

# Men of Brawn, Speed and Skill

**MEN OF BRAWN, SPEED AND SKILL WHO WILL CONTEST FOR THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE OLYMPIAN GAMES.**



W. A. Schrick



Martin Sheridan Throwing the Discus



Perikles Kakovits



Daniels New York A.C.

**The Discus Throwing Vatican, Rome**

**Myer Prinstein winning hop, step and jump in Olympic Games**

**The Greek Runner**

**100 metre dash at the 3rd Modern Olympiad**

ATHLETES the earth over, especially those who run, swim, vault, put weights, hop, step and jump in the name of Uncle Sam, are looking toward Athens, Greece, just now as the scene of the approaching Olympic games, the fourth modern Olympiad, which occur in the last week of this month.

As officially announced, thirty American athletes will bear the Stars and Stripes to triumph or defeat in the shadow of the colossal temple of Zeus. Never, it may be ventured, has more interest been excited by an international athletic event, even including the three previous Olympic games, held respectively at Athens, Paris and St. Louis, than is being shown in the impending series. Greece, Germany, France, England, Austria, Scandinavia, Ireland and the United States are mustering their bravest and fittest talent in anticipation of the most strenuous athletic tournament since Peloponnesian days.

Added dignity will be given to this fourth modern Olympiad by the presence not only of the royal family of Greece, King George I. and Queen Olga, with the Princess Helen and her five brothers, but it is expected, both King Edward and Queen Alexandra, will attend the games. Athens is paying the way for the royal visitors with an energy which the Athenians have seldom or never shown since Greece was at the height of its greatness.

Preliminary preparations fully confirm the prophecy as to these 1928 games, setting those of 1906, 1900 and 1904 in other respects as well. While a host of records were broken in the Mississippi Valley stadium two years ago, a large majority of the competitors were American. But this year, with nearly a dozen nationalities represented by unquestionably the flower of contemporary athletic ability, the historic event assumes an international importance hitherto missing.

**Severe Test for America.**

Judging by the care and effort made in calling the American candidates our athletic superiority is to be put to a heroic test, this time, on the combined athletic power of Europe. America is well prepared to give Uncle Sam the battle of his gymnastic life. The American team sailed for Athens on the 10th of April, and will arrive in Athens on April 16, six days before the competitions begin. If the winner of the Marathon race, a twenty-five mile run from Athens to Marathon, by an American he will receive, in addition to the world's championship medal, a one hundred dollar silver cup offered by the Boston Athletic Association. Here is a full list of the American representation:

One Hundred Metres—G. H. Quoyrouz, New Orleans; Y. M. C. A.; W. A. Schrick, Harvard University; Archie Hahn, Milwaukee A. C.; and W. D. Bacia, Cambridgeport Gymnasium.

Four Hundred Metres—Harry L. Hillman, New York A. C.; W. A. Schrick, Harvard University; and F. R. Moulton, Kansas City Athletic Club.

Eight Hundred Metres—H. V. Valentine, New York A. C.; and Charles J. Bacon, Irish-American A. C.

Fifteen Hundred Metres—James P. Sullivan and G. V. Bonhag, Irish-American A. C.

Marathon Race—J. J. Forshaw, Missourian A. C.; St. Louis; J. Fowler, Cambridgeport Gymnasium; W. G. Frank and Harvey Cobb, Irish-American A. C.; and Mike Spring, Pauline A. C.

Hurdles—One Hundred Metres—Hugo Friend, Chicago A. A.; and R. G. Leavitt, Williams College.

Five Mile Run—G. V. Bonhag, Irish-American A. C.

Stone Throwing and Discus—Richard Sheldon and James B. Mitchell, New York A. C.

Standing Broad Jump—Ray Ewry, New York A. C.

Running Broad Jump—Hugo Friend, Chicago A. A.; and M. Prinstein, Irish-American A. C.

Running Hop, Step and Jump—M. Prinstein, Irish-American A. C.

Swimming—C. J. Ewry, New York A. C.; Marquand Schwartz, Missouri A. C.; and H. A. Birnamann, Chicago A. A.

High Jump—H. W. Kerrigan, Multnomah A. C., Portland, Ore.

