

TROJAN GAMES HOPES LISTED

Dean Cromwell Talks Over His Boys' Chances

Wyhoff, Barber, Grober Top S.C. Olympic List

Wessner, Jim Stewart Also Given Praise

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FRANK
KELLY

With the Olympic Games just a short time away, many track fans have asked me how many University of Southern California athletes I expect to see make the American team. A shrug of doubt is about as good an answer as any, because I don't know of any of the Trojan athletes I am lucky enough to be coaching who are sure of places. The question, however, arouses some interesting comparisons.

The first Trojan athlete ever to make the American Olympic team was Fred Kelly, who still stands out in my mind as one of the greatest boys I have ever had the privilege of coaching. Fred made the team in 1912 and became one of the American heroes of the meet when he won the 110-meter high hurdles in the Olympic Games in Stockholm.

Charley Paddock was the first Southern California track star to make the Olympic grade. In 1920 he was the No. 1 man among American sprinters and won the 100-meter dash and took second in the 200-meter event in the Games which were held in Antwerp.

SIX ON TEAM

Athletes of Southern California made an exceptional showing in the Olympics of 1912 in Paris when six of them were members of the American squad. "Bud" Houser was America's greatest pole vaulter with Steve Smith the shot put and discus throw, while Paddock was again a member of the team and took second in the 200-meter race and fifth in the 100-meter dash.

Mont Kaer, who was to be an all-American quarterback for Howard Jones in 1928, was fifth in the pentathlon and Norm Anderson was fifth in the shot put. Otto Anderson and Earl Wilson of the Trojan squad were also members of the American team but did not place.

Again in 1928 six Trojans competed for Uncle Sam. Houser repeated his discus victory in the Games which were held in Amsterdam, Jim Stewart was fourth in the decathlon, Lee Harvey was fifth in the pole vault, Leighton Eby was fourth in the high hurdles and Charley North was a member of the winning 400-meter relay team. Paddock competed in his third straight Olympiad but this time failed to place.

As Trojan athletes have been figuring with increasing prominence in the Olympics, the question of what they may be expected to do this year is therefore timely and its answer is one of the things that interests me most in the coming Games.

In considering Trojan athletes—and I am including graduates along with the students—I believe that Frank Wyhoff, Dick Barber, Bill Grober, Art Wessner and Jim Stewart have the best chances of making the team, although I don't know that I would rate their chances in that order.

INJURY NO MYTH

Had the Olympics been staged in 1928 or '31, Wyhoff, in my opinion, would have been a certain winner in the 100-meter dash. This year his injured back, which is no myth, but a serious, painful handicap, has kept him far off his old form, and his attempts to get back into shape during the past two months may tell the story of his chances in the Olympics.

Frank, as I have said many times, has the champion's heart, and that is the thing above all others that will mean the most in his comeback attempt. He is a game little fighter, especially when the odds are against him, and I believe that he can make the grade through grit and determination even though his back may continue to trouble him.

Dick Barber appears to be a crack for the American team. The only thing that can keep him off the team is a new injury to the cramped leg muscle that kept him out of practice for more than five months of the present season. He has jumped 107.4 in., and he may "get hot" any day now and hit 120.

Like Barber, Grober's difficulty in making the American team may come from an injury sustained this year. Bill sprained his ankle so badly in the Long Beach Relays that he has had to train carefully and sparingly ever since. His 117.1 in. mark in the California Interscholastic indicates that he is just about back in shape and ready to go still higher if his ankle holds up.

Wessner is good for under 400 in the quarter-mile steeple any time now and that should rate him a place on the Olympic team. Stewart is fast on the track, except for his old baggage, the 1000 meters, and strong in the field, and should again be an outstanding decathlon performer this year.

Besides these five men there are numerous others who rate well enough to compete Olympic contenders. Bob Hall, the big boy who has the habit of coming through when he is apparently out of the running, is now getting reconditioned in the gymnasium and will come back, ready to improve last year's work as he goes through a track season, and by Chicago tryout time he will be one of the best in the country.