

The Scorebook

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STRATEGY IN RUNNING

One of the oldest and most natural of all athletic events is foot racing. When the first race was held is a matter of unrecorded history. The idea for man to battle man in an effort to arrive at a certain goal before his opponent is a time-honored contest. Cavemen may have originated the idea by chasing dinosaurs and their wives.

Or maybe the whole thing had its origin in a reverse pattern—the wives chasing their husbands. However, since the human male now holds an undeniable superiority over the womenfolk in the category of foot racing it seems logical to assume that he initiated the competition.

Even in the days before the record books man must have had some sort of strategy in running. Surely the cavemen must have had more than one bit of experience at chasing or being chased by the beasts of the wild. Whether cavewomen come under this category or not is merely a matter of opinion.

From these encounters with his adversaries, man learned that he could run faster by the use of certain methods. The objective of many of the races was probably much different than what it is now. In the old, old, old days of yore man's goal may have not been a finish line. It might have been an abandoned cave—with or without hot and cold running maids. Perhaps it was a tree. Or a hole in the ground. Or a Brigadoon that appears only once every 100 years. Anything, just so he could get away from the dinosaurs or his wife.

It's not that the family was not a solidified unit in those days. One thing that may have been the cause is that there were no tax collectors in those days. Without tax collectors the man of the family had a more or less free control over his earnings. The world must have been fine without tax collectors. But then came the preachers, the ministers, the Marryin' Sams. And with these well meaning persons came marriage. And with marriage came families. And with families came trouble. The wife, seeing that there were no tax collectors, demanded a percentage of the profits—one-fifth of each dinosaur egg, 10 per cent on all jellyfish, and 20 per cent on amoeba. Man unable to meet these burdensome taxations cried out "Taxation without representation is tryanny" and fled for the nearest overhanging cliff, forming a pattern of outmaneuvering his spouse as he ran. To him that was the finish line. If he got there without being caught he could consider that he had won.

And you can't hardly find races like that no more.

But that was many, many eons ago. We still have preachers, ministers, and Marryin' Sams. We also have tax collectors. Darwin would hardly approve of this theory of the evolution of foot racing. But that is six of one kind and a half dozen of the other. The important thing is that man has mapped out his strategy of running since Darwin knows when. What is more vital is that this evolution from a sort of one cell affair has multiplied faster than the Australian rabbit and is now a highly scientific art.

Ninety-one years ago Charles Lawes of Great Britain cracked the five-minute mile with a 4:56 running. Man had done the seemingly impossible again! But wait. A year later another Englishman, Richard Webster, lowered Lawes' record by 19.5 seconds. And so it went. After man conquered the five-minute mile he sought to beat

the hands of the watch to the four and one-half minute mark. And after this was done by William Chinery of England in 1888, man had visions of running a 4:15 mile. It took only four years to cut the mile criterion from five minutes to four and one-half. It took 45 years to cut the time another 15 seconds.

Then came dreams of the four-minute mile. But they were considered to be merely dreams. The greatest runners the world had ever known had a rough time cracking 4:15. With snail-like regularity the time were lowered. Finland's Peerless Paavo Nurmi mastered his even-pace method of running and cut the time to 4:10.4 in 1923. Jack Lovelock of New Zealand, Glenn Cunningham of the U.S., and Arne Anderson and Gunder Haegg of Sweden chopped precious seconds off the ever-lowering mark, and finally on May 6, 1954 Roger Bannister took over where fellow Englishman Lawes began almost a century before. Bannister ripped off a sizzling 3:59.4 mile. Man had done it again! Later that summer John Landy of Australia dropped the world record again. Prospects of the 3:45 mile are now considered mere dreams but they too may some day be reality. A dream? So was the four-minute mile.

Man's peculiar nature has led him to seek the best possible. And when men such as Bannister and Landy become obsessed with the idea of running the Miracle Mile to the extent of tremendous personal sacrifice there is little that the dials on the watch can do to halt the assault on the time barrier. This has once again been proven by the fierce competition during the current indoor track campaign between Denmark's Gunnar Neilson and America's Wes Santee. Already they have both taken turns at cracking the world's indoor mile mark. Santee set a new record of 4:03.8 on Jan. 29 in the Boston A.A. meet, knocking 1.5 seconds off Gil Dodds' mark. A week later Neilson, applying his personal touch of strategy, held back on the great American miler and then bolted past Santee in the stretch. Again the record books were rewritten, this time with a 4:03.6 clocking. With the strategy of the greats to rely on, it appears as though man will go deeper into the oceans, higher into the sky, and faster across the land than ever before.