Pole Vault—F. H. Oliver, Chicago A. A.

Shot—American A. C., and Elmer H. Clark, Boston Athletic Association.

York Athletic Club, who, however, will not accompany the American team, won the 1600-yard hammer event with, under the circumstances, the remarkable throw of 187 feet 11 inches, while F. W. B. Teschbury, of the University of Pennsylvania, was invincible in the 200-metre run and the 400-metre hurdle race. Of the twenty events contested in the last foreign Olympic tournament seventeen were won by Americans while every event, save the 66-pound weight and lifting the bar bell, was won by an American in the third tourney at St. Louis.

Will the United States maintain the very extraordinary record? Secretary Sullivan, of the amateur Athletic Union, is sanguine as to the outcome, but frankly admits that American athletes will be disputed as winners before at every paragraph on the programme. Why? Ah, Europe seems to have awakened at last to the importance of the Olympic revival, and reports have been arriving almost daily of additional entries being made abroad. But for the fact said a member of the pioneer American Olympic team, that the best athletes of Europe were absent from the 1906 games, the twenty-five Americans who went to Athens would have returned a sadder and wiser delegation. On that occasion America was only represented by ten men from the Boston Athletic Club and Princeton College.

In 1904, at Paris, the Americans snubbed everything but the distance runs and the discus, a Frenchman winning the Marathon and an Englishman capturing the 4000-metre steeplechase, while Bauer, of Hungary, won the discus event. As the Marathon—the ancient classic of the Greeks—has never been won by an American on foreign soil, this event has more American candidates than any other on the programme, the five showing being Harvey Cobb, Michael Spear, John J. Forshaw, Fowler and W. G. Frank. This race of 25 miles, 1600 yards, will of course be run over the same ground that Phidippides trod.

Doubtless the average reader will be interested in a comparison between the old Greek athletes and those of to-day. Are modern athletes as strong of body, skilled of brain and fleet of foot as their ancient forerunners? Since the eyes of the ath-

letic world are turning toward Athens, suppose an impartial comparison is attempted. Unfortunately the Greeks of the pre-Christian days had no exact time measure and were notoriously inaccurate in their measurement of distance. Homer speaks of a chariot distancing another as far as a vigorous child could throw the discus. The distance by which a steed could outpace a heifer was another standard of measurement. Glancing over the ancient records, in fact, one is tempted to believe it was an Athenian, rather than a son of Bria, who described something as about the size of a piece of chalk.

**Ancient Greek Records.**

Considering some of the historic long distance races run by the Pan-Hellenic champions, it will be noted that Phidippides traversed 135 miles over extremely rocky territory in two days, with news of the advancing Persians. He almost retained an apoplexy as a result of this heroic performance, but, unfortunately, the chronicler, Herodotus, was habitually credulous and inaccurate, and hence his statement that the Spartan army, which answered the summons, reached Attica in the course of the third day, must be taken with a pinch of salt. It is hard to conceive of such a performance unless the Spartan force was equipped with magic boots.

History also credits Argos with winning

the dolchos of two and one-half miles at the Olympic games, and straightway starting on a sixty mile homeward run to boast to his wife the joyous tidings. Pliny mentions Anaxotes of Sparta and Philonides, the herald of Alexander the Great, as completing between them 18 miles in one day, but Pliny was so given to loose writing as Herodotus. He reports in another passage how a nine-year-old lad traversed seventy miles during the hours of sunlight, which almost staggers credulity.

Comparing these performances with those of recent times, one finds Rowell of England, travelling 100 miles in twenty-two hours and thirty minutes at New York in 1882. Ninety miles of the way was traversed in twelve hours. While these modern feats were performed over carefully prepared courses, as compared with the up-hill-and-down-dale distances negotiated by Phidippides, whose food and rest were haphazard, one may nevertheless believe that the winner of the next Marathon race would be able to equal it.

Comparing the movements of combined forces of men, the march of the Spartan army, remarkable as it was, was overshadowed by the wonderful march of the Napoleonic forces under Marshal Marmont, when an average rate of forty miles a day was maintained for a fortnight.

