

ATHLETIC RECORD BREAKERS

New Marks Made on Track and Field for 1909.

ATHLETES LOOK FOR SOFT SPOTS

Half Mile, 10-Pound Hammer and 16-Pound Shot the Only Standard Records to Be Altered.

That the athletic season of 1909 will rank well with the chroniclers of the sport is a doubt, and though there were no Olympic games or international fixtures to stimulate the athletes, a number of new marks will be recorded on the annals. A majority of those are for odd events and some odd stager performances that have remained untried on the lists for years, but it is remarkable that three standard championship contests got a bad shaking.

The sixteen pound shot record was shattered twice under official scrutiny and the mark for the sixteen pound hammer was improved no less than half a dozen times, but the most meritorious of all was the new half mile record, and it is a pity that a doubt hovers round the genuineness of the feat. Except the runner duplicates the figures at some future date there will always be a shadow of suspicion thrown over it and it will be regarded much the same as the record for the 100 yards.

Of course, the half mile mark will be accepted by the Amateur Athletic Union record committee, which has been supplied with a raft of material proof in the shape of affidavits as to the timing of the race, the measurement of the track and other details. One of the leading features of the year's campaign was the visit of the New York Athletic club team to the Pacific coast, the Amateur Athletic Union championship at Seattle and the triple meet at San Francisco being the chief points of the itinerary. Though the men did not capture the biggest slice of the honors they showed the enterprise of the winged foot in being the first team from the east to make such a journey.

Sprinting maintained its popularity during the season, though there was nothing startling in the way of new figures for the standard events, and with one exception for the intermediate distances. The mark of 21 seconds for the 100 yards remained high and dry on its pinnacle of security, and neither here nor in the old world was it in the least danger of being displaced. Walker's visit to England resulted in his winning the championship, and that and his subsequent top-notch efforts only showed the even 10 seconds for the "century."

For a time it was thought that the South African flyer would pay a visit to America, and there was all sorts of wild calculations about his meeting Jim Reesor of the University of Virginia. But Walker did not come and Reesor did not run, facts which were greatly regretted. Neither did the district or Amateur Athletic Union championship's reveal anything above the ordinary and only mediocre form was exhibited.

Even in races shorter than the hundred there is nothing new, and the old marks for, twenty, thirty-five, forty, forty-five, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-seven, sixty, seventy, seventy-five, eighty and eighty yards remain unaltered. Above the hundred the only old mark to be disturbed was that of 25 seconds for 120 yards, made by Wendell Baker at Harvard on May 23, 1896. At one of the indoor meets in the Forty-seventh regiment of Brooklyn, Robert Cloughen of the Irish-American Athletic club ran the distance on the board floor in 25 1/2 seconds, but while Cloughen's mark is a new indoor record it does not supplant Baker's time out-of-doors.

New Names on Honor List.

The intermediate distances between the 100 yards and 200 yards passed unscathed, and the names of B. J. Wefers, C. H. Sherrill and Wendell Baker, respective holders of old records, will adorn the scroll of fame for at least another season. For the furlong the name of Wefers is a second younger, but the most meritorious performance stands to the credit of W. L. Dawbarn of Princeton University, who represented the New York Athletic club in the Amateur Athletic Union national championships at Seattle. With a stiff gale blowing in his favor he won his trial in 22 1/2 seconds, which was as good as 23 1/2 under fair conditions. Naf, J. Cartmel, formerly of the University of Pennsylvania and who lately turned professional, visited England and won the 200 yards championship in 22 seconds, which is the best championship over there, though it is a fifth of a second slower than the British record.

The 300 yards was frequently seen both on the indoor and outdoor programs, but the top speed shown was yards behind the old record of 39 1/2 seconds, made by Wefers in 1886. In England a young runner named E. H. Haley showed some form for the distance by doing it in 38 1/2 seconds at the annual games of the London Athletic club, and these figures held the British record, held jointly by Lieutenant Halswell and C. G. Wood.

