from Yves as always. 152 pages. The price is 20 Euros, 30 US Dollars or 15 Pounds Sterling. You can order from Yves at Polymedias, 46 rue des Bordeaux, 94220 Charenton-le-Pont, France. US orders can come directly to me and the cost is only 20 dollars, post paid.

### **Atletismo Cubano - Finalists-Records-Rankings - Basilio Fuentes Ferrer**

This is series of five books that Basilio has been working on for some years. I have the complete set now and they are quite good. Each book contains certain events with brief year lists, chronological records, national rankings and all placings in major competitions. These books begin with 1905 for the men and 1933 for the women so they can be considered the total history of Cuban athletics.

Book 1: 328 pages, Men 1905 - 2005. This book contains all of the data on the 100 meters through the 10000 meters plus the marathon.

Book2: 320 pages, Men 1905 - 2005. This book has all of the data for the three barrier events, walks and the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Book 3: 358 pages, Men 1905 - 2005. Part three contains all of the data for all of the field events and the decathlon.

Book 4: 326 pages, Women 1933 - 2005. This book has all of the data on all field events, pentathlon and heptathlon and 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Book 5: 301 pages, Women 1933 - 2005. Finally, Book 5 contains all of the running events, marathon, 80m and 100m hurdles, 400m hurdles along with the 10km and 20km walks.

Truly a remarkable set of books from Basilio, which totals over 1400 pages of data. Some photos are included as well. This is a terrific set of books and well worth having in your collection!! With the sudden passing of Basilio, I am not sure how to order these books. I know he has a sister in Florida and I believe that will ultimately be the best way. I will do my best to get the information.

### **Athletics International - By Mel Watman and Peter Matthews**

All the results for the whole year!! Published 30 times a year by Mel and Peter at 13 Garden Court, Marsh Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4TE, England. NOTE THAT FROM 2009, AI IS ONLY IN E-MAIL FORMAT. In-depth coverage of worldwide results!! Cost for the entire year is just 60 Pounds anywhere in the world. You can receive AI in either Word or PDF format electronically or size A4 photocopies of the e-mail pages. An absolutely invaluable source of results!! A must!! Please write to Mel for more details, particularly the up-to-date prices of the printed A4 page version.

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