Of old, the Olympic runners suffered a severe handicap in being held at the start with leathern straps—literally like greyhound in leash. Also there is frequent mention of the dusty road or course wherein the runners were often hidden from view.

**Various Exhibitions.**

Originally the Olympic games were scarcely more than a match of runners in the measured course known as the stadium. Continuous series of the victors were recorded by the Elisians, beginning with Korobus in 776 B. C. During the seventh Olympiad, after Korobus, a Messenian named Daikles was the first victor in leaping. Also there is frequent mention of the dusty road or course wherein the runners were often hidden from view.

This last addition deserves special notice, not merely as diversifying the programme, but as bringing into competition a totally new order of contestants—men and women who possessed the fleetest horses and could hire the best drivers without any personal superiority or power of bodily display of themselves. The prodigious array of wealth represented in these chariot contests evidenced the growing importance of the games at that period.

Two other matches were added in the thirty-third Olympiad—the Pankraton, or boxing and wrestling combined, with the deer as the prize, and the single race for horses. During its greatest period, the Olympian festival occupied five days, but from then until the seventy-seventh Olympiad the programme was narrowed gradually to one day, beginning at dawn and ending at dusk.

The simple Stadium event was over a 300 yard course, and the Diakulos was just

twice as long, while the Dolichos was twenty-four times the length of the Stadium, or about eighty yards less than two and one-half miles. It may be emphasized that the courses of the Elisians and the Dolichos were not in the nature of laps, but simply forward and backward along the same track. Hence it is improbable that Ladas or Dandros, the Arive, or Antipatros of Epirus ever travelled as rapidly as will Schick, of Harvard, or Archie Hahn, of Milwaukee, next month.

The Greek had no high jump, so that one point of comparison, outside the time records, is denied us. As for the long leap, the records are only such as to darken counsel. Phaylion, of Kroton, according to inscriptions on various pedestals, leaped a distance of 55 feet, and the Attic foot, be it remembered, was a bit longer than our own. One modern authority reckons the distance at 45 feet 1 inch, but this is equally incredible to any one versed in the branch of athletics. It is true, the ancients used weights in jumping, but otherwise the jump was the same as practised today. As may be recalled in this connection, the greatest leap of modern times was 24 feet 11 1/2 inches, made by O'Connor in Ireland. Possibly this record was eclipsed by Howard, of Bradford, who in 1864 is said to have cleared 7 feet 7 inches with dumb bells of five pounds each. Among his extraordinary feats was leaping from Dover to Calais, a distance of 219 miles.

**The O and the New.**

Though the ancient Olympians were masters of feinting, blocking, side stepping, ducking and dodging in their boxing contests it is doubtful whether the celebrated Melancomas was in the same class of shadow fighters as Corbett or O'Brien. The mill between Pollus and Amyon, one of the most exciting episodes in the voyage of the Argonauts, is recorded in Theocritus and Apollonius. The antagonists wore the cestus or gauntlet of leather thonged Amyon was tricker and rather unfair, while Pollus was cool and wary. He countered on the other, broke his jaw, then with another blow landed on his forehead and laid it bare to the bone, and finally slew him with a crushing blow on the temple.

On the other hand, the contest between Kreugas and Damoxenos lasted from until dusk, and must have been distinguished by exceeding skill. As for the wrestlers, there is no record of the extraordinary strength of many of them. Milo, for example, carried an ox on his shoulders, and, indeed, met his death through his own strength, having rent the bole of a tree asunder and been caught on the rebound. But there is no record of the early Greek Romanus corresponding to the modern feat of Louis Cyr, Sandow or Hackenschmidt, the Russian.

Swimming was one of the most generally practiced exercises of the Greeks, and their high water work seems to have been the legendary feat of Leander crossing the Hellespont. But even this dwindles by comparison with the feat of swimming from Dover to Calais in less than twenty-two hours.

There is evidence, despite statutory idealisms to the contrary, that the Grecian tendency was to produce men of bulky muscle rather than pliability. Platte himself trained as an athlete, speaks of the Olympic champions as "notoriously sluggish and lacking in intelligence. Eurypides, Plutarch and Galen were of an opinion that the ancient system of physical training with respect to professional athletes and the athletes of early history were almost invariably professional—was more harmful than beneficial. Two years ago to have been the limit of extreme vigor among the Olympians. There is no record of a Pheidippides or anything approximating his equal in the early Olympiads.