Trotting Driver Ban Lifted on Eight

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (AP)—The suspension of eight prominent trotting drivers was ended today by George P. Monaghan, New York State harness racing commissioner, but he refused to lift a one year ban against the president of the Standardbred Owners Assn.

Edward O. Dougherty of North Bergen, N.J., head of the Soa, and the drivers were suspended Nov. 10, 1954 for their part in a strike which delayed racing at Yonkers Raceway for 18 minutes on the night of Oct. 30. They sought increased purses.

Sub Catcher Cagers Face W. Va. -- Catches Cash, Not Games

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (AP)—When Yogi Berra sneezes, Charlie Silvera says "gesundheit" and he means it.

Which is one way of saying that Silvera, the No. 2 catcher of the New York Yankees, wishes Berra, the Yanks' ace receiver, the best of health.

It's not that Charlie, a 30-year-old from San Francisco, isn't ambitious. He'd like to be the Yanks' No. 1 boy behind the bat if he could. But he knows that Yogi can do it better and that helps Charlie too.

Yogi's slugging was one of the big reasons why the Yankees swept five world championships at a second to Cleveland in the American League race last season.

That's all added up to five winning World Series checks for Silvera plus the second place money for last year. Spelled out in cash it has meant \$33,858 extra for the second string catcher.

Silvera signed his seventh contract with the Yanks yesterday for a salary of around \$12,000. Since he came up to the Yankees from Portland in the Pacific Coast League in the tail end of 1948, he has earned about \$70,000 in pay from the Yanks. Add that to his World Series extras and you'll find out that Charlie has made about \$17,000 a year.

Break that down into games and you'll find that the good natured Californian has earned about \$560 a game. He's played in a total of 180 big league games, and has an average of .299 on 118 hits in 394 at bats.

"Not bad," he commented when the figures were broken down. "Thank you, Yogi Berra. I sure wish him the best. I've certainly had it good with the Yanks."

At his present pace Penn State's Jesse Arnelle is a good bet to top 2000 points for four years of college basketball.

(Continued from page eight)

Lions hit the road again for four games. They battle Washington and Jefferson Saturday, and the following weekend travel to New York State for the return games with Colgate and Syracuse. Rutgers follows on Feb. 23, and then the Lions will return home for their final two contests. They meet Pitt at Rec Hall on Feb. 26 and face Penn on March 2 in the season wrap-up.

At the moment the Nittanians are probably at their sharpest

peak of the season. Arnelle continues his heavy scoring. Ron Weidenhammer has been a great all-around performer, as has been Hoffman. Blocker has found the scoring range and Fields continues his excellent defensive work and has been a regular contributor in the scoring columns.

The biggest hope for the Lions right now appears to be their classic combination pressing-zone defense. Its emergence in the final seven contests may make a great deal of difference in their outcome.

Navy Grapplers Edge Freshmen In-Mat Opener

Penn State's freshman wrestling squad dropped its opening meet of the season Jan. 29 to the first year men of Navy, 16-14, despite frosh standout Henry Barone's 30-second victory.

Going into the final match the Lion yearlings led 14-13; however, the Middies pulled it from the fire as Navy's Bruce Stremic walked off with a 3-0 decision and the meet. The Midshipmen captured four of the eight matches, including two wins by falls.

All was not dark for the Penn State yearlings however, as Barone required only 30 seconds to pin his 157-pound opponent with a body press.

Also gaining decisions for the State eight were Wilson Reitz in the 130 pound division; Earl Poust at 137; and Les Walters in the 177 class.

The frosh grapplers will return to the mats Feb. 14 when they encounter the Lock Haven State Teachers squad at Recreation Hall.

Last year's frosh team decided the Teachers.

'S' Club Will Meet

The University "S" Club will meet at 7 p.m. Sunday in 316 Sparks. Pat Kennedy, vice-president, has requested that all varsity lettermen attend the meeting.

Hustling Dons Are Basketball Orphans

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7 (AP)—The University of San Francisco—now bidding for No. 1 among the nation's college basketball teams—is an orphan of the sport.

The dashing Dons have no gym of their own for practice. They have no court of their own for games.

Coach Phil Wollpert's 15-man squad polishes up its phenomenal defense and deadly accurate shooting in the gym of nearby St. Ignatius High School. At 3 p.m. the Dons have to clear out. The high school boys take over.

For "home" games, the squad comes down from its hilltop campus overlooking San Francisco Bay and plays either in Kezar Stadium Fieldhouse or in the cavernous Cow Palace, site of stock shows and rodeos.

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