Some Tricks Passed Up. Though the sprinters were out for soft spots on the record table here and there, yet no one tried any of the new marks for the 200 yards made by Lon Myers, twenty-eight years ago; neither did they attack the 300 yard mark of 39 1/2 seconds and the 400 yard mark of 43 1/2 seconds, both made by Maxey Long. These were made in the course of his famous 400 yard record of 41 seconds at the same time, and it might grow mouldy in the niche of fame ere it will be replaced. Long's circular track record of 47 1/2 seconds will take some heating. It has easily outdone all the efforts of the long sprint brigade for the last nine years, and except some phenom springs up or that some tricks might be perpetrated with slow watches and short tracks, it should hold its own for another generation.

But it is hard to know what is bound to turn up in these sensational years of athletic record grabbing. For instance there was a positive case of the unexpected this year at the Canadian championships at Montreal. W. C. Bobbins won the 400 yards in the slashing time of 48 1/2 seconds, and for a moment the world stood aghast at the amazing turn of speed suddenly shown by this runner. His case was perhaps the most peculiar in the history of athletics, for his speed gradually deserted him, and the climax came a couple of weeks ago when he was beaten in the wretchedly slow time of 53 seconds by a young runner named Hayes. However, Bobbins' time must go down as the best of the year and the nearest to the record.

Next Best Distance.

The next most popular distance nearest to the quarter is the 600 yards, and for it a bit of exceptionally fast work was reported by Clarence Edmundson of the Seattle Athletic club, the national half mile champion. Around the middle of August he was clocked to do 1 minute 10 1/2 seconds, and this is 1/2 of a second faster than the world's record made by Tommy Burke in 1888. How genuine the record authorities regard the figure nobody will know for a few days, but if ever there was a man likely for such a deed

Edmundson is the man. In England E. H. Montague once ran in 1 minute 11 seconds, but the conditions under which the race was run are not very clear. The old record of 1 minute 21 seconds for the 100 yards standing on the books to the credit of the late Lon Myers since 1881, was altered by Loughi, the Italian comet, who did 1 minute 27 1/2 seconds. There is hardly a comparison, however, for Myers' record was made during the progress of a half mile race, while Loughi only ran the exact 100 yards. Subsequently Loughi attacked another easy record in the two-thirds of a mile by W. G. George. The time was 2 minutes 4 1/2 seconds, it being the first two-thirds of his memorable mile race against Myers when the Englishman won in the then American record time of 4 minutes 21 1/2 seconds, and it was something worth remembering that the snow had to be swept off the track that afternoon. Loughi ran the exact two-third of the mile and his time was 2 minutes 4 1/2 seconds, beating the American record. In the month of June, 1882, George did 2 minutes 45 seconds at Lillie Bridge, London, and this is still the world's record.

Of all the track events the half mile furnished the real episode of the season in the thrilling tussle for the national championship at Seattle and the new record at the Canadian championship at Montreal. E. Loughi, the Italian champion, representing the Irish Amateur Athletic club, ran the 350 yards at the latter meeting in 1 minute 57 1/2 seconds, a world's record, supplanting the old mark of 1 minute 58 1/2 seconds made by C. H. Kilpatrick at the London-New York Athletic club international meet September 21, 1895. Hardly had the man from the sunny clime crossed the finish line when a wave of suspicion crept over the land that everything was not right, and the sceptics drew their conclusions from two things. These were that in the race Frank Riley did 1:54 and up to that time Loughi had not shown within seconds of his record.

Anxiety to See Him.

After he made his wonderful burst there was great anxiety to see him in the half here, but his astute mentors adroitly kept him away from that distance. The fall games of the New York Athletic club offered a golden opportunity for Loughi to substantiate what he did in Canada, for the track was good and the day fine, but he elected to go to the Dominion for another record which never came off, for he only showed a split better than 1:59. He started in the 1,000 yards in the indoor championship at Madison Square garden, but pulled up when beaten before the last turn for home. The winner of the race was Harry Glasling of the New York Athletic club, who made a new indoor record of 3 minutes 19 1/2 seconds, and it is a fact worth the notice that Glasling beat the Italian every time he met him.

