

Fuchs Equals American Mark

Whitfield Races 1:49.6 Half-Mile at Compton

BY CHARLES CURTIS

The celebrated 880 race of the decade failed to come off at the Compton Invitational last night but despite the absence of Occidental's John Barnes, out because of illness, the 8000 fans could have had no complaint of any lack of sterling activities.

The final tabulation showed one American record tied, six meet records broken, five marks which surpassed anything previously achieved this year in America and two other times which equaled top efforts in the nation.

Jim Fuchs, the New York AC's mass of muscle and jitters, equaled his own American mark by hurling the 16-pound shot 340 ft. 5 1/2 in., just five inches back of his world record set in Norway.

Whitfield Wins

Mal Whitfield of the Air Force, without Barnes to keep him company the last 120 yards, stepped a 1:49.6 half-mile just four-sevenths of a second off the world record he and Barnes were set to do last year.

Bill Miller of the Navy

whipped the javelin 330 ft. 3 1/2 in. on his last try.

Frank Flores won the hop, step and jump at 45 ft. 2 in.

These were all meet records, as well as the country's tops to date, while Compton High's distance medley team turned a national prep record with a 10:35.1 timing to win the Bob Weide Memorial Trophy and L.A. City College clipped another meet mark with a 4:25 quarter-mile relay. Fernando Ledesma of Compton High was timed in 4:22.6 for his mile leg.

Another tops for the nation was Andy Starfield's 20.4 furlong, aided by a slight breeze, on the hard-bark kid from the Shore AC held together long enough to become Uncle Sam's No. 1 hope in the Olympic Games 200 meters.

Surprise Victory

The surprise category was easily topped by the high hurdles result where Billy Anderson of the U.S. Army, son of Jack Benny's man Rochester, beat the country's greatest timber toppers with a blistering finish and a 13.9 mark against 5 m.p.h. wind.

Harrison Dillard was the early leader but Anderson, who won the Army hurdles final in 14.3 a week ago, was going away at the tape and Jack Davis also edged Dillard with Craig Dixon fourth. A 5x3 spread would have covered the first four men, Dick Atlessey was unplaced.

Davis' 23 flat low hurdle timing, like Anderson's 11.3, equaled the top mark in the country.

Rhodes Rolls

Another meet feature saw George Rhodes stay ahead of the 440 field for a 47 flat victory followed closely by Gene Cole, Eddie Mason and Merle Wackerbarth with Sherm Miller and John Bradley fading at the end.

And in the mile Warren Drustler of the Air Force repeated his NCAA win over Bob McMillen of a year ago as he set most of a slow early pace and then the two leaders raced through a furious last lap in 5:5.5. Drustler won by a yard in 4:33.8.

First Toss

Fuchs' great mark was achieved before most of the fans were seated, coming on his first toss. It equaled the record he set at the Coliseum two years ago. And Fuchs was competing just five days after his father had died suddenly of a heart attack in Chicago.

"But I knew my dad would have wanted me to compete," the former Yale star told reporters last night.

Perry O'Brien, SC's constantly improving junior star, hoisted his Trojan school mark for the third time this year, coming up with a 57-foot 3/4-inch push and becoming the fifth man in history to pass the 57-foot mark.

Finished Strong

Whitfield's 880 effort earned him the award as the meet's outstanding performer and was one of the fastest marks in the history of the half mile. He stayed with the pack through a 34.3 first lap and then ran away from his foes finishing 10 yards ahead of Bob Chambers, who had a 1:51.1 clocking of his own.

COMPTON TRACK RESULTS

JAVELIN—1. Miller (Shore AC), 330 ft. 3 1/2 in.; 2. Young (LAAC), 288 ft. 11 in.; 3. Mize (Shore AC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 4. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 5. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 6. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 7. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 8. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 9. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.; 10. Hines (LAAC), 287 ft. 11 in.

SHOT PUT—1. Fuchs (NYAC), 340 ft. 5 1/2 in.; 2. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 3. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 4. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 5. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 6. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 7. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 8. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 9. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.; 10. O'Brien (SC), 318 ft. 11 in.

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