

## CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

## New Emerging Powers

by Joe Henderson

Track is quite a little more clear-cut than cross country. In track, standardized as the running, throwing and jumping areas are, comparisons of athletes in Florida with those in Washington come rather easily. Their marks are a handy--though not perfect--guide. Big track meets also bring the country's best men together for face-to-face comparisons. The fall sport lacks these predictability factors. Times mean next to nothing since course distances and terrain are as varied as nature can make them. Man-to-man races are the only truly accurate measurement of individual abilities, and it's rare when more than a handful of the nation's leaders get together on the same course and day. The only meets with national representation are still several weeks away, so while the cross country season remains in the smaller-meet stage all we can do is glance at the trends which seem to be shaping up.

**Northeast:** Easterners take their cross country quite seriously, and regular winners there must have through some determined opposition to do it. Through mid-October, Penn sophomore Julio Piazza hadn't lost in seven races. Piazza, a New Yorker who is well acquainted with the much-traveled Van Cortlandt Park course in the Bronx, has the year's two fastest five-mile times there--25:18.6 and 25:21.0. Julio missed his freshman track season because of a fractured leg. Other top marks at Van Cortlandt, scene of the IC4A and NCAA championships: Steve Fee (Army) 25:25, Dan Rowe (St John's) 25:33. Frank Murphy, now running for the New York AC, went four-miles at the park in 20:34 while winning an AAU race.

Villanova's three-time NCAA champion team smashed Penn State, 19-41, in season's first meet. The British-Irish contingent of Chris Mason, Donal Walsh (tied for first) and Dave Wright easily outran last year's IC4A freshman champ Greg Fredericks of Penn State. Briton Phil Banning began his Villanova running by winning the three-mile frosh race in 14:22.6. He'll be called up to the varsity, no doubt, for the national title race later this month.

**South:** The one big southern meet to date has been the Callaway Gardens Invitational at Pine Mountain, Ga. Florida, the area's top team, cleaned up. Jack Bachelier, a graduate student at the school who trains with the undergraduates, narrowly beat Florida State's Ken Misner over six-miles, 29:04.6 to 29:06.0. Then came Florida runners John Parker (29:29), Jack Nason (29:35) and freshman Mark Bir (29:40) to pace the team's 46 point victory. Owen Self finished sixth in 29:45 for runnerup Tennessee.

Howell Michael of William & Mary got in a fine race against Navy. He circled the five-mile course in 25:15.8--1:17 ahead of anyone else. Tennessee has had some troubles. It barely beat Eastern Kentucky, 28-31, in a race won by Eastern's Ken Silvious, and later lost to upsurging Cincinnati, 28-31. Cincinnati's Dave Stapleton outran Ken Rowlett of Tennessee by four seconds with 24:55 over a course called 5½-miles. Earlier, Cincinnati had beaten Ohio State by taking four of the top five places.

**Midwest:** Western Michigan, the last team before Villanova to win the NCAA race, is lining up for another solid shot at that title. In the talent-packed Notre Dame Invitational, Western's 40 points shattered strong second-placer Eastern Michigan, which scored 102. Steeplechaser Jerry Liebenberg won the five-miler in a swift 23:49.2, and four of his Western Michigan teammates packed into the top 14 in a 169-man field. Other leaders: 2. Sid Sink (B Green St) 24:08; 3. Dave Campbell (En Mich) 24:12; 4. Jerry Richey (Pitt) 24:17; 5.

George Davis (Wn Mich) 24:18. Mike Hazilla, back from an injury that ruined his running last year, won a race advertised as five-miles in 23:26 during an earlier Western Michigan meet.

Dave Ellis of Eastern Michigan, a leading contender in both the NAIA and AAU races (the latter in nearby Detroit), has run only sparingly. In one dual, he beat teammate Campbell by four seconds (25:21 for five-miles) and they were a half-minute ahead of everyone else. With Ellis out, Campbell won the Eastern Michigan Open in 25:24 on a different five-mile course. Minnesota sports a great dual team. One week it blanked none-too-weak Wisconsin, 15-46, and had five leaders within one second. The next week, Indiana's Bob Legge won but Minnesotans streaked in second through sixth, four seconds separating. But then came a 28-29 scare from Michigan State. Freshman Garry Bjorklund of Minnesota won that five-miler in 24:56.4, with teammate Mike Hanley six-tenths back.

**Southwest and Mountains:** El Paso has gotten by without more good runners this fall than most teams ever have available. Kerry Pearce and Ken Breen missed early meets, Pete Romero, Rod Hill and Kerry Ellison were red-shirted and Chris Fisher isn't running. And still the team is a first-rate power. Its biggest victory came in the Oklahoma State Jamboree, 36-47 over Kansas. El Paso's Dan McKillip bounded the four-miles in 19:39 to beat second-placing teammate John Bednarski, a freshman from England, by 15 seconds. Larbi Oukada (19:56) and Alvin Penka (19:58) went three-four for Fort Hays State, followed by Kansas' Rich Elliott (20:06) and Breen (20:11). In an earlier triangular, Bednarski had beaten McKillip, 18:04.6 to 18:11.0, over a probably short four-mile course at 5200-foot altitude.

Mike Ryan of Air Force is back in competition after his habitual track season layoff. No one has come close to beating the NCAA champion. In recent races, he was 1:30 ahead of Wyoming's 4:01 miler Wayne Jensen, beat Big 10 winner Doug Scorrar by 27 seconds and won by 38 seconds against Nebraska.

