

The Great Athletics

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 Kakovitsis

100 metre dash at the 3rd Modern Olympiad



Myer Prinstein winning hop, step and jump in Olympic Games

The Greek Runner

The Discus Throwing Vatican, Rome

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, of England, 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, time on the combined athletic power of Europe, Asia and Australia, are 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. Quoyrouza, New Orleans, La.; W. A. Schrick, Harvard University; Archie Hahn, Milwaukee, Wis.; and W. D. Bacia, Cambridgeport, Massachusetts.

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

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, Missouri A. C.; St. Louis; J. Fowler, Cambridgeport Gymnasium; W. G. Frank and Harvey Cobb, Irish-American A. C.; and Mike Spring, Palestine, A. C.

Hurdles (One Hundred Metres)—Hugo Friend, Chicago, A. C.; 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. C.; and M. Prinstein, Irish-American A. C.

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

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

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

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

Shot—H. W. Kerrigan, Multnomah 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, inches, while F. W. B. Tesbury, 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 surprised everyone as previously noted, by winning 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, Mike Spring, W. G. Frank, Thos. Fowler and W. G. Frank. This race of 26 miles, 385 yards, will of course be run over the same ground that Pheidippides 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 athletic world are turning toward Athens, suppose an impartial comparison is attempted.

Unfortunately the Greeks of the pre-Christian days had no exact time measures 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 steer 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 Pheidippides 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 glib 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.

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 Marceau, when an average rate of forty miles a day was maintained for a fortnight.

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 Dolichos 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 Schrick, 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, as it is 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 1841 is said to have cleared for 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 Amyous, 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 Amyous 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 for ten days, 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. He responded 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 being "big, tough and lacking in intelligence. Eurypylus, Plataeh 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. Five years seems to have been the limit of extreme vigor among the Olympians. There is no record of a Pithagoras or anything approximating his equal in the early Olympiads.

Still further considering the Greek physique, as 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 probable that the prizes have been offered those American candidates who get 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 Algiers 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 soon adopted the plan, and the Siberians had herds of reindeer to fall 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 soon agreed to the plan, and several private individuals raised \$2,000 with which the experiment was begun. Later the amount was increased till it amounts to \$28,000 annually.

The next difficulty was to persuade the 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 finding 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 they will add a few more to the herd 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 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

establishing those so inclined in the reindeer industry and promoting their well-being.

The herd also means a supply of fresh meat for consumption, while the food is mostly salted or canned. This is no small benefit to comfort and health. The reindeer also provides the missionaries a way of reaching the outlying settlements. The deer is to the desert the reindeer is to the far North. The full development of the mining interests in Alaska cannot be realized till there are sufficient deer in that region to supply the miners with food and to take the carcasses and connect them with the outside world.

Should there be no more reindeer imported from Alaska, according to the present rate of increase within less than twenty-five years there will be 1,000,000 head of these animals in Alaska. In thirty-five years the number may reach 10,000,000, and the United States will be receiving from Alaska thousands of reindeer, carcasses and tons of hams and tongues. Before the advent of the present century Alaska will be helping to feed 99,000,000 inhabitants of the United States. This is another instance of the profits which arise from the casting of bread upon the waters.

who was afflicted with the shingles. A plug made from the silver cord 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 cough. The hair is sometimes given to a neighbor's cat and this has the same result. An animal's strength can

also be given to a person. There is a case on record of a woman who recently gave birth to a new born puppy and she 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 momentary 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 hanging of the knif 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 had stolen the dog to use its fat as an ointment.

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, and she is skilled in the wonders of X-ray and Plaster light cures. Many rustic 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. The mouse, of all ailments, seems to have the greatest number of strange cures. The Lancet is the latest to record a case in which a suffering child three times under the belly and over the back of a donkey. The Lancet is reported to be the truth of the tale that a certain donkey in Cork was so famed for its remedial virtues that its owner supported a large family on the money he received from the animal carried in this way. His practice was to ride through the donkey with the donkey, crying out as he went along: "With any one comes under my donkey for the cure!"

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,

Verchoiausk, the Coldest Town in the World.

It is generally believed that Verchoiausk for sleds. It is a dreary place though. The coldest inhabited place in the world. It is a small collection of native tents and Russian log houses planted near to, but not on, the Yana River. The street, if so it may be called, extends on either side of a narrow sheet of water, a kind of creek formed by the autumn overflow of the Yana, and which in winter forms a frozen promenade or driving place

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