

LAAC TRACK TEAM TAKES AAU MEET

By a Times Correspondent

ST. LOUIS, June 19—Mercuries of the Los Angeles Athletic Club dethroned the New York AC tonight as the national AAU track and field team champions, scoring 124 points to 107 for the New Yorkers.

All in all, it was a big evening for the boys from Southern California, starting with Jim Lea's impressive 440 win in the first final of the evening and finishing with Bob Richards' 15ft. 3in. pole vault closing out the evening's activities.

No. 2 Vaulter

Lea's win in 46.6 gave him a sweep of the big quarter-mile races this year and tied Hubie Kern's SC school record, even though Lea was competing for the athletic club tonight.

The Rev. Richards' feat was the top outdoor vault of his life and made him the No. 2 vaulter in history, behind only World-record Holder Dutch Warmerdam.

Without ever waiting to

change his clothes, Richards jumped into a waiting taxicab and sped to the St. Louis Airport where he hoped to catch a plane that would put him back at his church in Long Beach soon enough to conduct his Sunday morning service and perform two weddings.

It was the 10 points, that Richards won for first in the vault plus Bobby Smith's 7 points on a tie for second at 14-8 that won the meet for the LAAC. With the vault still to be completed, the rival athletic clubs from New York and Los Angeles were dead even with 107 points each.

Davis Wins Two

Again this year the New Yorkers were almost able to walk off with the national AAU team title due to their concentration of points in such events as the 56-pound weight throw, the hammer throw, the steeplechase and the three and six-mile runs. However, the Mercuries compensated for this by

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doing very well in the shot, discus, jumps, hurdles and short running races.

Jack Davis and Parry O'Brien were the club's biggest point producers. Davis added an impressive low hurdle win tonight to his high hurdles victory of last night. His 23.4 time for the 220 lows around a turn established a new meet mark. O'Brien was a close second to his club teammate, Fortune Gordien, in the discus, after winning his shot specialty last evening. Gordien, the Pasadena magician and movie actor, threw 182ft. 2in. to O'Brien's 177ft. 6½in.

Mal Whitfield, a new member of the club, successfully defended his 880 title over a very choice field. His time of 1:50.8 was one of the dozen new meet marks set in the two-day meet here in the public schools stadium.

The crowd dropped down to about 7000 tonight, but the temperature didn't drop a bit.

Close Finish

Closest race of the night was the 220 final where Art Bragg was made a double winner by getting the judges' decision over Collegiate Champion Charley Thomas of Texas in 21.1s. According to the official finish pictures supplied by the Bulova Phototimer, Bragg and Thomas were as much of a dead heat as they ever could be, but the finish judges declared Bragg the winner since Thomas' arm happened to obstruct their view of the front edge of his chest. Yesterday Bragg was a clear-cut winner in the 100.

Surprise Champ

A surprise champion was crowned in the two-mile steeplechase when Bill Ashenfelter, young brother of Olympic Hero Horace Ashenfelter, was the victor in the classiest water-jump field in American history. Brother Bill set a meet mark of 10:08.2 for the race with favored brother Horace back in third place behind Warren Druetzler.

Earlier in the evening brother Horace had won the three-mile run for the NYAC in a mediocre 14:18.5.

Held Wins

Bud Held of the San Francisco Olympic Club retained his national javelin title with a beautiful throw of 249ft. 8½in.

A few of the club athletes, particularly Trojans Lea and Ernie Shelton, expect to be named tomorrow to American teams that will be traveling in Europe and the Caribbean this summer. For the majority, however, this is the end of the 1954 season, and it ended on a very happy note for the Southlanders.

AAU TRACK SUMMARIES

3-MILE—1. H. Ashenfelter (NYAC), 14:18.5; 2. McKenzie (NY Pioneer Club), 14:21.4; 3. Matthews (Unat.), 14:23; 4. Hart (Collegiate T&F Club), 14:31.1; 5. Wilt (NYAC), 14:33.4; 6. Eckhoff (NYAC), 14:38.3.

440—1. Lea (LAAC), 46.6; 2. Jones (NY Pioneer Club), 46.8; 3. Mashburn (Unat.), 47.1; 4. Fessenden (Unat.), 47.4; 5. Griffin (Rice), 47.6; 6. Timmerman (Olympic Club), 47.6.

DISCUS (Final)—1. Gordien. (LAAC) 162ft. 2in.; 2. O'Brien (LAAC), 177ft. 6½in.; 3. Dillon (Auburn), 175ft. 4in.; 4. Koch (LAAC), 168ft. 4in.; 5. Thompson (Yale), 165ft. 6in.; 6. Patterson (LAAC), 164ft. 7½in.

56 LB. WEIGHT THROW (Final)—1. Backus (New York AC), 42ft. 5¼in.; 2. Borgeson (New York AC), 39ft. 1¼in.; 3. Montgomery (Olympic Club), 39ft.; 4. Thompson (Yale), 36ft.; 5. Fowley (Unat.), 35ft. 6¼in.; 6. Engel (New York Pioneer Club), 35ft. (Meet record, former record 41ft. 6¼in. by Dreyer, New York AC, 1951.)