**Pacific Coast:** Southern California and Stanford are as good as predicted, maybe better in Stanford's case. SC swept to victory with 27 points in the Long Beach Invitational, with Rick Muth (24:10), Rich Carr (24:11) and freshman Fred Ritcherson (24:12) going one-two-three over a five-mile course. Stanford's first big race was the Sacramento State Invitational. Gary Tuttle of the Striders got around the sandy, dusty 4.2-mile route first in 21:45, followed by Cal's Bob Waldon, then came Bob Coe in third and four other Stanford runners in the first nine. The two Pac-8 powers met in a six-mile quadrangular Oct. 18. Ritcherson beat sophomore Coe narrowly, 30:33 to 30:35, but Stanford was a 31-45 winner. SC still doesn't have Ole Oleson, who is recovering from knee surgery. UCLA is just as strong, having surprised Stanford 27-28 on Oct. 25.

Washington State hasn't been pressed yet. It blanked Idaho with Gerry Lindgren tying two freshmen at the end, easily beat Idaho State and Idaho with Lindgren topping frosh Mark Hiefield by 12 seconds with a 20:24 four-mile Rick Riley, who hadn't run the two previous meets, beat Gerry by a second in the Central Washington Invitational, running 25:03 on what was called a 5.4-mile course. Washington State beat Washington, 22-53, in the team race. Finn Seppo Matela won a Portland race involving seven teams. His four-mile was 20:36 as he held off Doug Crooks and Spencer Lyman of Oregon State's team winners. Defending AAU titlist John Mason got two early wins in southern California four-milers. Runner-up in one was onetime prep standout Otis Martin, a transfer to San Diego State, who beat ex-NCAA champ John Lawson.

## MONTHLY ROUND-UP

## Bondarchuk: Yet Again

Anatoliy Bondarchuk continued his hammer record breaking after taking charge of the event last month. But for Bill Toomey a world mark in the decathlon still is a tantalizingly close objective that remains scant points beyond his reach. The Olympic champ is considering still another try in mid-November. After stepping out from behind Romuald Klim and Gyula Zsivotzky and nailing down a world record win at the European championships three weeks earlier, Bondarchuk put the hammer record out an additional 31½ inches to 247'7½".

Twice Toomey tried to surpass Kurt Bendlin as world decathlon leader. Bill got little satisfaction from the fact that he got an American record of 8277 in the first attempt. His "farewell" two weeks later netted him 8270 points.

Lee Evans' tour to Kenya resulted in his first-ever loss to a non-American over one lap. Charles Asati did the damage, but in their next race Evans won easily with a metric 45.2.

## US Highlights

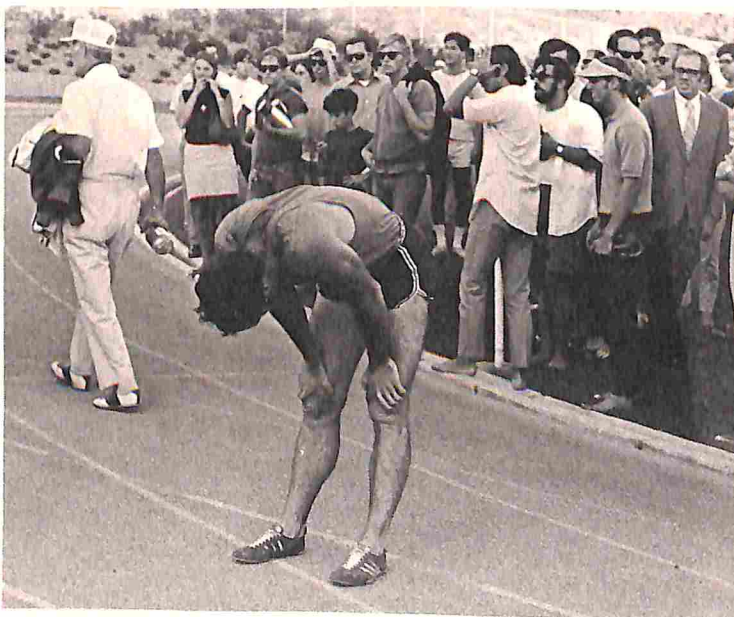
## UCLA Decathlon: Toomey's 8277 Falls Short

Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 3-4 (by Bert Nelson)--When Bill Toomey completed what was to be the last competition of a long decathlon career he had achieved a lifetime best and a new American record, but he left the field disappointed, disgusted and frustrated.

The 30-year-old Olympic champ rolled up 8277 points in a special invitational decathlon. It bettered his previous high of 8234 and Russ Hodge's national record of 8230. But Toomey remained third on the all-time list and was thwarted on two counts. He fell two digits short of bettering Joachim Kirst's seasonal best. But mostly he was upset because Kurt Bendlin's world record 8319 had withstood his best shots.

"I'd like to do another one," Toomey said shortly after the final point tabulation. "I know I can break Bendlin's record. In fact, when I woke up this morning I decided I would not be satisfied even if I did break the record. I should do better than just beat 8319. I know I can do 8400, perhaps more."

(Continued on page 4)



Bill Toomey is barely finished with the 1500 of his first record-trying decathlon at UCLA, and it's plain to see he didn't achieve his objective. Combined fatigue and dejection weigh on Bill himself, though he got an American record of 8277. His father walks away, and the small crowd is unsmiling. Bill's later attempt fell short, too. (Photo by Don Chadez)



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