

Association of Track and Field Statisticians

Est: 1951

A.T.F.S. BULLETIN

1/2017 - May 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I wish to update you on what has been happening as we head closer to the main event of the year, the World Championships in London in August. Unfortunately I will not be attending however hopefully some of you will and if that is the case we can try and arrange a Convention or meeting. I would like you to inform me as soon as you have decided on attending London so we can have an idea on numbers.

Shortly all financial members will be receiving the Annual which Peter Matthews once again has completed this mammoth task.

However, a number of issues have arisen in the lead up to the forthcoming Annual. Sadly sales have dropped and the main purchaser, the IAAF have reduced their order which puts the Annual in a precarious position. Will the Annual become cost effective to publish in the future? At this stage we don't know.

Another issue has been the actual mailing of the Annual. Sportsbooks no longer offer this service. Fortunately Jonas Hedman has stepped in to provide this service and the Annual will be coming from Sweden.

Over the past few years Richard Hymans and Pino Mappa have been updating past world lists which are now on the ATFS website. Please have a look and see if you can add anything further. It is an ongoing work by Richard and Pino and other members who have contributed. With greater access to the past via the internet, in particular old newspapers more results have come to light.

Could all members please log into the ATFS website and update your profiles with a photo and what you do.

The 1900 - 1910 project is progressing well and work has been completed to March 1906 under the leadership of Tomas Magnusson. The data base now contains over 97,000 marks and the project is now more than half way through.

I would like to ask any member who would like to be involved in a team to work on the 1911 - 1920 project which unfortunately has lapsed and I wish to revive.

On a final note our membership numbers are dropping each year. The internet which has been fantastic for our sport has also taken away potential members. More and more of our work will be either historic work or special projects dealing with an area or championship or country, we do urge you to encourage new members and also let us know what you are working.

I wish you all my best wishes.

Paul
President ATFS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our current roster lists 217 names. This number is slowly decreasing: Since early 2015, 11 members have passed away, and 18 have not renewed their memberships. The passage of years, and perhaps the increased availability of information from other sources, are taking their toll, and the Association will only be sustained in the future by the recruitment of new and enthusiastic statisticians.

In 2016, we had approximately 193 paid subscriptions. To date in 2017, 185 are current. "Approximately" refers to the fact that some members have paid for years in advance (in several cases, for many years), while some others have indicated their intent (often delayed) to pay. The number of paid subscriptions has remained remarkably consistent since the beginning of my term in 2009, despite the decrease in our total roster.

We seek any available information about the following members who have not responded with either subscriptions or communications for 2+ years:

Otto Verhoeven (GER), Axel Schafer (GER), Zdenek Prochaska (CZE), Mikko Nieminen (FIN), Michael Kennedy (USA), Turhan Goker (TUR), Gianni Galeotti (ITA).

As of 1 May 2017, the ATFS enjoys a healthy financial situation:

Cash deposits	\$ 24,917.96
Savings certificates	\$ 51,123.94
On deposit @ PayPal	\$ 2,457.35
TOTAL	\$ 78,499.25

2016-17 (to date) expenses:

Printing of World's Greatest in Athletics (Hedman, Hymans, Matthews)	\$ 7040.00
Athletics 2016 mailings from SportsBooks Ltd	\$ 2037.45
Postage	\$ 388.20
Web services	\$ 357.00
Office materials	\$ 117.48

We anticipate considerably greater expenses for the distribution of Athletics 2017 to current members, because of the need to first ship the books in bulk from the U.K. to Sweden and the USA, from which they will be mailed directly to individuals. We were unable to enlist a mailing service in the U.K. to replace our previous vendor, and will continue to examine potential future alternatives.

If you have questions about any financial matters, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes to all,

Tom C.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Change of Contact Details

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Stan Greenberg (GBR) - Email: greenberg85@yahoo.com

Angelos Kokkonis (GRE) - Email: tgk.pavlos@gmail.com

In Memorium

It is with sadness that we have been informed of the passing of a couple of long-time members over the past few months. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Martin Sheridan (UK) and Al Crepinsek .

Application for Membership

Chief Tony Osheku - 6 Adetayo Osho Street, Akoka, Fola-Agoro, Lagos, Nigeria

Email: chieftonyosheku@yahoo.com

THE JESSE OWENS OF SOUTH AMERICA (?)

By: Ulf Lagerstrom

Enthusiastic, local track followers began to call him that - albeit without a question mark - nearly eighty years ago. He was **José Bento de Assis Jr**, a slender Brazilian athlete, endowed with "a lot of natural speed and nervous coordination". His pick-up was said to be amazingly fast.