220 LOW HURDLES (4 Qualify):

FIRST HEAT—1. Davis (LAAC), 24.2. 2. Thomas (Chicago CYO), 24.4. 3. Thompson (Unat.), 24.4. 4. Pratt (N.Y. Pioneer Club), 24.6.

SECOND HEAT—1. Corley (Unat.), 23.7. 2. Holloway (U.S. Army), 24.7. 3. Knight (N.Y. Pioneer Club), 24.9. 4. Barnard (LAAC), 25.

THIRD HEAT—1. Mapp (VMI), 24. 2. Thompson (Unat.), 24.2. 3. Constantine (Unat.), 24.6. 4. Johnston (N.Y. Pioneer Club), 24.8.

FIRST SEMIFINAL—1. Mapp (VMI), 24. 2. Thomas (Chicago CYO), 24.4. 3. Davis (LAAC), 25. 4. Thompson (Unat.), 25.1.

SECOND SEMIFINAL—1. Corley (Unat.), 23.7. 2. Holloway (U.S. Army), 24.2. 3. Thomson (Unat.), 24.2. 4. Constantine (Unat.), 24.5.

FINAL—1. Davis (LAAC), 23.2; 2. Corley (unat.), 23.4; 3. Thomson (unat.), 23.9; 4. Mapp (VMI), 23.9; 5. Holloway (U.S. Army), 24.1; 6. Thomas (Chicago CYO), 24.3.

880-YARD RUN

FINAL—1. Whitfield (LAAC), 1:50.5; 2. Tidwell (U.S. Army), 1:51.1; 3. Maynard (unat.), 1:51.3; 4. L. Stanley (U.S. Army), 1:51.3; 5. M. Stanley (NYAC), 1:51.6; 6. Fearman (N.Y. Pioneer Club), 1:51.6.

TWO-MILE WALK

FINAL—1. Laskau (92nd Street YMHA), 14:23.3; 2. MacDonald (N.Y. Pioneer Club); 3. Wall (Cross Country Club); 4. Chichura (NYAC); 5. Long (unat.); 6. Barr (Montclair State).

TWO-MILE STEEPLECHASE

FINAL—1. W. Ashenfelter (NYAC), 10:08.2; 2. Druetzler (unat.), 10:13.6; 3. H. Ashenfelter (NYAC), 10:16.6; 4. Coleman (U.S. Army), 10:19.9; 5. Meyer (unat.), 10:20.3; 6. Stone (NYAC), 10:23.5.

220-YARD DASH (4 Qualify)

FIRST HEAT—1. Remigino (NYAC), 21.3; 2. Stanfield (Grand Street Boys), 21.7; 3. Brown (U.S. Army), 21.9; 4. Turner (Fresno State), 21.9.

SECOND HEAT—1. Wilger (LAAC), 21.6; 2. Thomas (Tex. AC), 21.8; 3. Pritchett (Chicago CYO), 21.8; 4. Agostini (unat.), 21.9.

THIRD HEAT—1. Bragg (unat.), 21.5; 2. Cager (Morgan State), 21.7; 3. Richard (unat.), 21.7; 4. McKibben (LAAC), 21.8.

FIRST SEMIFINAL—1. Remigino (NYAC), 21.3; 2. Bragg (unat.), 21.5; 3. Thomas (Texas AC), 21.6; 4. Pritchett (Chicago CYO), 21.6.

SECOND SEMIFINAL—1. Stanfield (Grand Street Boys), 21.5; 2. Cager (Morgan State), 21.6; 3. Wilger (LAAC), 21.6; 4. Agostini (unat.), 21.7.

FINAL—1. Bragg (unat.), 21.1; 2. Thomas (Texas AC), 21.1; 3. Stanfield (Grand Street Boys), 21.2; 4. Remigino (NYAC), 21.2; 5. Cager (Morgan State), 21.5; 6. Agostini (unat.), 21.6.

JAVELIN (Final)—1. Held (Olympic Club), 249ft. 8¼in.; 2. Miller (U.S. Marines), 235ft. 5¼in.; 3. Long (Olympic Club), 226ft. 2in.; 4. Bugge (Olympic Club), 214ft. 10in.; 5. Alison (Pensacola, Fla. Navy), 214ft.; 6. Smith (Cincinnati AC), 198ft. 10½in. (Meet record, former record 248ft. 10in. by Steve Seymour, Los Angeles AC, 1947.)

HOP, STEP AND JUMP (Final)—1. Cabrejas (Cuba Physical Ed. Club), 47ft. 3in.; 2. Lochioffe (Boston College), 47ft. ¼in.; 3. Floerke (Rosedale, Kan., "R" Club), 46ft. 10¼in.; 4. Cook (Oklahoma), 45ft. 11¼in.; 5. Price (Oklahoma), 45ft. 9¼in.; 6. Bearline (Ft. Hood, Tex.), 45ft. 3in.

POLE VAULT (Final)—1. Richards (LAAC), 15ft. 3¼in.; 2. Tie between Laz (unat.) and Smith (LAAC), 14ft. 8¼in.; 4. Tie among Kenley (Ft. Ord), Fred Barnes (Olympic Club) and Weibourn (unat.), 14ft. 4in. (Meet record, former record 15ft. 2¼in., Cornelius Warmerdam, Olympic Club, 1942.)