Still further considering the Greek statistics as an example of the Pan-Hellenic physique, we have Xenophon describing the athlete of his acquaintance as being unevenly developed, owing to a tendency toward specialization. He mentions the long distance runner with his overdeveloped legs and his underdeveloped shoulders and arms, and the wrestler, with his powerful torso, but comparatively meagre lower limbs.

By comparing the American Olympic candidates pictured on this page with the famous statues of the Greek boxers, the discus throwers and the wrestlers, it will be seen that the American athletes are by no means uniformly developed, nor can it be added, are any champion modern athletes comparable to the Greek criterion in beauty, symmetry, strength and grace of physique. The divergence from the ideal standard being a necessary sequel to specialization.

Getting everything into consideration—the wether of modern achievement in the athletic field—it is believable that modern American athletes have almost unquestionably reached a higher stage of general physical and mental development than the early Olympians. It is true, the modern athletes have been offered those American candidates who set first places in the Marathon race, the five mile run, the weight throwing and other events, no encouragement will be lacking for some reward breaking performances. Meanwhile Athens promises to supersede Argos very soon as the scene of very interesting news from our coast.

## Subsidizing the Reindeer in the Remote Regions of Alaska.

ALTHOUGH it is not more than fifteen years ago that the reindeer was transported from Siberia to Alaska, the enterprise has passed the initial stage of experiment and is a successful one. It did not take Dr. Jackson long to decide that the United States would soon have to choose between feeding 20,000 natives or letting them starve to death. The alternative being expensive because of the distance from any source of supplies, the idea of making the Eskimos self-supporting came to him from the fact that the Siberians, just across the strait, living under exactly the same conditions, were able to care for themselves. The government sought to imitate the success of the Siberians had herds of reindeer to look back upon when game was scarce.

The following winter Dr. Jackson brought the matter before Congress and asked for an appropriation with which to import a few reindeer into Alaska as an experiment. The government sought to imitate the success of the Siberians had herds of reindeer to look back upon when game was scarce.

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bone, ivory tusks, sealskins and oil, had been the coin which purchased the warm reindeer skin for clothing from the Siberians across the strait.

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natives of Siberia to part with any of their deer. After the expedition had sailed for fifteen hundred miles along the Siberian coast they at last succeeded in buying a native who would barter the deer for American goods. Cash he would not accept. This trouble has been overcome in a measure, however, there is still a reluctance on the owners' part to spare any of their stock.

The profits of reindeer raising are enormous and the work is simple. A doe which will cost its owner less than a dollar a year for the first four years will at the end of that time sell at the mines for \$50 to \$100 for meat. If it be trained to the sled it will be worth twice as much. They are prolific, and after they are two years old will add a fawn to the herd every year for ten years. On account of their timid and gregarious habits the reindeer are easily herded, and one man can easily manage one thousand head. The cow gives a teacupful of very rich milk about the thickness of cream, which makes delicious cheese and mixed with water forms a refreshing drink.

Though the Alaskan deer cannot equal those of Lapland in speed, a pair of them can pull a load of five hundred to seven

hundred pounds at the rate of thirty-five miles a day and keep it up for weeks. They can travel at night as well as in the day, so that during the long Arctic nights they make transportation possible, whereas a day team does not. They can also be used for packing and for riding when one becomes accustomed to the motion.

