

Outdoor Season Full Bore

Athletes wasted no time in shifting the emphasis from the indoor season to outdoors, where exciting marks began promising even more thrilling performances as the campaign matures.

Foremost was Mark Murro, who armed the javelin to an American record and the fourth performer best mark of 300'0" to snatch two barriers. In his first nine meets through April 4, he averaged a sensational 277'5" for his top effort per meet--a series never before achieved so early in a year.

Washington State's John Van Reenen twice lifted the South African national discus record, first to 207'8" and then to 208'10" in Pullman competitions.

Texas A&M, with more than a little help from the Mills brothers, posted the fastest times in the world in the 440-, 880- and mile relays with clockings of 39.7, 1:22.1 and 3:08.4 after heats of 1:22.5 and 3:11.2. The 880-yard mark equaled San Jose State's world standard. In measureable events, Marvin Mills raced to 19.9 and 46.6 splits after a trial of 46.5 while Curt is managed 20.7 and 45.7 after a trial of 46.5. They also ran legs in the 440 relay. The mile relay effort was claimed without the assistance of 46.3 quarter-miler Willie Blackmon.

Indoors, most of the action in the closing season came in Europe, where Ricky Wilde of Great Britain clocked a record 7:47.0 3000-meters. Clockings of 46.6 were produced on Vienna's 200-meter oval by Andrzej Badenski of Poland and Aleksandr Bratchikov of the USSR.

AMERICAN JAVELIN RECORD HOLDER

Murro Forges New Era

by Nordy Jensen

A fierce competitor, dedicated to becoming the best in his field--this is Mark Murro.

A slightly bashful, quiet, easygoing collegian, not bothered on the surface by any of the "up tight" pressures affecting many of his fellow generation--this is Mark Murro.

He also happens to be the premier javelin thrower in the United States at the young age of 20. The Arizona State junior holds the prep, junior college, collegiate and American records in his pet event. The latter two marks were just recently improved from his own 292'8", fifth-ranking all-time, in 1969 to his 300'0", moving him to fourth-best ever, on March 27 of this season.

But to the complexities that make up Mark Murro.

You talk to his coach Baldy Castillo and his assistant coach and weight training supervisor Jon Cole, and you get the feeling: don't challenge Murro in anything, he's so competitive that he'll whip you.

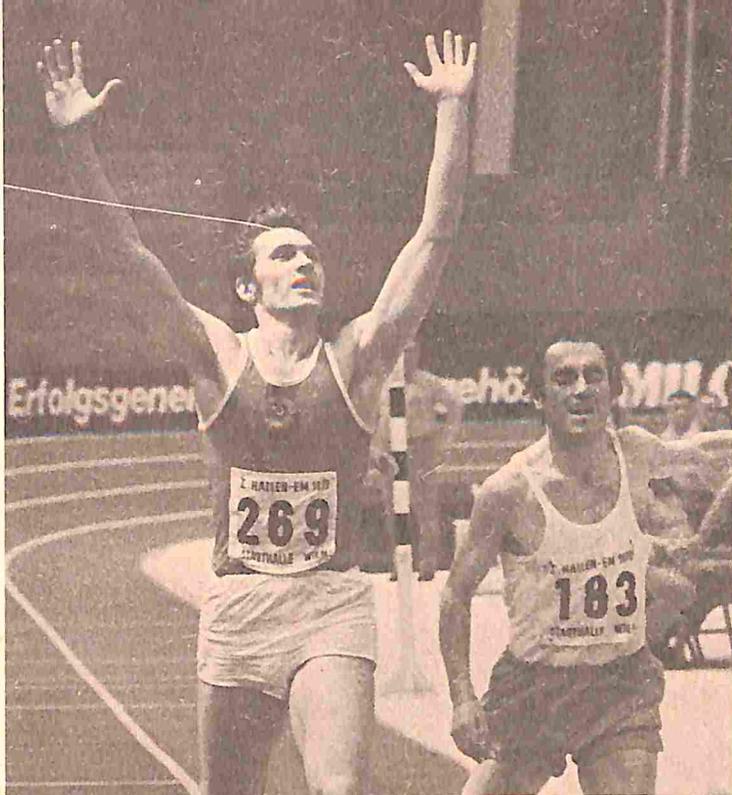
Then you talk to Murro who comes on anything but strong. He's mature, that's for sure. He was in the Olympics at the age of 19 and competed in the national AAU title meet as an 18-year-old high school senior. But he's anything but boastful.

His quiet determination developed on the streets of Newark, New Jersey, the city where he was raised. While others were inside watching television, Mark would be outside--trying to better others in anything they attempted, whether it be street football or Pony League baseball where he was named his league's outstanding pitcher.

This aggressiveness was channeled at Newark Essex Catholic High School when Mark decided he "wanted to be strong" and headed to the weight room.

