

Back Injury Blocks Moran's Quest for Indoor Mile Mark

By JIM KARL

Two weeks ago Ed Moran shrugged off a back injury in the Boston A.A. Meet and now the injury is costing him valuable time in his race to become the first sub four-minute indoor miler.

The Penn State grad student injured his back while finishing second to Deacon Jones in 4:07.9. The week before Moran had beaten Jones easily at Baltimore.

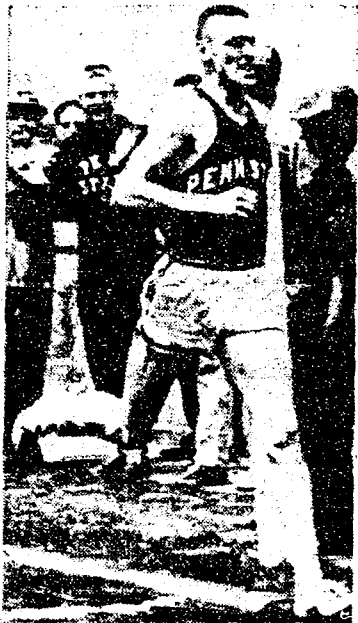
He didn't let the injury keep him from competing in meets the following two weeks but now he's sidelined and waiting for X-ray results.

A week after his injury Moran still managed to run a 4:11.8 mile in the Washington Star Meet. That was good enough to beat Houston's Pat Clohessy by a substantial margin.

Last week he was looking forward to running against Istvan Rosavolgyi in the Millrose Games Wanamaker Mile, but the injury forced him to withdraw and enter the 880 where he finished fourth.

The former Lion great started the season with a 4:08.8 on a flat board track at Baltimore, only .5 seconds off the world record he set at Washington last year.

Although his times have been progressively worse since the mis-



ED MORAN

... will miss Inquirer Meet

hap, Moran is hoping to get back on the indoor circuit within two weeks.

He definitely will not appear in the Philadelphia Meet this week, he said.

"I think I can run under four minutes indoors, but I can't say I'll be the first to do it," Moran said yesterday when asked if he hoped to be the first

to crash the barrier.

"I guess everybody hopes to be the first," he said. "I think it will probably be done this year."

Moran thinks Rosavolgyi, who ran a 4:06 in the Millrose Games, has the best chance of anyone. "He's in good shape," Moran said.

Moran's 4:04 in the Boston meet last year was one of the fastest indoor miles in history but he didn't win the race.

Phil Coleman, the Illinois schoolteacher, ran a 4:03.8 to beat him by two yards. At that time only two men, Ron Delaney and Gunnar Nielsen, had recorded faster times.

Three years ago Moran's 4:01.7 third place finish in the national AAU Meet made him one of the best milers in the country.

With the appearance of Daryl Burleson and Jim Grelle plus some outstanding foreign-bred runners like Rosavolgyi, Laslo Tabori, and others the competition has stiffened considerably.

Until his back injury, Moran was running very well this year. "I was in the best shape I've ever been in until the Boston meet," Moran said.

The former Lion captain holds the Penn State record for the mile (4:01.7) and the half-mile (1:49.9).

Johansson May Get Finnish Sparring Mate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department Monday sent a message authorizing the American consulate at Helsinki to issue a visa to Pekka Kokkonen, the favorite sparring partner of heavy-weight boxer Ingemar Johansson. Johansson is training near Miami Beach, Fla., for a return fight with world champion Floyd Patterson March 13.

Kokkonen, according to news dispatches from Helsinki, denies he was ever Communist, but says that his name once was placed on a Communist list in a Finnish municipal election.

Under U.S. immigration law, a member of the Communist party cannot be admitted to the United States except as the government here waives the regulation in individual cases.

Savitt Favored in Indoor Net

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Indoor Tennis Championships get under way with semi-retired Dick Savitt of New York and towering Orlando Sirola — half of Italy's team that wrecked the United States in the Davis Cup — rated as co-favorites.

A mystery that had the promoters frantic also was solved. The trophy that goes to the winner was found.

When the final arrangements for the tournament were being made, officials discovered the championship trophy was missing. They were just about to have another one made, when Barry MacKay showed up.

"What's all the fuss about?" asked MacKay, who won last year and since has turned pro. "I have it. I'll make sure they get it."

Savitt, the big ex-Davis Cupper, already has won the tournament twice, in 1952 and 1958, and if he comes out on top again, he gets permanent possession of the trophy.

Savitt, seeded No. 1 domestically, meets Bailey Brown of Bronxville, N.Y., in the first round, while the 6-7, 200-pound Sirola has a tougher assignment against Crawford Henry of Atlanta, a good journeyman player.

All told, 32 players will start the tournament, which runs through Monday.

Savitt still has a big service, and that's probably the most im-

portant factor in indoor tennis, where the lights can play tricks on the player. He may have trouble, however, when he reaches the third round, probably meeting Pierre Darmon of France, a top indoor player.

Darmon is seeded No. 4 on the foreign list behind Sirola, Billy Knight of Great Britain and Rafael Osuna of Mexico.

In addition to Savitt, the U.S. seeds are Ron Holmberg of Brooklyn, No. 2; Whitney Reed of Alameda, Calif., No. 3, and Chris Crawford of Piedmont, Calif., No. 4.

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Moore Will Fight for \$200,000

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Venerable Archie Moore said yesterday he's willing to fight Harold Johnson, the new world light heavyweight champion — for the right price.

"My price is \$200,000," said Moore, "and anytime Johnson puts up the money, he's got himself a match."

Johnson stopped Jesse Bowdry of St. Louis in the ninth round at Miami Beach, Fla., Tuesday night to win the National Boxing Association crown that Archie claimed so long.

Moore knocked out Johnson in the 14th round in the Philadelphia's only other shot at the title. But the NBA whisked the crown from Moore because he failed to stage his ninth defense of the title within a stipulated time.

Johnson admitted the crown doesn't quite fit.

"I don't feel like I'm the champ yet," he said after defeating Bowdry. "When I beat the Old Man Moore I'll get that feeling."

"Johnson keeps calling me a

'fat old man,'" said Moore. "I'd like to cram those words right down his throat."

"I've always said that Johnson is a very good fighter, within his limitations," Moore added, explaining: "His limitation is in fighting me."

Moore, 42 going on 50 and still recognized as the champion by the New York and Massachusetts boxing commissions, said he was in good shape and would have little trouble making the light heavyweight limit.

"As soon as I finish some business I'll be ready for Johnson," he said without elaborating. "I'll be available in three or four months."

Asked about reports that a group of Miami Beach businessmen had offered \$250,000 for a match between Johnson and Moore, the vacationing San Diego, Calif., business and boxer replied: "If that's not all poppycock, Johnson's got a fight."

"But remember, I want a \$200,000 guarantee."

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