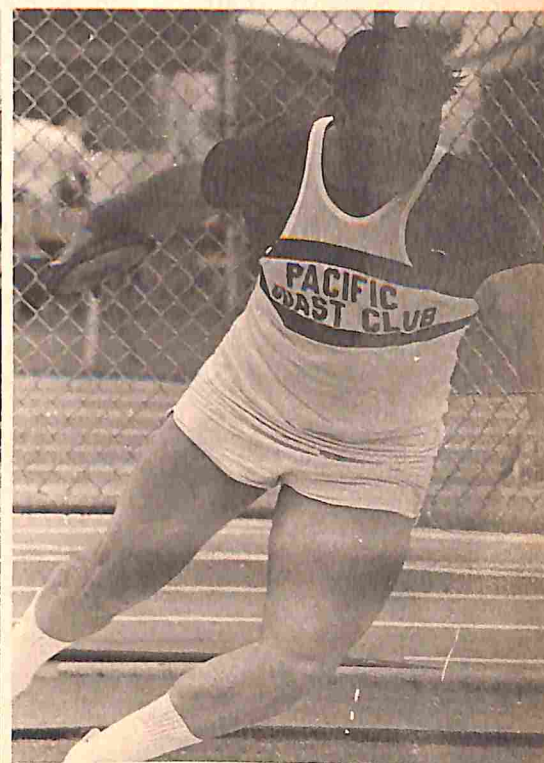




Sophomore CURTIS MILLS (l) leads Olympians LARRY JAMES (765) and LEE EVANS (597) into the stretch of the NCAA 440 final and Mills led at the tape, running a world record 44.7 to Evans' 45.1. James placed only fifth with 45.8, same time as sixth-placer TOMMIE TURNER (2nd from right) and seventh-place AL COFFEE (305). Obscured BILL WEHRWEIN closed for third in 45.7. (Photo by Steve Murdock)



JON COLE authored one of the more surprising upsets at the AAU meet, spinning the discus 208'10" for meet and personal records and his first-ever win over favored Jay Silvester. (Don Chadez photo)

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sophomores Dominate

Knoxville, Tenn., June 19-20-21--There was something very sophomoric about the 48th NCAA championships--but it had nothing to do with the performances. Many of the achievements were superlative for an all-collegiate field, and it was the second year students who overwhelmingly dominated the headlines.

As usual, there were many ingredients that went into the making of this meet. But it remained for a virtually unknown soph to snag the story of the meet as he set the sole outright world record and beat the Olympic gold and silver medalists in the process. Texas A&M's Curtis Mills calmly and smoothly but with speed to spare topped the world quarter-mile standard by a tenth with his 44.7 and shunted Lee Evans to second and Larry James to fifth.

In the very first event and before the timers had a chance to warm-up their watches and forefingers, Villanova's Erv Hall duplicated the world high hurdle record for 120-yards with a 13.2 in a heat. Timing generally seemed off throughout the meet, as the differential between the "official" times and those of reliable timers in the stands at the finish line and the Bulova Phototimer was greater than usual.

Besides Mills' amazing performance, other top achievements by sophomores included John Carlos' double sprint wins of 9.2 and 20.2, Marty Liquori's upset of Jim Ryun in the mile with a 3:57.7 clocking, Ralph Mann's American record equalling 440 intermediate hurdles clocking of 49.6, Jerry Proctor's resurgence in the long jump with a windy 26'11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", Karl Salb's 64'9" shot put win and Mark Murro's javelin triumph of 265'9" despite a painful back injury. Nine of the 18 individual titles were taken by sophomores.

Marks, particularly in the running events where Tartan was in use for the first time, were top quality through the mile. Even the qualifying rounds were tough, as such times as two windy 9.3s, a 46.0, 1:48.3, two 4:05.1s, and 13.6, 13.7 and 13.8 didn't make the final. But perhaps most incredible of all was a 1:47.8 fourth time that didn't to even make the semi-final rounds. The half-mile, which included the third best-ever mark of 1:45.9 by Byron Dyce, saw every finalist improve in the final by an average of 1.5 seconds (ranging from 0.5 to 3.1) and erased every non-winning best-ever from second to eighth.