Soon, he headed to the track where the javelin was being introduced into the high school system. Mark picked it up one day, heaved it 150-feet on his first try ever and he has been improving ever since. He proceeded to riddle the jun-

(Continued on page 14)



Jubilant Soviet Aleksandr Bratchikov (l), the finish tape draped around his head, nosed out Poland's Andrzej Badenski for the European indoor 400 title, both running 46.8. Each set a continental record of 46.6 in the heats and Bratchikov later blazed a 45.6 anchor on the winning Soviet 1600 relay team. (Photo by Marcel Besson, "Miroir de l'Athletisme")

EUROPEAN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

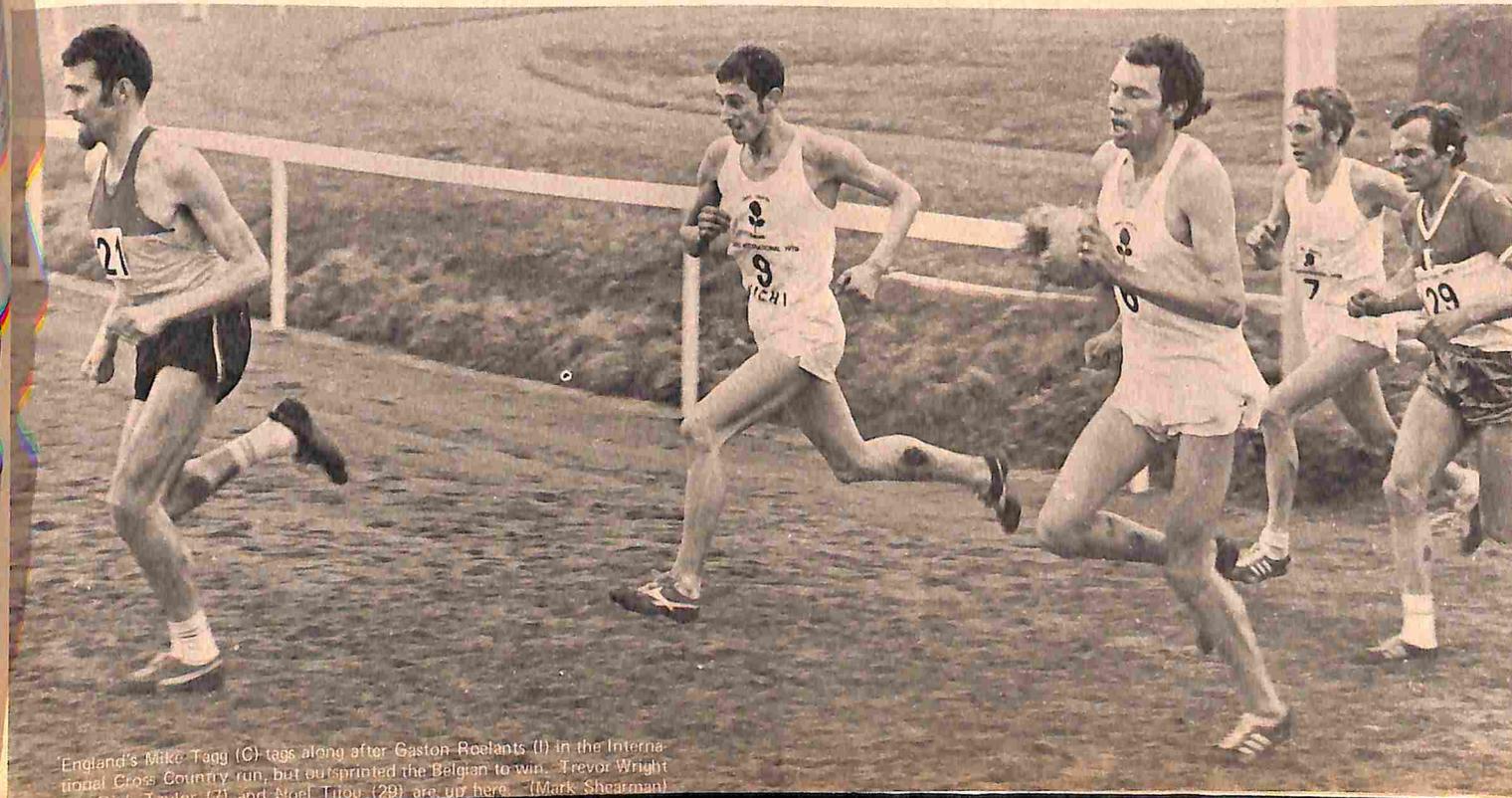
A Very Classy Competition

by R. L. Quercetani

Vienna, Austria, March 14-15--The inaugural European Indoor Championships turned out to be one of the greatest track festivals ever held under a roof--if not THE greatest. What really impressed observers was the depth shown in most, if not all, events. That included such dandies as seven men under eight minutes in the 3000-meters, six over 7-feet in the high jump, 10 over 25-feet in the long jump.

The two-day meet was held at Vienna's beautiful Stadthalle on a 200-meter banked board track covered with a rekortan surface. These excellent facilities were conducive to a number of top-class achievements, including two world's indoor bests--by Ricky Wilde of Great Britain in the 3000-meters (7:47.0) and Viktor Saneyev of the USSR in the triple jump (55'7 1/4"). Two European standards were also improved, in the 400-meters by Andrzej Badenski of Poland and

(Continued on page 9)



England's Mike Tagg (C) tags along after Gaston Roelants (l) in the International Cross Country run, but outsprinted the Belgian to win. Trevor Wright (r), Dick Taylor (7) and Noel Titou (29) are up here. (Mark Shearman)

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