In a 600 yard race at Newark Glasling took the measure of both Loughi and M. W. Sheppard on the same occasion and incidentally made the best outdoor mark for that distance, doing 1 minute 14 1/2 seconds. Again at the games of the Monument Athletic club at Celtic Park, Loughi was heralded to do all sorts of things to the outdoor record for the 1,000 yards, which is 2:13, by Lon Myers. This is the one great record made by Myers which has withstood the repeated assaults of the best middle distance men for a generation—even Kilpatrick at his best came no nearer than 2:16—the best effort of the old world runner being 2:14 1/2 by W. E. Lutyns of Cambridge University in 1880. Sheppard was opposed to Loughi when he made the attempt to wipe Myers off the books, but he was forced to take second place to Sheppard, who won in a little better than 2:20.

The half mile national championship at Seattle was productive of a great race, even the figure recorded being not a fair criterion of the real merits of the performance. The winner was Clarence Edmundson and he came home in 1 minute 56 1/2 seconds, beating Glasling by about seven yards, but the race was enhanced greatly by the fact that while it was being run there was a strong wind and a dust cloud, which at the very least made a difference of a couple of seconds. Edmundson is a tall man with great kicking stride and is the real race horse of the season. More than a year ago, when he was a student in the University of Idaho, he was credited with doing the half mile in 1 minute 53 1/2 seconds, equaling Kilpatrick's record at the time.

Shan Tommy Conniff.

During the year none of the cracks aspired to take a fall out of the record for the three-quarters of a mile by Tommy Conniff, the figures of 3 minutes 25 1/2 seconds being on the books since 1880. The mile record of 4 minutes 15 1/2 seconds, also by Conniff, was not approached, but there were two first-rate performances at the distance. The first occurred indoors, at the annual games of Columbia University, Madison Square Garden, on February 13, when Herbert L. Trube of his opponents and won in 4 minutes 24 1/2 seconds. This established a new indoor record and it was still more remarkable as he ran the first occasion in which a native born American came inside 4:30. Conniff, it may be remarked, is a naturalized American, his name being J. P. Fall of the University of Pennsylvania, who took off the mile outdoors in 4 minutes 17 1/2 seconds, an improvement of two seconds on Trube's time. The same day, which was the intercollegiate meet at Cambridge, there was a fraction knocked off the two mile outdoor record of 13 minutes 27 1/2 seconds by J. P. Taylor of Cornell University, who did 9 minutes 27 1/2 seconds, and this is now the best American record. There was also a new indoor record for the distance for at the Columbia university games George V. Dongas of the Irish A. A. C. won in 9 minutes 25 1/2 seconds, and this wiped away the former mark of 9 minutes 28 1/2 seconds made by Mike Morrissey of the Mercury A. C. at the national indoor championship of 1908.

At the distances above two miles there were no reverses in the outdoor marks, but to John J. Daly of the Irish-American Athletic club belongs the credit of making the best attempt at new figures for the five miles. He showed to be in good form at the Metropolitan championships and spreadeagled his field in 25 minutes 24 1/2 seconds, which is 6 1/2 seconds behind the outdoor record made by E. C. Carter, twenty-two years ago. About 130 yards in the rear of Daly came Tom Collins of the Irish-American Athletic club, the indoor champion, the result clearly showing that the board floor men are not the thing in the open air, where strength and stamina are absolutely necessary. This pair met in the indoor championships a couple of weeks afterward, when Collins won. Daly, who is a big and heavy for the hard board floor, going all at pieces toward the finish.

New Indoor Mark.

On March 16, at the New York Athletic club meet at Madison Square garden, Bonha made a new indoor mark for the five miles by winning in 24 minutes, 59 1/2 seconds, and he is supposed to have done even better elsewhere, though the record committee was not inclined to take the figures with any degree of authenticity. Some days later at the Fordham university games, where he held in the Twenty-second regiment armory, Bonha made four new indoor marks. He ran 1/2 mile in 23 minutes and 1 second, 6 miles in 30 minutes and 42 seconds, and 6 1/2 miles in 33 minutes and 29 1/2 seconds, and 7 miles in 35 minutes and 30 seconds. Up to 45 miles there was nothing new indoor or outdoor, but the amateur Marathon at Madison Square garden on January 8, unearched a new string for America, from 16 to 26 miles and for the Marathon distance of 26 miles 35 yards.

