

Gil Dodds Far Back in 2-Mile Run

BY BRAVEN DYER

He's the world's best—unquestionably.

Meaning Gunder Haegg, who yesterday thrilled 10,000 Coliseum fans by running two miles in 8m. 53.9s.

The sensational Swede smashed the official world's record, the American outdoor record and the Coliseum mark.

He missed his own unofficial world's record (8m. 47.8s.) only because there was nobody present to make him cut loose.

Bests Three Marks

Gil Dodds, the Boston preacher-to-be, made a game effort, but was more than 100 yards back when Gunder the Wonder hit the finish line. Gil was half-way around the final curve when the timers stopped their watches.

Haegg's time bettered—

The official world's record of 8m. 56s. set by Miklos Szabo of Hungary in 1937; the American outdoor record of 8m. 58.3s. set by Don Lash in 1936, and the Coliseum record of 9m. 1.8s. set by Walter Mehl of Wisconsin in 1940.

The only two-mile time faster than Haegg's in this country was the 8m. 51.1s. race run by Gregory Rice indoors in 1941.

Dodds, Bobby Madrid, the ex-Fresno Stater now in the Army, and Mickey Kaiser, former Penn Stater, went to the post with Haegg.

Madrid Early Leader

Madrid led during the first lap with Dodds second and Haegg third. Dodds took the lead with the start of the second lap and Haegg moved right in behind him.

They turned the first mile in 4m. 27s. and Gunder then took charge. By the time they had finished five laps Haegg was 10 yards in front of Dodds.

Gunder actually turned on the heat just once. This was during the sixth lap when he fairly flew around the track to widen his lead over Dodds to a good 40 yards.

After that the Swedish marvel seemed content merely to win. Once past Dodds he frequently looked back to be sure Gil wasn't creeping up.

That's just wasted energy as far as Gunder is concerned. Nobody in this country is going to catch him.

Haegg was hardly winded at the finish. He sat down almost as soon as he had crossed the finish line and took off his shoes.

Imperfect Wind

Less than two minutes after he had hit the tape he was on the air, short-waved to his beloved Sweden. If he was breathing hard I'll bet the folks back home never knew it—he talked that easily.

The race was disappointing only because Haegg's competition wasn't stiff enough to make him extend himself. Given a red-hot race over the last two laps Gunder would have cracked his own record.

Here are Haegg's lap times:

65.1s., 2m. 11.1s., 3m. 19.2s., 4m. 27s., 5m. 32.4s., 6m. 40.5s., 7m. 47.9s. and 8m. 53.9s.

Cliff Bourland beat John Fulton of Stanford by three yards to establish a new American record for the seldom-run distance of 500 yards. Cliff's time was 56.1s., as against the mark of 57.6s. set in 1910 by Mel Sheppard.

Powell Victor

Jack Powell of the Santa Ana Army Air Base won the half-mile walking event in 3m. 2s., thereby bettering the national record of 3m. 2.4s., set by F. P. Murray in 1887. I thought Mr. Powell was running part of the time but Mr. Murray could have, too, for all I remember.

Cornelius Warmerdam couldn't appear at the last minute.

All net proceeds from yesterday's meet went to the Army Air Force Aid Society.

Summary:

Two-mile run—Haegg (Sweden.) Dodds (Boston.) Madrid (Lemoore Air Field.) Time, 8m. 53.9s.

220-yard dash—Bourland (S.C.) Willis (San Diego.) Trout (S.C.) Time, 21.2s.

100-yard dash for servicemen—Adame (Santa Ana Army Air Base.) Batiste (March Field.) Bordelon (Santa Barbara Marines.) Time, 10.4s.

Open 100-yard dash—Willis (San Diego.) Trout (S.C.) Callanan (S.C.) Time, 10s.

16-pound shot-put—Strode (March Field.) 48ft. 10in.; Audet (S.C.) 48ft. 4in.; Shipkey (Anaheim.) 45ft. 3½in.

High hurdles—Lawrence (Glendale.) Biewener (S.C.A.A.) Hunt (Manual Arts.) Time, 14.9s.

500-yard race—Bourland (S.C.) Fulton (Stanford.) Ferry (U.C.L.A.) Time, 56.1s. (new national record; former record set by Mel Sheppard in 1910.)

880-yard walk—Jack Powell (Santa Ana Army Air Base.) Time, 3m. 2s. (new Pacific Coast record; old record 3m. 25s. held by Powell. Also new national record.)