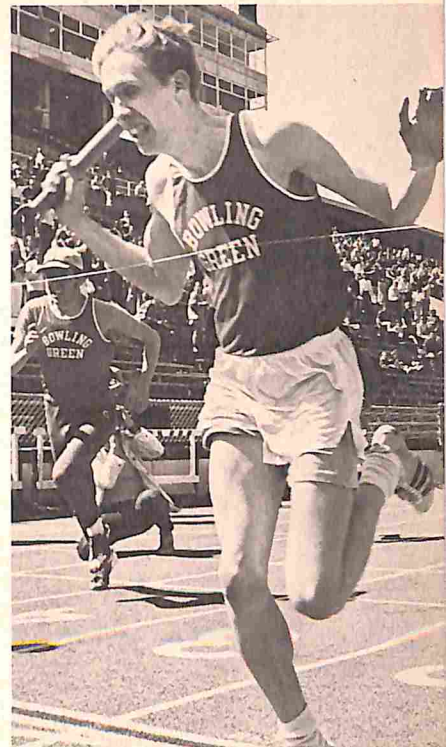


About to clip the finish yarn, a winner in the Kansas Relays sprint medley relay, is Brian McElroy. His 1:48.2 leg took him from behind Dan Moran of Nebraska, who did 1:49.8. (Photo by Rich Clarkson)

Bowling Green's Dave Wottle beat everyone to the tape in the Kansas Relays four-mile relay, including teammate Sid Sink, the steeplechaser, who had handed the baton to Wottle 4:02.8 earlier. Dave's fine 56.3 closer helped produce a meet record 16:35.6. (Photo by Rich Clarkson)



Hill's 2:10:30 Second Best; O'Reilly's 2:11:12 Socks US Mark

In those few weeks between the indoor season and the outdoor campaign when the weather is generally too inclement—as it was during the past two week period—for most open air meets throughout the US, Great Britain's Ron Hill used rainy, 43° weather to his advantage to post the third quickest marathon, in history with a 2:10:30 clocking at Boston. His previous best was 2:11:54.4. Second place went in American record time of 2:11:12 to Eamon O'Reilly.

While many of the nation's sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers were using winds sometimes amounting to near-gales, Willie Davenport picked up legal 13.6 and 13.5 clockings in his first two meets of the year in one weekend.

Three field events in particular remained hot and consistent. Mark Murro collected javelin tosses of 285'3" and 287'10" to up his average to 279'1". John Pennel posted his third straight 17'0" in exactly as many meets in 1970 out-

door vaults. John Van Reenen twirled the discus 201'2" and 201'3" for his third and fourth meets this year over 200-feet.

Hottest new event leaders include Randy Matson, whose 67'9½" topped the 66'3" during the Kansas Relays and the previous best of 66'11¾" of Karl Salb, and Reynaldo Brown, who reached 7'2¼" in the high jump. Matson maintained his loss-free record against Salb while Brown remains undefeated.

Jesse Johnson of New Mexico and Rocky Thompson of West Texas State rode 30 mph-plus winds to 9.2 clockings, while Kirk Clayton of San Jose State used a slightly gentler breeze for his 9.2.

The Kansas Relays yielded a 28:45.4 six-mile clocking by Moroccan Larbi Oukada of Ft. Hays State and a 16:35.6 four-mile relay mark by Bowling Green State. Before the meet, Jim Ryun announced he would compete in 1971.

Jim Ryun: A New Serenity

by Rich Clarkson

It was Kansas Relays weekend in Lawrence and for the first time in five years, Jim Ryun wasn't the center of attention across the Sunflower state in general or Memorial Stadium in particular.

The runner, whose records over three middle distances haven't really been approached since he set them three and four years ago, was there—discreetly walking along the edge of the track, doing what so many had done to him during those years.

For Jim Ryun carried a camera and pencil as a sports reporter, covering the Relays for the University Daily Kansan as part of a class assignment in his final semester of school.