Maloney and Crowley.

Matt Maloney and Jim Crowley alternated with the lead, the former having matters his own way after the twentieth mile. Crowley had the lead at sixteen miles, the time being 1 hour, 39 minutes, 7 seconds and at seventeen miles his time was 1 hour, 46 minutes and 17 seconds. Maloney led for the two miles, 43 minutes, 30 seconds, and at nineteen miles, 2 hours, 15 seconds. Crowley came along at the twentieth mile, his time being 2 hours, 7 minutes and 11 seconds. From thenceforward Maloney showed the way, the first 10 minutes of the string of records left behind by Binks for the mile and Shrub from two to ten. E. R. Voigt of the Manchester Athletic club, the four-mile English champion, ran his favorite distance in 19 minutes 23 seconds, and that was his best effort of the season.

In the department of relay racing there were new marks both outdoor and indoor. On March 22 a team from the Thirtieth regiment of Brooklyn ran the mile in 3 minutes 26 seconds, beating the former mark by two seconds. At the fall games of the New York Athletic club covered the mile in 3 minutes 20 1/2 seconds, and the figures supplanted the old mark of 3 minutes 21 1/2 seconds, held jointly by the New York Athletic club and Harvard university.

What Hurdles Do.

Though the hurdlers did very fine work there was no alteration of standard facts. Forrest Smithson of the Boston Athletic club of Portland, Ore., holder of the world's record over the high sticks, made his appearance in the national championships at Seattle and there met A. B. Shaw of the Chicago Athletic association, his most dangerous rival. They fought their Olympic fight over again, and again Smithson proved that he was about two yards faster, for that was the space that separated them when they hit the worsted. The time was 15 1/2 seconds, a great piece of timber-topping when it is considered that the men raced against a stiff breeze. A few days ago in the Fortuna celebration at San Francisco Edwards of the University of California, and though the verdict was gained by only a few inches it was the first time in many a day that anyone happened to make the stadium men play second fiddle. Shaw was attracted to Madison Square Garden by the New York Athletic club meet in March and took part in the seventy-yard high hurdle, which he won in 9 1/2 seconds, and he beat the best men in the east in the bargain.

Among the field events the six-pound hammer underwent more changes than any other. In the early spring John J. Flanagan, Irish-American Athletic club, mastered the triple turn, and he gave early evidence of his improved form. At the games of the New York Athletic club in June he was to the fore with a throw of 154 feet 10 1/2 inches, a world's record, and without the least question as to the conditions. Around that time Matt McGrath, New York Athletic club, was credited with a throw of 177 feet 7 inches and 118 feet 11 inches, the latter at the Mayo men's games in the latter part of June, but these performances were more or less in the nature of exhibitions and could never be considered by the record committee.

Flanagan Meets Match.

Flanagan, too, made some big heaves here and there in his exhibitions, but he got in a real good one at the Fresh club games at the American League park, when he sent the sixteen pounds the great distance of 180 feet. This is the one sure to go on the books. At New Haven, Flanagan made a throw of over 182 feet, and as far as he was concerned the record conditions were observed in every way, but the survey of the ground revealed a slight down grade and it is understood the record will be rejected on that account. Among the minor events the twelve-pound shot was thrown 130 feet 1 inch at Celtic park, and this will go on as a record for the loop handle, but it will not replace any of the old marks made with straight handles. Flanagan bettered the record for the twelve-pound hammer by a few margins added as much as seventeen feet to the former mark. It was Flanagan's last outdoor effort of the season and his throw tapered 30 feet seven and three-quarter inches, against the best record of 167 feet seven inches, by L. J. Talbot at Princeton, two years ago.

Rose the Champion.

