

Salazar charges TAC with bribe attempt

NEW YORK (AP) — Alberto Salazar, the fastest marathoner in history, charged Monday that officials of The Athletics Congress, the national governing body for track and field, had offered him a bribe of \$50,000 to \$60,000 to run in the Los Angeles Marathon May 14.

Salazar, who said he rejected the offer made late last year, said the officials were Ollan Cassell, TAC executive director, and Alvin Chriss, a lawyer who manages the trust fund for road running and track and field athletes under TAC's jurisdiction.

Chriss and Cassell denied the allegations. "They were willing to pay me \$50,000 to \$60,000" to run in the Los Angeles race, Salazar said. "They were trying to bribe me."

He said \$40,000 of that money would be for conducting a clinic the day before the race. Salazar said Chriss suggested that would be one way of circumventing TAC's rules against accepting money outright for running. The rest of the money could be put into a trust fund for Salazar, the distance runner claimed Chriss told him.

Salazar's comments came during a telephone hookup from his Eugene home, to a luncheon of the Metropolitan Track Writers' Association.

Chriss was quoted in Monday's New York Times as calling Salazar's charge "an incorrect assertion." It doesn't "even have a kernel of truth in it," he said.

Attempts by The Associated Press to reach Chriss by telephone were unsuccessful. His

secretary said he deferred all comments concerning the matter to TAC.

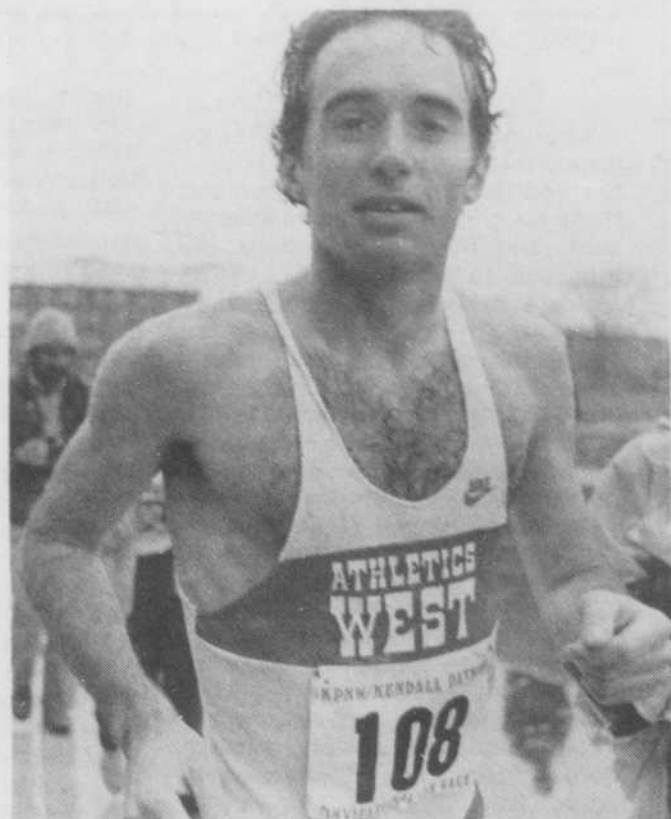
At TAC's headquarters in Indianapolis, Cassell said, "This is another of Alberto's histrionic lessons," a reference to Salazar's comments after winning the 1981 New York City Marathon in which he called the organization "hypocrites" and "thieves."

"This is not true," Cassell added. "I've never spoken to Mr. Salazar in person nor on the telephone. If I were to speak to Mr. Salazar, it certainly wouldn't be to propose something that would violate the rules of The Athletics Congress, something that would jeopardize TAC's and my own standing with the IAAF (the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for the sport).

"Likewise, no members of the TAC staff have ever made such a proposal, either to Mr. Salazar, nor any of his coaches or his representatives."

Salazar said the offer was not made to him directly, but was made through his coach, Bill Dellinger.