The United States government loan a certain number of the deer to the missions or to people who have shown their ability to care for them. At the end of three or five years the government has the right to call for the return of the original number. The Congressional Mission at Cape Prince of Wales was granted the loan of one hundred deer in 1894, since then it has paid them back and has a thousand head in its own right. The possession of a herd at each mission station means much. It establishes the permanence of the mission, for without it the natives are from home a large part of the time in search of food. And since the advent of the miners the tendency is to leave their homes and go to the mining villages, where they live by begging and idleness. This life would soon result in their extinction. It also gives the missionaries the ability to reward industry by

## Curious Survivals of the Belief in the Power of Cures by Magic.

IN spite of compulsory education, which has been in force for the last thirty years, there are still evidences in England of the power of superstition in the minds of people who live in remote parts of the kingdom. The wise woman in an English village is a dangerous rival of the physician. She is skilled in the wonders of X-ray and Plaster light cures. Many rustics in Yorkshire still believe in the efficacy of baked mouse as a cure for whooping cough, and this in spite of the fact that the district association provides trained nurses for the sick in their homes. The greatest part of this remedy is that its value is supposed to be not in the mouse but in the cheese it has eaten. In whooping cough, of all ailments, seems to have the greatest number of strange cures. The Lancers in the Crimea, who had the greatest number of ailments, seem to have the greatest number of strange cures. The Lancers in the Crimea, who had the greatest number of ailments, seem to have the greatest number of strange cures.

A clergyman in Derbyshire whose children were suffering with whooping cough tells of another strange remedy which he heard from the wife of his coachman. She came to him with little silk bags which were to be tied around the necks of the children. Each contained hair cut from the cross of a donkey's back.

In Somersetshire they use a combination of turpentine, treacle and other ingredients which are rubbed on the sufferer's palms, soles and pit of the stomach four times each day. One mother, who had been a trained nurse for years, in order to prove the efficacy of this remedy to her neighbors, tried it for her child, who was suffering from the disease. To her amazement the cough actually stopped under this treatment.

There is a very prevalent belief in a cure for convulsions which consists of the false tongue of a coil dried and powdered. This is mixed with water and taken three times each day. Quinsy is cured by catching a load and hanging it in the chimney for the night. In the morning it is cut down and the string which held it is tied about the neck of the sufferer. There are some astonishing cures told in support of this remedy. The leader of a detachment of the Salisbury Army in Oxfordshire called upon the rector of the parish one day and asked to be given some of the grease from the church bell. This was to cure his child,

who was afflicted with the shingles. A ring made from the silver coins which had been collected from the Holy Communion service is still regarded as a sure cure for epilepsy, and the clairvoyant powers of the seventh child is held to in many parts of the country.

One of the most curious ideas which still survive is the belief in the transmission of disease to animals. Many people can be found whose cure for a cough is to eat a lock of hair from the sufferer's head, wrap it in a piece of meat and give it to a dog. By swallowing the hair the dog receives the cure. The hair is sometimes given to the rector of the parish one day and asked to be given some of the grease from the church bell. This was to cure his child,

also be given to a person. There is a case on record of a woman who recently skinned and boiled a new born puppy and gave the soup to her six-month-old child. The broth was supposed to change the blood and give the dog's strength to the baby.

Several instances of the still prevalent belief in the "wet eater" have been reported to the British Association during the last year. A piece of bread and cheese is placed on the breast of a corpse and for a monetary consideration the "wet eater" eats the food. The belief is that the sin eater and relieve the dead man of the weight of his iniquity.

At the Essex Assizes a few years ago it was stated in the evidence given in an establishing case the hearing of the knife which indicated them and placing it in the victim's hand. The knife was greased to prevent it from rusting, and mortification is supposed to follow the rusting of the instrument.

At Blackburn a man was convicted of the theft of a dog. As a defence he pleaded that the fat of a stolen dog was a cure for rheumatism, and in this he had stolen the dog to use its fat as an ointment.

## Verchoiausk, the Coldest Town in the World.

It is generally believed that Verchoiausk for sleds. It is a dreary place, though. The summer lasts only four months, and during the other eight of the year it is bitterly cold. The thermometer sometimes indicates 56 degrees below zero, and seldom goes above 59 degrees until April 30. Corn will not grow in this desolate region. Barley and oats have been sown, but have always succumbed to the early

frosts. Of vegetables there are only the radish and the turnip, with perhaps an occasional and very precarious crop of potatoes. Cabbages all run to leaf. The ground rarely thaws, even during the hot season, beyond twelve or eighteen inches deep, and in places most exposed to the sun never beyond a yard. Most of the dwellings are built of spruce and covered thickly with mud.

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