It might be said that San Jose State backed into the team title, with 48 to co-favorite Kansas' 45. In some respects it's a reflecting statement as both teams lost points all around and San Jose State coach Bud Winter felt his team could pile up between 60 and 65 points. Certainly San Jose had its share of misfortune, as Lee Evans lost perhaps the surest of all points in the quarter, Larry Walls and Kirk Clayton were both disqualified, there were three seventh non-scoring placers, and shot putter Richard Marks had foul troubles.

San Jose's sprint strength won the title of course, but the key to the victory came in the discus where John Powell placed fourth as Kansas' Doug Knop took fifth. If they had been reversed, Kansas would have won.

Crowd estimates were 3400, 5100 and 8200 each day in the 12,000-seat stadium. The weather steadied in the mid-80s. Rain only affected competitions at the beginning of the final day's events.

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AAU CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Faces of 69 Emerge

Miami, Fla., June 28-29--A greatly new national team was created in the heat and humidity of an AAU championships that could have been called New Faces of 1969.

No new names went into the world record book but there were many newcomers to the list of champions. Only Lee Evans, Bob Beamon and walker Ron Laird managed to defend their titles as six 1968 winners fell by the wayside. Ron Whitney, Charlie Greene, Randy Matson, Jim Ryun, Gary Carlsen and Frank Covelli couldn't make it again and 10 of last year's champs didn't even try. Of the 50 Americans placing in the top three, only 21 were on last year's Olympic team.

But the quality was there nevertheless. Five meet marks were bettered and a sixth tied. Evans covered the 440 in 45.6, Laird hoofed two-miles in 13:31.6, Willie Davenport and Leon Coleman scored a unique tie in a 13.3 high hurdles battle, Jon Cole discussed 208'10", Mark Murro javelined 284'3" and John Carlos furlonged 20.2.

Among the new faces none were fresher than those of Ivory Crockett and John Craft. The former, a 9.4 yearling from Southern Illinois, pulled the major upset of the meeting when he won the 100 from a swift field in 9.3. Craft entered the competition with a 53'9" triple jump mark, best of the season, but the Eastern Illinois jumper had done only 51'2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " for third in the NCAA and was hardly a household name even where track nuts are domiciled. He won at 52'9 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Most talked about failure was Jim Ryun who took his mental and physical problems off the track on the second lap and later announced he was done for the year, perhaps always. Another non-finisher was intermediate defender Ron Whitney who has a blood problem and stepped off the Grasstex track after trailing badly over the final obstacle.

Most notably missing was Curtis Mills who whipped both Lee Evans and the world record in the NCAA quarter but then decided he was too tired to compete here. Also missing was a foreign contingent of appreciable size and quality even though this was the qualifying meet for the two-deep Americas team which meets Europe in Stuttgart July 30 and 31. The United States provided all but two competitors for the team, those being Byron Dyce of Jamaican citizenship, 880 winner, and Mexican Juan Martinez, second in the six-mile.

Attendance at the Miami-Dade South Junior College stadium was 9500 on Saturday and 10,500 on Sunday. The weather was in the mid-90s, humid and sunny the first day, in the low 90s, humid and cloudy the next. It was the ideal time to try a novel idea suggested by former distance great Fred Wilt for the benefit of the long-distance runners whose sufferings in hot and humid races he knows all too well. The suggestion to sprinkle the runners with water as they ran the three- and six-miles was passed along by Track & Field News, was adopted by committee, and 16 sprinkling stations were installed. But there was a change of mind and the sprinklers were not used. Instead, the runners were offered wet cloths and cups of water on each lap. Three- and six-mile times were surprisingly good under the conditions.

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