Shortly before and during the World War II years he dominated the South American sprint scene, and now and then also produced a mighty long jump. In addition he ran the 400m, though infrequently, tried the sprint hurdles (there were no 200m hurdles competitions yet) as well as the triple jump and the decathlon - which Owens did not do.

José's meteoric rise to fame occurred in 1937. In April of that year, already aged 22, he entered a track competition for the first time. At 100m he was timed in 11,8 in his heat. A little later he did 11,3 in the final. Before, he had only been playing some soccer.

De Assis was persuaded by the trainer of the Vasco da Gama club in Rio de Janeiro to join up. The newcomer did, and groomed by the trainer, Rapaport, he gradually was gaining more speed. At the end of the year he even got down to 10,5.

In the meantime, he captured the national as well as the South American 100 m title. All in his very first months on the tracks. "Running wild" may have been an understatement.

It was the beginning of a successful track career that lasted up to 1946.

CLOCKINGS

That Owens nickname obviously referred to his equaling the US star's 10,2 world record at 100m, as the first man to do so in (allegedly) acceptable conditions.

On 22 May 1938 in Rio, in a handicap race on

his club's cinder track in Rio, the three watches showed 10,2 10,2 10,3. The meet had been duly sanctioned.

A report was prepared for the confederation for record application purposes, stating that there was no wind-aid and that the track was re-measured at 100,01m. Yet the mark was never ratified, as records in handicaps were not, and moreover, his time was considered "too fast".

A month earlier, on 21 April 1938, de Assis was credited with 6,0 at 60 yards in a special, outdoor event. That was faster than Owens or anybody else had run indoors.

The Brazilian's curriculum also exhibited a couple of other sensational marks

The country's foremost track writer at the time, an ex-sprinter himself, alleged that José also posted 6,6 at 60m, and incredible 9,2 at 100 yards (maybe an intermediate time in his 10,2 run), which time was two-tenths better than the world record.

It has been impossible to confirm/document these two clockings, all-the-more as the athlete's record sheets at the club have "disappeared".

Yet he did 5,6 at 50m in a very rare indoor meet in São Paulo in 1942, in probably legitimate conditions. That equaled the world all-time best.

In the 100m his second fastest was a windy 10,3 (1941) and a mysterious 10,4 at Dallas USA, in 1937, never confirmed. As per the confederation records his best legitimate time was 10,5. At 200m he bested 21,2 in 1941, in which year he also achieved a 47,6 at 400m and a 7,55 pb in the long jump.

MAJOR HONOURS

De Assis captured the South American sprint titles all the times that he started, but one. In 1937 he only ran the 100, then in 1939, 41, 45, he took the sprint double. In the "extra" championship in 1946 he was beaten at 100, being semi-retired. He won one LJ title as well.

In addition, he was instrumental in the Brazilian team's victories at 4x100 and 4x400 m.

In 1937 he was selected for the 60m (100 m not run) of the first, experimental PAG held in Texas. In his heat, he ran close to the US star, Ben Johnson, but in the final his start failed and he ended up fifth. Certainly he lacked big-meet experience.

He was invited to compete indoors in the States in 1942. In the national AAU championship he was fourth at 60 yards, though winning the LJ over Ewell with a 7,51 leap. That was the longest jump of the meet since Owens' win in 1935.

At his one and only attempt at the decathlon, he got second in the S. Paulo state meet of 1945. Rare appearances at the triple jump brought him third-places in two Rio City title meets.

In the hurdle event, he became S. Paulo state champion, as he did in the LJ and at 400m.

BIODATA

He was born 27 August 1915 in S. Paulo state. His father, born to slaves, had a long academic

career. José went to Rio to study medicine at a local university, and later moved to S. Paulo to continue his studies, or whatever, there.

After the SAC championship in 1946 he was suspended for demanding expense money in excess.

And more tough luck hit him. He was unable to land a good job, and in 1949 he suffered an auto accident. He lost his memory and was given a disablement pension. Later he took his life.

He was a fellow who never said no when invited to participate at a poker game. As his luck was nil, José losing his money, and borrowing some, his mates ironically called him "Midas".

CAREER BESTS:

His legitimate, known bests:

50m - 5,6 (1942)

100 yds - 9,8 (1937)

100m - 10,2 (1938) 10,5 (1937, 41, 44, 45)

200m - 21,2 (1941)

300 yds - 30,4 (1938)

300m - 34,4 (1938)

400m - 47,6 (1941)

110m Hur - 15,4 (1945)

LJ - 7,55 (1941)

Dec - 6010 (1945 - Tab. 1936).