Salazar said he decided to disclose the offer because TAC had criticized him for not running in the Boston Marathon, which would qualify United States runners for the inaugural World Championships at Helsinki Aug. 7-14. Salazar had requested that his victory in the 1982 New York City Marathon be his qualifying race for the Championships. TAC's Long Distance Running Committee rejected the request at the group's convention at Philadelphia in December.



Alberto Salazar

Emerald Photo

Gibbs weary of 'super slide'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One glance at the record book told Washington coach Joe Gibbs that success can be fleeting and misleading.

The year after the Pittsburgh Steelers won Super Bowl XIV, they failed to even make the playoffs. The same thing happened to the Oakland Raiders following Super Bowl XV and to the San Francisco 49ers last year.

"I've told my players, and I

will tell them again, that some people can deal with adversity better than they can with success," Gibbs said Monday, the day after his Redskins won Super Bowl XVII with a 27-17 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

"I think what happens when you win is that you automatically develop problems dealing with players, getting them signed. Suddenly everyone is unhappy. They

want more. That's human nature. You want more 'cause you've done more."

He said if the Redskins begin believing they are better than they really are "that would kill us quicker than anything because we're a total team. If we come back with that attitude, we'll get beaten, beaten badly."

But Gibbs admits he didn't expect this degree of success to come this quickly, in only his second season as Washington's head coach.

"My gut feeling last training camp — and I said honestly at that time, because our schedule was rated the toughest in the NFL — was that, going off what we did last year, I would have thought 8-8 again would have been a realistic shot for us," he said.

"As a coach, as soon as you win your last game, you start worrying about the next one," he said. "In football, you build a monster no matter which way you're going. If you're winning, people expect you to win, demand you win, from the owner on down."

Swimmers finish 4th

Despite several costly setbacks, Oregon placed fourth out of 14 teams in the 20th annual Dolphin Invitational swim meet which concluded Sunday at Leighton Pool.

Concord-Pleasant Hill, a combination of two teams from the San Francisco Bay area, took top honors followed by Seattle's Chinook Aqua Club and third went to San Ramon Valley Swim Club from California.

The Ducks found themselves trying to catch up after Friday, when classes and mid-term exams limited the number of Oregon participants in the first round.

"I'm real pleased," Oregon coach Dan Cole said of the Ducks' performance. "If not for a relay being disqualified, we would have ended up third."

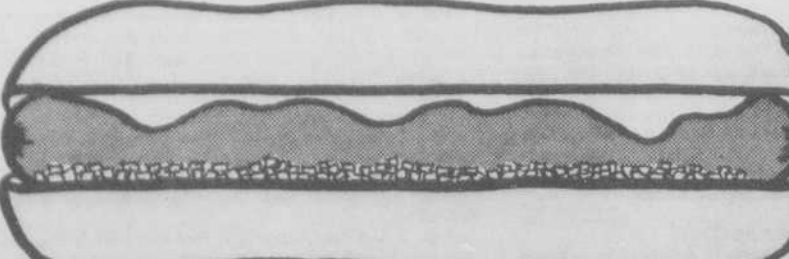
Oregon freshman Mark Canard was the Ducks' only dou-

ble winner, with victories in the 100 and 200-meter backstroke events. For the women, Tina Helm recorded a first place finish in the 200 backstroke, and picked up seconds in the 200 and 400 individual medleys and the 100 backstroke.

"We swam very well. It was the best overall competition we've had all year. It came during midterms, and, all things considered, it went really good," Cole said, of his team's high finish.

Oregon's relay teams "did very well," according to Cole. The women finished third in the 800 freestyle while the men were runners-up in the 400 and 800-meter freestyle relays.

Cole called the meet "excellent," and added that it should help a lot heading into the post-season meets.



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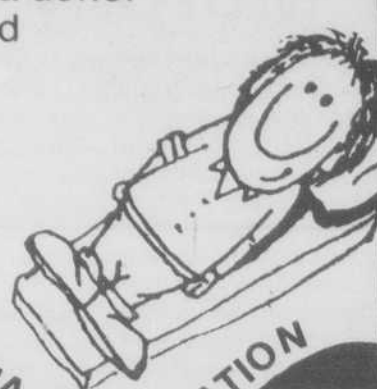
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