In a way, it was as much a departure as his whole life since he stopped *running in an emotional kaleidoscope last summer—the victim of involvements* and pressures not even he understood at the time.

Previous Kansas Relays, though heavy with track luminaries from across the nation, had really been Jim Ryun shows for the past four years and each of those crowds of more than 25,000 sun-baked Kansans had been rewarded with sub-four minute miles.

This year, KU track coach Bob Timmons began recruiting early, aiming for as many first-line names as possible to make up the Ryun gap at the turnstiles. The field of stars may have been the best-ever but it lacked Ryun and the KU ticket salesmen went into the weekend uncertain of the results.

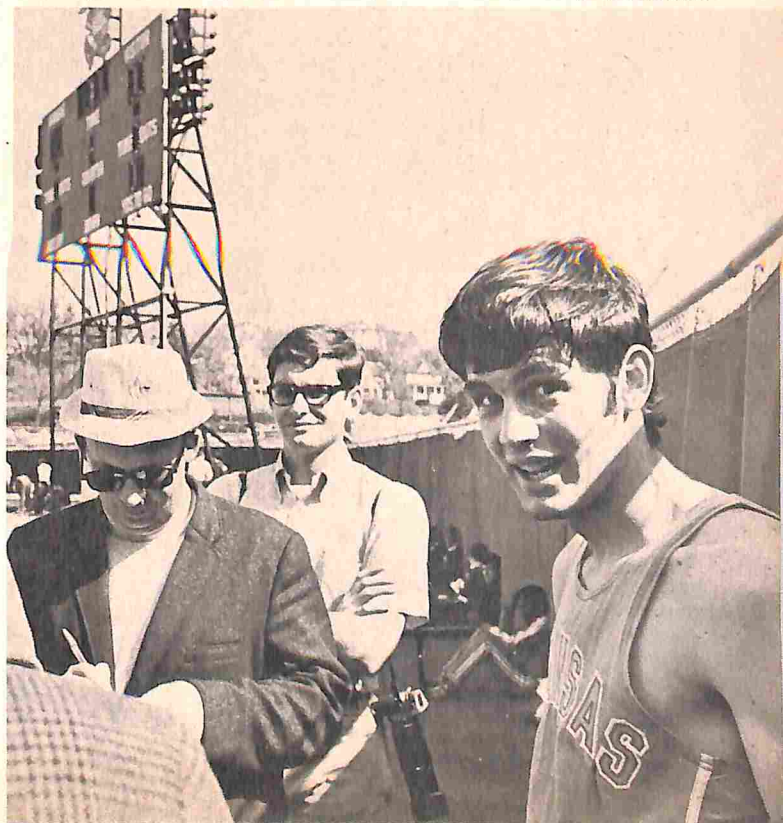
One thing was not uncertain: the cost of flying the star-studded field to Kansas cost a great deal more than the half-scholarship Ryun took from the budget.

But Ryun's scholarship ran out a year ago, even though it is taking him two 19-hour semesters to finish school and get his degree. And frugality is the lifestyle in the Ryun apartment in Lawrence. His 22-year-old wife, Anne, is teaching second grade at Raymond Schwegler elementary school and it is her salary plus Jim's savings from last summer's newspaper job in Topeka that is keeping him in school and both in rent money.

But there are no notes of disillusionment in an apartment full of happy little notes tacked to the walls and huge trophies of earlier days. Part of the furniture is refinished antique, part home made or kit-assembled. Banners, paintings and photographs share wall space with crayon drawings of Anne's

(Continued on page 20)

Brian McElroy talks with the press following his sprint medley relay victory at Kansas. The slightly bemused young man looking on—and participating as a professional photographer and student of journalism—is Jim Ryun, who so often has been in McElroy's spot, and who will be there again if his recently stated comeback plans bear fruit. (Photo by Rich Clarkson)



Track & Field News

World Wide Coverage of Track and Field

11-April 1970, Vol. 23, No. 6

P.O. Box 296, Los Altos, Calif. 94022 U.S.A.

\$5.00 per year (18 issues), \$.50 this issue

