

# Wes Also Runs Mile in 4:00.6

BY CHARLES CURTIS

Wes Santee, America's master of the mile, bettered the world record for 1500 meters last night on his way to a 4:00.6 mile clocking in the Compton Invitational Track Meet.

Santee, the Kansas University student, was timed in 3:42.8 at the 1500-meter mark, a distance approximately 120 yards short of a mile.

After a flurry of announcements and counter-announcements, meet officials said finally that the time would be submitted to the American AAU for world record recognition.

The first public announcement attested to the time's le-

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## Curtis Called Time

In last Wednesday's Times, Charles Curtis, Times track expert, predicted that Wes Santee would run a 4:00.6 mile at Compton. Santee made Curtis look like a wizard by doing just that last night.

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gality. Then an AAU official said it would not be recommended for approval. Finally the officials decided it was completely legal.

Record application forms were completed, with three watch times showing 3:42.7, 3:42.8 and 3:42.8, respectively. The track will be surveyed to guarantee the measurement.

The official 1500-meter record is 3:43, shared by three of the great runners of track and field history — Gunder Haegg, Lenart Strand and Werner Lueg.

Santee's mile time was the second fastest in history, being bettered only by Roger Bannister's 3:59.4 of a month ago. Last week he clipped off a 4:01.3 for an American record.

Santee was well on his way to his evening's prime goal, a world mile record, at the end

Three laps when he was timed in 1:58.

But his last lap was 51.4 as he raced around the oval without another runner within 50 yards but with the crowd of 500 fans screaming encouragement.

His lap times for the full race were 34.1, 40.4, 50.1 and 51.4.

Ingvar Ericsson of Sweden was second, more than 50 yards back.

Marty Montgomery of SC set the first lap pace, 32, with Billy Tidwell of Ft. Ord second and Santee third.

After two laps it was Tidwell in front in 1:38.1 with Santee up to second place. During the third lap Santee stepped out and by the time he came around in the starting line he was 30 yards ahead of the second man, Ericsson.

After that it was just a question of the final lap and he didn't quite make it.

"It was kind of chilly and I got cold on the last lap. If the pace setters had been able to stay out there a little longer I might have done the last lap a little better," Santee said later.

### Records Fall

It was at Compton a year ago that Santee first burst into the spotlight of international fame when he cracked the American record with a 4:02.4 effort.

His time last night bettered the listed world record of 4:01.3 by Sweden's Haegg.

It was also one of eight meet records set in the greatest outing in Compton's history.

In addition Parry O'Brien again bettered his official world shot-put mark although he failed to get past 60ft.

And Bobby Seaman, UCLA's brilliant freshman, cracked the national freshman 500 record in placing second to Mal Whitfield in a 1:40.4 race. Seaman was just a yard behind, after taking the lead briefly with 120 yards to go, and was timed at the finish in 1:40.9, almost a second better than any previous yearling effort.

### Other Marks

The other meet records:

High jump—Ernie Shelton, 61, 34 1/2 in., greatest effort ever by a Southland athlete. It was also a new SC school record. Shelton nearly made 7ft. on two occasions last night.

Shot-put—Parry O'Brien, 59 ft. 6 1/2 in. Last year he did 60ft. 3 1/2 in. at Compton for a world record but since he has many times been past 60ft.

High hurdles—Jack Davis, 15 1/2, his fastest ever without an aiding wind and only a tenth off the world record.

Two-mile—Fred Will, the FBI swiftie from New York, 8:58.8.

Larry Carter, UCLA's senior, had a 4:12 mark in third.

Javelin—Bill Miller, Marines, 269ft. 4 1/2.

Discus—Fortuna Gordien, LAAC, 180ft. 1 1/2 in.

500 Relay—SC, 1:24.8. Howard Eugene stayed on the sidelines and the Trojans didn't threaten their world record, 1:25.4.

### Lea Wins

The highly awaited 440 battle went to SC's Jim Lea by the skin of his torso. He fell just before hitting the tape and skidded across the line to edge J. W. Mathews by less than a yard. The time was 47.1.

George Rhodes was third and Thane Baker a close fourth, all four being under 47.5. Baker cut across in front of the field at the start and Lea had to battle to get through.

The summaries:

INTERNATIONAL MILE—1. Santee (SC), 4:02.4. (New meet record, 4:01.3. Sweden, 1957. New American record, old mark, 4:01.3. Santee, 1956.) 2. Ingvar Ericsson (Sweden), 4:05.6. 3. Santee (SC), 4:07.0.

500 YARDS—1. Bobby Seaman (UCLA), 1:40.4. 2. Bobby Seaman (UCLA), 1:40.9. 3. Bobby Seaman (UCLA), 1:41.0. 4. Bobby Seaman (UCLA), 1:41.1.

100—1. Santee (SC), 15.1. 2. Santee (SC), 15.2. 3. Santee (SC), 15.3. 4. Santee (SC), 15.4.

440—1. Lea (SC), 47.1. 2. Mathews (SC), 47.2. 3. Rhodes (SC), 47.3. 4. Baker (SC), 47.4.

200 YARDS—1. Santee (SC), 29.1. 2. Santee (SC), 29.2. 3. Santee (SC), 29.3. 4. Santee (SC), 29.4.

400—1. Santee (SC), 58.1. 2. Santee (SC), 58.2. 3. Santee (SC), 58.3. 4. Santee (SC), 58.4.

800—1. Santee (SC), 1:58.1. 2. Santee (SC), 1:58.2. 3. Santee (SC), 1:58.3. 4. Santee (SC), 1:58.4.

1600—1. Santee (SC), 4:02.4. 2. Santee (SC), 4:02.5. 3. Santee (SC), 4:02.6. 4. Santee (SC), 4:02.7.