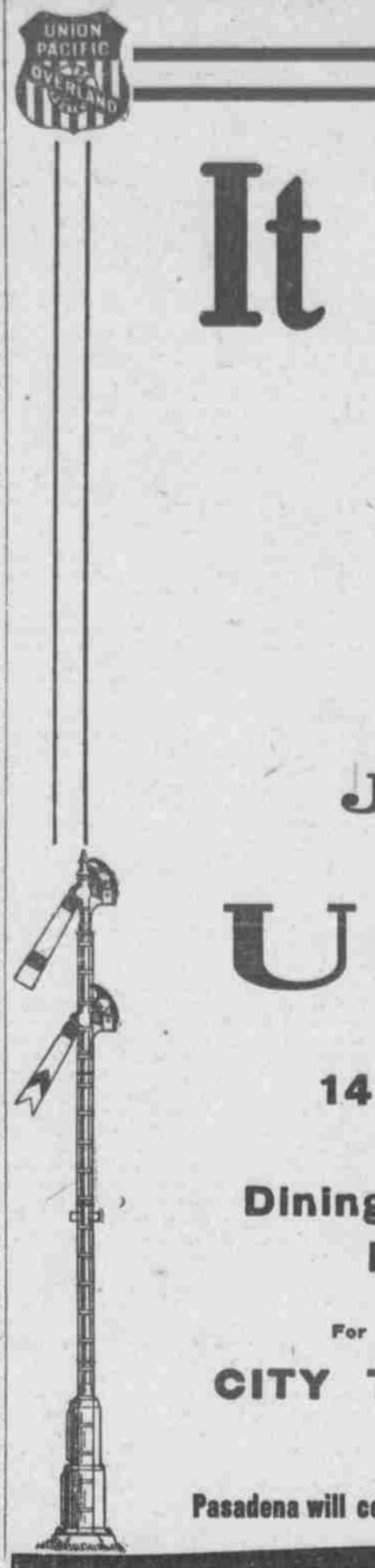
In the throwing of the discus Rose won the national championship with a throw of 131 feet, a distance which would have improved by several feet had not the discus be the same as in his flight. M. J. Sheridan had matters his own way in the east. At different times during the year he was credited with various records, but the genuine ones will not be known till after the American Athletic union convention. In the jumping department there was nothing new except that A. C. Gilbert, the Yale pole vaulter, was reported to have beaten thirteen feet in the pole vault, though there is a rumor now that it was only an exhibition, but it will not be known for a couple of days whether or not it was the real thing. The old figures for the broad and high jumps go over and touched the next season. In the latter contest Egon Erickson of the Mott Haven Athletic club traveled to Seattle for the national championship, which he won with the moderate performance of 5 feet 11 inches. Some time later he was reported to have jumped 6 feet 4 inches, and this was the best public performance of the season. H. F. Porter of the Irish-American Athletic club, the ex-champion, beat Erickson for the Metropolitan title. D. J. Ahearne of the Irish-American Athletic club made several good attempts at the broad and high jumps, but he failed in scoring a total of 21 points. He secured first in the sixteen-pound shot, discus and javelin and seconds in the fifty-three pound weight and sixteen-pound hammer. The best previous record was 20 points, by the late Lon Myers, but the record has a significance because Myers made four firsts, a feat not so far to the credit of any one man.

McDonald is Alone.

The only new item with the fifty-three-pound weight was by McDonald of the Irish-American Athletic club. He threw the weight from stand, with two hands, thirty-one feet eight and five-eighths inches at Madison Square garden on February 13, and this beat the record of 30 feet five inches, made by John Flanagan four years ago. In throwing the weight from the seven foot circle, Flanagan did not improve on his record of thirty-eight feet eight inches, though he did a first rate throw for the Metropolitan championship, and was well extended by McDonald. Matt McGrath won the national title at throwing for height, defeating McDonald, the record holder, and doing it with a throw of fifteen feet three inches.

One of the Novelties of the Late Season.

One of the novelties of the late season was the contest at putting the forty-two pound stone, Irish style, with follow. Of course, there was a new record.



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