We are always looking for items to publish in upcoming ATFS Bulletins, so, if you have some work or research that you would like the membership to read about, please drop a note to the Secretary with details.

The Bookshelf

Timed To Perfection - The Stan Greenberg Memoirs

A wonderful book of the life and interests of well known member Stan Greenberg (GBR) has recently been published by Twigbooks. It covers his thoughts and rantings (his words!) about family, friends colleagues, music, show business, school, various jobs, religion, travel, social, educational, and political issues. Stan has worked for a major company (Unilever), a local government, the Guinness Book of Records and the BBC.

The 338pg book is available from Twigbooks, 1-2 Biggs lane, Dinton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 8UH, Great Britain, (email: twigbooks@gmail.com). Cost: £ 12.99 plus postage.

And no, Stan has not passed away!

The World's Greatest Athletes

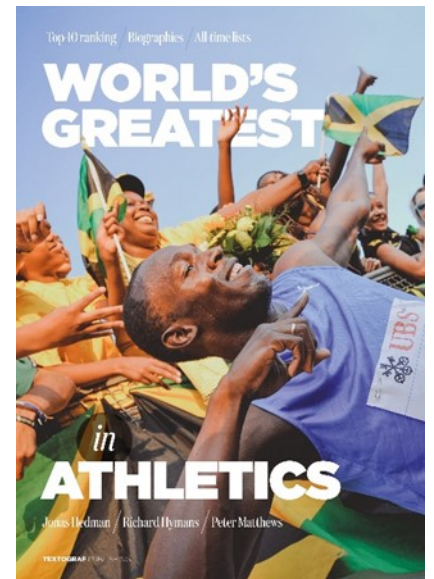
This is a book about the best track and field athletes of all time presented in text, pictures and statistics. It includes three parts: a never before published top-10 ranking in all standard events for men and women based on honors won, records and result level, deep all-time lists and decade lists 1900–2010. The men behind the book are ATFS members **Peter Matthews, Richard Hymans and Jonas Hedman.**

Content:

- Top-10 world ranking in all standard events with narratives, career details, best performances and annual progression.
- 500 deep world all-time-lists for including top-100 performances
- Decade lists, top-10 in all events for every tenth year 1900–2010

832 pages, 170x240 mm, 315 pictures, soft cover

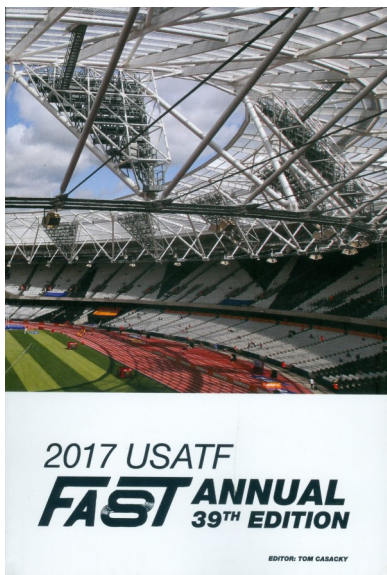
Available from: www.worldsgreatestinathletics.com



2017 USATF FAST Annual

The 39th edition of this annual publication from the USA statisticians group, FAST, in conjunction with the USA Track and Field Association has just been released. Again this year this 693 page omnibus contains records and all-time lists, deep 2016 performance lists and detailed indexes of men's and women's athletes. The book is expertly edited by our own Tom Casacky with many ATFS members contributing to the book

Copies of the book are available from Tom Casacky at email: ats@interis.com



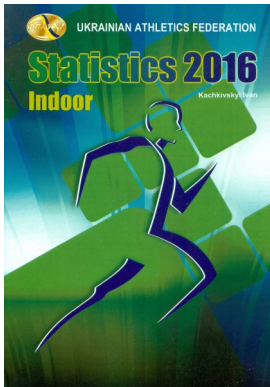
Israel Athletics Annual 2016/17

Compiled by David Eiger with assistance from Arik Cooks, this annual publication contains the 2016 Israeli performance lists, the all-time lists, results of the national championships as well as a listing of the current Israeli Open and Ag Group Records.

The book is available from David Eiger at email: eigerdavid@gmail.com



Ukrainian Indoor Statistics 2016



Featuring results and rankings for Ukrainian athletes during their indoor season of 2016, the publication is a handy reference, compiled by ATFS member Ivan Kachkivsky

Copies are available by writing to Ivan at email: ivan.work.mail@gmail.com

Association of Track and Field Statisticians

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Website: <http://atfs.org>

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